

Book Notices

R. H. CAMPBELL and ANDREW S. SKINNER (editors), *The origins and nature of the Scottish Enlightenment*, Edinburgh, John Donald, 1982, 8vo, pp. vii, 231, £15.00.

With one or two exceptions, the essays in this book are neither about the origins of the Scottish Enlightenment nor its nature. Indeed, as Andrew Skinner admits in the introduction, the volume does not contain any piece which addresses itself to the work of T. C. Smout, Nicholas Phillipson, George Davie, or any other historian, including Buckle, who has attempted to give a synthetic account of eighteenth-century Scottish life. The one paper that should stimulate historians to refocus their picture of the Scottish Enlightenment is T. M. Devine's 'The Scottish merchant community 1680–1740'. Devine's extremely detailed research has shown first how vigorous Scottish commerce was early in the century. Second, and more important, he shows that the successful merchants were not, as is usually asserted, a separate tribe, but interacted significantly with the landowning classes and literati and were active purveyors of Enlightenment ideas. The essay on Edinburgh medicine by Anand Chitnis begins with the extraordinary statement "The Edinburgh Medical School comprised two Royal Colleges of Surgeons and Physicians and the University's Faculty of Medicine" (p. 86). For the rest it seems to have appropriated the work of J. B. Morrell, and used it to support a theory about medical progress and the impediments to it. This volume also contains an accomplished piece by Arthur L. Donovan on 'William Cullen and the research tradition of eighteenth-century Scottish chemistry'. However, his insistence that the Scottish preoccupation with heat "cannot be traced to contextual or practical activities" (p. 101) sounds more like the beginning of a very good debate than a conclusion. The remainder of the essays, including the usual masterly piece by now expected of Duncan Forbes, address questions such as the institutional and intellectual preconditions of the Enlightenment, or explicate the thought of particular thinkers such as Francis Hutcheson.

WILLIAM R. BROCK, *Scotus Americanus. A survey of the sources for links between Scotland and America in the eighteenth century*, Edinburgh University Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. viii, 293, £10.00.

In view of some of the tired essays that appear on eighteenth-century Scotland these days, this book comes as a delight. Whereas Andrew Hook's *Scotland and America* was a study of Scottish culture across the Atlantic, *Scotus Americanus* is about Scottish people. The author documents the voyages to America, the experiences of the Highlanders, religion, and the tobacco trade. Finally, he handles the question of the War and the peculiarly loyalist allegiance of many Scots. The chapters are full of people, writing home, buying tobacco, building churches, and, in the case of Highlanders, preserving the old ways. "The Gallic language is still prevalent amongst them, their negroes speak it, and they have a clergyman who preaches it" (p. 84). There is a separate, and equally good, chapter on medicine by Helen Brock, who has documented the subject in detail. Oddly, however, she seems to have overlooked Jane Rendall's important paper.¹ Besides being a good read, *Scotus Americanus* is a superbly organized collection of sources.

¹ Jane Rendall. 'The influence of the Edinburgh medical school in America in the eighteenth century' in R. G. W. Anderson and A. D. C. Simpson (editors). *The early years of the Edinburgh medical school*, Edinburgh, The Royal Scottish Museum, 1976.

CHARLES G. ROLAND (editor), *Sir William Osler 1849–1919. A selection for medical students*, Toronto, Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine, 1982, 8vo, pp. xi, 114, illus., \$Cdn. 12.00.

Anthologizing Osler is not a new practice. A selection chosen by a committee of the Osler Club of London appeared as *A way of life* in 1951. Richard Verney produced *The student life* in 1957. Both of these volumes were reprinted. Verney's volume is a curious piece comprising

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essays put together by rearranging disparate bits from Osler's works. Verney also saw fit to edit Osler's words in order to make them "up to date". For example, Osler's "a mortgage or two on neighbouring farms", cited as the reward for the diligent practitioner, were omitted from Verney's text. This volume, edited by Charles Roland, contains eight Oslerian reflections, thankfully intact. Two of these it shares with *A way of life*. The modern medical student, for whom these pieces were chosen, may find the prose somewhat long-winded and the sentiments rather archaic. Nevertheless, Osler repays attention, if not always for the reasons he intended.

