

Book Reviews

Dr. Lindsay's book is therefore particularly welcome. The system was a voluntary one of outdoor poor-relief administered by the kirk sessions, but dependence on charity frequently led to hardship and disputed settlements and economic factors increased the sufferings of the destitute. Dr. Lindsay concentrated on Aberdeen and the counties around it to illustrate the way in which the system operated, and all her work is based on the extensive use of primary sources, which have yielded a great deal of new information. She describes how the system worked in practice in both urban and rural areas, and, along with other materials, uses first-hand accounts of life in poor-houses. The period reviewed ends in 1845 with the Scottish Poor Law Amendment Act.

This is an excellent, scholarly study which must be consulted by all who work in the areas of Scottish history, problems of poverty, and the social history of medicine. It deserves a wide audience which it will probably achieve; the format of the book is somewhat inelegant, the paper coarse, the typography unattractive and the margins mean, but the price for a hardback is modest.

G. D. HARGREAVES (compiler), *A catalogue of medical incunabula in Edinburgh libraries*, Edinburgh, Royal Medical Society, 1976, 8vo, pp. xiv, 54, [no price stated].

It is estimated that over 50,000 items published before 1851 are to be found in Edinburgh libraries and of them one hundred are from the fifteenth century. This relatively small number is explained by the fact that only the University Library was founded earlier than the late seventeenth century. They are held in nine institutions and include some remarkable rarities, including the first printed book containing medical material, Rabanus Maurus' *De sermonum proprietate* (Strassburg, c. 1467).

They are listed here alphabetically and concisely with collation, incipit and colophon where necessary, main bibliographical references, the location in Edinburgh of the copy and its provenance, if known.

The project, which has in preparation a second volume, on sixteenth-century Edinburgh medical books, is financed by the Royal Medical Society, perhaps in an effort to expiate the regrettable sale of their library some years ago.

ANDRÉ ARMENGAUD, *La famille et l'enfant en France et en Angleterre du XVI^e au XVIII^e siècle. Aspects démographiques*, Paris, Société d'Édition d'Enseignement Supérieur, 1975, 8vo, pp. x, 193, [no price stated].

Based on a course given at the University of Toulouse-le-Mirail, this book is divided strictly into two parts: France and England. In each case there is an excellent survey of demographic methods and of all the factors, such as marriage, religion, fecundity, limitations of births, pre-marital births, amongst others, that have relevance to the family and the child. The main interest, however, is the account by a French demographer of historical demography in England, which, on the whole, is unusual. It is well worth perusal by students concerned with English demography, for an accurate summary of the topic is given, at their level. The bibliography is useful and lists the most important British sources in population research; there is, however, a conspicuous absence of medical references.