

Book Reviews

These blemishes aside, the book is well produced and is appropriately prefaced by a sympathetic *vita* of the late Professor C. D. O'Malley by Lynn White *jr.*, and ends with a vast bibliography of his writings compiled by Martha Teach Gnudi.

Inevitably this volume invites comparison with *The intellectual revolution of the seventeenth century* edited by Charles Webster and reviewed in this journal by Andrew Cunningham (*Med. Hist.*, 1975, 19: 202). Although these essays are more professional and more penetrating, medicine and science are discussed only briefly, and always secondarily to either politics, economics, philosophy, or religion: there is a pretentious reluctance to descend to the so-called "technical" aspects of the intellectual revolution which is its only lasting legacy. Vast space is devoted to millenarism and aspects of puritan eschatology, and a hard day's play produces the inevitable draw. There is a lack of the odd swashbuckling player while too many sound defenders have to put up with hostile, short-pitched bowling which may well have received an editorial caution. But we must remember the professionals play it hard. There is no agreement, for example, on the definition of puritanism, and the pioneers of the Royal Society have been variously described as being predominantly puritan, latitudinarian, or Anglican. Nevertheless, these two extreme approaches are, in some ways, complimentary and help to bridge the gap until a comprehensive account of seventeenth-century medicine becomes available. Perhaps this could best be achieved by joint authorship involving a seventeenth-century historian with a specialist on the history of medicine and science?

ARNOLD H. TAYLOR, *American diplomacy and the narcotics traffic, 1900–1939. A study in international humanitarian reforms*, Durham, N.C., Duke University Press, 1969, 8vo, pp. ix, 370, (no price stated).

Narcotic drug addiction is one of America's most difficult and complex problems, and since the beginning of the present century it has been involved in endless negotiations aimed at promoting a comprehensive treaty system of international drug control. Unfortunately, although states may wish to suppress drug abuse in their own territories for humanitarian and other reasons, on the international scene political and economic benefit may accrue from taking the opposite kind of action.

Professor Taylor's book is one of the best dealing with the international aspects of addiction control and has not been improved upon since its appearance in 1969. He deals with the opium problem in nineteenth-century America and the origins in the same century of the international movement to control narcotics. American contributions to the opium problem in China were extensive and are considered in detail here. But America, as well as other Western nations, also had the vice to deal with, and their international dealings were complicated by political attitudes. By World War II international control was in operation, America having played a prominent role in its creation.

This book is a scholarly and detailed analysis of international relations and humanitarian endeavour. It can be strongly recommended to those dealing with nineteenth- and early twentieth-century social medicine, with drug addiction, and with political aspects of social reform.