AMBROISE PARÉ, *On monsters and marvels*, trans. by Janis L. Pallister, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. xxii, 224, illus., £14.00.

As well as being a great surgeon, Paré was a splendid story-teller, and his book on monsters and marvels displays his gifts to a high degree. Very little of his information was new, but he transmuted it into a lively and informative account. Professor Pallister's translation keeps the vigour of the original, and is generally accurate – Andrew and Pamphile (p. 103) are isolated mistakes for the Greeks Andreas and Pamphilus. The introduction offers a lucid account of Paré's life and times, and the notes offer generally sound guidance to Paré's sources and to contemporary medical ideas. This book offers the reader without French an excellent and entertaining survey of Renaissance teratology. Scholars will, however, still need to consult the magnificent annotated edition of the text by Jean Céard, Geneva, 1971. But even he failed to identify the quotation from Pliny on p. 102, which tells how one can be cured of a scorpion bite by whispering in the ear of an ass: the reference should be to *Natural History* 28.155.

GERHARD BAADER and **GUNDOLF KEIL** (editors), *Medizin im Mittelalterlichen Abendland*, Darmstadt, Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1982, (*Wege der Forschung*, Bd.363), 8vo, pp. vii, 516, DM. 110.00.

This collection of twenty-four articles on western medieval medicine is everything such an anthology should be. The editors have provided a substantial and scholarly introduction, summarizing the subject and providing an overview of the writers who have made the most important contributions to our understanding of it. There is also an index to both people and subjects. The articles date from 1882 to 1974 and represent the work of such famous historians as Wickersheimer, Sudhoff, Eis, Schipperges, and Kristeller, in addition to that of the editors themselves. This book should be well suited for history of medicine students with a knowledge of German, and for the more advanced scholar. The history of medieval medicine has long been presented poorly, if at all, to both the specialist and non-specialist reader. The editors are much to be commended for their contribution to remedying this situation.

W. STANLEY SYKES, *Essays on the first hundred years of anaesthesia*, edited by Richard H. Ellis, Edinburgh and London, Churchill Livingstone, 1982, 8vo, pp. xviii, 272, illus., £16.00.

The first two volumes of William Sykes's *Essays on the first hundred years of anaesthesia* appeared in 1960 and 1961. The final volume has been prepared from Sykes's notes by Richard Ellis. First, Clive Loewe, and then K. Bryn Thomas were to have performed this task, but both died whilst doing so. Ellis has produced an excellent edition worthy of the idiosyncratic style of Sykes himself. None of these essays approximates to anything like a serious contextual elucidation of anaesthetic history. Nevertheless, they are so full of extensive research and enthusiasm that their study brings rewards. Nearly all in some way or other benefit from Sykes's professional anaesthetic knowledge, whether in his investigation into the history of the use of bichloride of methylene as an anaesthetic or the findings of the Hyderabad chloroform commission.

LIAM HUDSON, *Bodies of knowledge. The psychological significance of the nude in art*, London, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1982, 8vo, pp. xii, 163, illus., £12.95.

Professor Hudson offers a series of essays examining the nude as a cultural form in art, paying special attention to Italian Renaissance and Northern Gothic traditions, the distinctions

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between photography and painting, and Lord Clark's distinction between nudity and nakedness. The value of his approach for the medical historian lies in his concern to show the artificiality of the divide between aesthetic and scientific approaches to the interpretation of the human body and such matters as gender. In these illuminating essays, the interconnexions between physiology and psychology, biology and psychoanalysis, metabolism and perception are clearly demonstrated time and again.

J. CAÏN *et al.*, *Psychoanalyse et musique*, Paris, Les Belles Lettres, 1982, 8vo, pp. 272, Fr. 80.00 (paperback).

Six essays explore the psychoanalytical meaning of music, two of which are of historical interest. One, 'Absolument pas musicien', by Jacques and Anne Caïn, takes up the paradox of how Freud could have declared himself "ganz unmusikalisch" at the same time as having an ear uniquely attuned to the tonalities of so many different tongues, and resolves it in terms of Freud having developed "un système de défense phobique du même type que la claustrophobie". The other, 'Moulins à musique' by Jacqueline Rousseau-Dujardin and Jacques-Gabriel Trilling, offers some psychoanalytic insight into compositions by Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, etc., by analogy with the verbal analysis of the talking cure.

DANIEL N. ROBINSON, *Toward a science of human nature*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. xiii, 258, \$20.50 (paperback).

Professor Robinson's book, presumably aimed for psychology students taking courses on the history of psychology, comprises substantial, lucid expository essays on the psychology of John Stuart Mill, Hegel, Wilhelm Wundt, and William James. Its value is diminished through being in two minds about its purpose. On the one hand, as its title suggests, it is interested in the "contributions" these thinkers made to the edifice of modern psychology, analysing their ideas frequently in presentist terms. On the other hand, Robinson recognizes that their psychological systems can be understood only within the "paradigms" of contemporary thought – e.g. in Mill's case, libertarian, individualist politics; in Hegel's case, grasping the unfolding of Spirit as World Consciousness. The mix is sometimes an uneasy one.

JOHN LOURIE, *Medical eponyms: who was Coudé?*, London, Pitman Books, 1982, 8vo, pp. xii, 207, £4.95.

Eponyms are here to stay, and this little book might well become a valuable companion of the medical student wishing to excel in "roundsmanship". Lourie provides not only lists of many obscure and well-known eponyms (diseases, syndromes, signs, tests, instruments, etc.) but also potted biographies of their discoverers or inventors, plus the frequent information that the eponymous individual had no claim to priority. While the volume is based on a pleasant idea, its execution sometimes is careless. Darwin, for instance, did not spend twenty years writing *The origin of species* (and H.M.S. *Beagle* returned in 1836, not 1835); Harvey's first public statement of the circulation of the blood was almost certainly not made in 1616; the neurologist Gowers did not write *Gowers' plain words* (his son did). To find out about Coudé, one must consult the book, or a French dictionary.

RICHARD M. ZANER, *The context of self. A phenomenological inquiry using medicine as a clue*, Athens, Ohio, and London, Ohio University Press, 1981, 8vo, pp. xiii, 282, £11.40 (£5.40 paperback).

Professor Zaner works within a philosophical tradition – phenomenology – with which relatively few anglophonic readers will be familiar or sympathetic. His acknowledged masters are Aron Gurwitsch, Alfred Schutz, and Hans Jonas; behind them all stands Edmund Husserl. Zaner's principal theme is an old one: the mind-body relationship, or as he would express it, the embodiment of self within the organism. The writing is dense and hardly likely to convert the uninitiated. The books and papers of Jonas himself provide a more engaging entrée into the phenomenological way of thinking.

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STUART F. SPICKER, JOSEPH M. HEALEY jr, and H. TRISTRAM ENGELHARDT jr (editors), *The law-medicine relation: a philosophical exploration* [Proceedings of the Eighth Trans-Disciplinary Symposium on Philosophy and Medicine held at Farmington, Connecticut, 9–11 November, 1978], Dordrecht, Boston, and London, D. Reidel, 1981, 8vo, pp. xxx, 292, \$39.50.

In America, they sell bumper stickers that read "Support a lawyer: Send your child to medical school". Behind the irony lies the fact that medicine and law presently have a particularly complex relationship that goes far beyond the frequency of malpractice suits in the United States. The present volume – the ninth in the Reidel series on philosophy and medicine – seeks to open up a number of medico-legal issues. The essays, written by physicians, lawyers, and philosophers, explore such themes as compulsory hospitalization of patients in psychiatric hospitals, the ethics of medical research in developing countries, and the legal implications of treating (or withholding treatment from) infants with serious congenital defects. A couple of the contributions attempt historical analyses, but the primary focus is the present American scene.

T. P. MORLEY (editor), *Moral, ethical, and legal issues in the neurosciences*, Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, 1981, 8vo, pp. ix, 71, \$14.50.

This slim volume contains some of the papers and an edited version of the discussion of a symposium held as part of a Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences. The papers are much too brief for anything but raising issues, but they do articulate some of the difficulties surrounding definitions of brain death, decisions concerning prolonging of life, and experimentation on the terminally ill. Most of the authors and discussants are practising neurosurgeons or neurologists, and, while the volume displays no great philosophical subtlety, concern with the intricacy of the issues is evident. Unusually, the discussion is of as high a standard as the papers themselves.

SHEILA McLEAN and GERRY MAHER, *Medicine, morals and the law*, Aldershot, Hants., Gower Publishing Company, 1983, pp. x, 214, [no price stated].

This is a useful synthetic survey of all the major issues of medicine creating problems for the current legal framework. Special attention is paid to the questions of the sanctity of life, abortion, euthanasia, terminating treatment, consent, experimentation, sterilization and contraception, negligence and confidentiality, and a historical perspective is offered to explain vagaries and obstacles in moral and legal thinking on these subjects. A final chapter on decision-making in medicine examines certain broader issues in the light of the criticisms of Ian Kennedy.

WARDELL B. POMEROY, *Dr Kinsey and the Institute for Sex Research*, New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. xvi, 479, £23.00.

A first-hand narrative biography, by Kinsey's chief collaborator, which concentrates almost exclusively upon a near-focus chronicle of what Kinsey did to the exclusion of wider social and scientific context, and also of any deep assessment of the presuppositions and implications of Kinsey's sexological investigations. Pomeroy stresses that Kinsey approached human sexual behaviour, just as he did his first love, insects, with the detachment of a laboratory scientist and the ardour of an obsessive collector. Kinsey had no sexual axe to grind and, according to Pomeroy, was merely interested in cataloguing the facts of American sexual practice.

CHARLES C. LEMERT and GARTH GILLAN, *Michel Foucault: social theory as transgression*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. xv, 169, \$19.50.

A thematic exegesis of the doctrines of Foucault, arranged topically under such heads as 'Historical archaeology', 'Power-knowledge and discourse', and 'Limits and social theory', and pitched at the American college student readership. The book lacks the intellectual penetration, detail, and energy of Alan Sheridan's comparable work, but might prove useful as an introduction for a beginner. It has little to say about Foucault's specifically medical and psychiatric interpretations, and, where it does, it appears shaky (Sydenham and Broussait turn up in one sentence).

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JOSEPH MENDITTO and DEBBIE KIRSCH, *Genetic engineering, DNA and cloning: a bibliography in the future of genetics*, Troy, N.Y., Whitston Publishing Company, 1983, 8vo, pp. xiii, 783, \$50.00.

The bibliography of recent work on genetic engineering will be of use to all who are concerned with the genetic, medical, molecular biological, social, and ethical dimensions of "the gene business". It lists about 8,000 items from 1970, divided by subject. An author index enhances the value of this volume.

JOHN L. THORNTON and CAROLE REEVES, *Medical book illustration: a short history*, Cambridge and New York, Oleander Press, 1983, 4to, pp. xiv, 142, illus., £15.00.

An elementary introduction to the most notable illustrated medical books from ancient papyri to Frank H. Netter. This will be a valuable source of orientation for beginners in the field; indeed, it is probably the only general book on the subject currently in print. Experts will continue to rely on Sudhoff, Choulant, Herrlinger, Putscher, *et al.*, and (mostly) their own wits, but they also will find here a few little-known or forgotten items, such as the intriguing anatomical illustration of S. C. à Zeidlern (Prague 1686, p. 76). On the debit side there are, of course, some errors (Richard Hooper for Robert, Cruveilhier mis-spelled, the Vesalian woodcuts attributed firmly to Marcolini), and the murkiness of the plates bears out the authors' final lament of the commercial difficulties in producing today, at least in Britain, books as finely illustrated as most of those studied in this one.

DALE PETERSON (editor), *A mad people's history of madness*, Pittsburgh, Pa., University of Pittsburgh Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. xiv, 368, \$19.95 (\$11.95 paperback).

The history of medicine from below has only recently begun to be written. "Below" includes not only the ordinary and marginal practitioners (apothecaries, quacks, wise-women, herbalists), but also those whom they and their more élite colleagues saw: the patients. The historical record is often silent for this majority, although the fact that almost everyone is at some point a patient means that the historical silence is largely because historians have chosen not to look for the information, scattered as it is in diaries, journals, letters, and other out-of-the-way places. For this reason, Peterson's collection of readings is to be welcomed. He has assembled twenty-six patients' accounts (more than half from the twentieth century) of their breakdowns and experiences of psychiatrists and mental institutions. The selections range from Margery Kemp's fifteenth-century spiritual autobiography to modern works of fiction such as *I never promised you a rose garden*. Obvious stopping-points in between include John Perceval, Daniel Schreber, and Clifford Beers. A common theme is the indignity and distress generated by both the "breakdown" and its "treatment". It would be naïve to believe that a properly balanced history of psychiatry and psychopathy could be written on the testimony of those who survived to tell the tale, but their voices are part of that history, and neglected at the historian's (and psychiatrist's) peril. Short biographical sections introduce each selection.

SHOSHANA FELMAN (editor), *Literature and psychoanalysis*, Baltimore, Md., and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. 508, £20.00 (£7.20 paperback).

The twelve essays in this collection represent, on the whole, a new angle on what the psychoanalytic study of literature should be all about. There is little attempt here to put individual characters out of plays and novels on the couch, or to explain works of art as "sublimations" of their authors' lives. Rather, it is the act of writing itself which comes under the gaze, sometimes illuminatingly, as in Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's analysis of Coleridge's strategies in the *Biographia literaria*, sometimes tiresomely and narcissistically, as in Barbara Johnson's reading of Derrida's reading of Lacan's reading of Poe's *The purloined letter*. As a curtain-raiser to the volume there is Lacan on *Hamlet*, obsessive in its equation of the phallus with Ophelia (O-Phallus), but welcome in its refreshing avoidance of the question, was Hamlet really mad?

CLELIA DUEL MOSHER, *The Mosher Survey: sexual attitudes of 45 Victorian women*, edited by James MaHood and Kristine Wenburg, New York, Arno Press, 1980, 8vo, pp. xix, 469, \$25.00.

Historical fascination with sex, sexuality, and reproduction continues unabated; hence the

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publication of this survey will be welcomed. Clelia Mosher (1863–1940) was an early American woman physician with a particular interest in the reproductive and marital problems of women. She began her survey in 1892 (while still a student at the University of Wisconsin) and continued it intermittently for more than two decades. The questions were explicit (including information on menstruation, pre-marital knowledge of sex, contraception, and frequency and enjoyment of sexual intercourse), and most of her forty-five subjects answered explicitly. Although the sample is relatively small, and the women were uniformly from well-educated, upper middle-class strata, their answers make fascinating reading and should go a long way in dispelling some stereotypes about frigid Victorian women. They also reveal extensive anxieties about the physical cost of sexual intercourse if indulged in too often; one common solution was separate beds, thus reducing the temptation and making self-control easier.

Dr Mosher never published her survey, although she wrote several books and articles on aspects of the “woman question”. Consequently, the present publication makes available for the first time an interesting archival cache held by Stanford University. The editing is sensible and conscientious, and students of the history of gynaecology, women, the family, demography, and *mentalité* have cause to be grateful.

ROSALIN BARKER (editor), *The plague in Essex. Study materials from local sources* [teaching portfolio], Chelmsford, Essex Record Office publication No. 85, 1982, £1.70 + 70p postage.

Five years ago, in a review of writings on plague for the general reader, Derek Turner encountered a disheartening medley of “stale myths and half-baked theories”, “glib generalizations”, and “watered down Oxford history” (Local Population Studies, *The plague reconsidered*, Matlock, 1977, pp. 133–141). Materials for schools came off better, though much remained to be done to bring into the classroom the fruit of extensive recent research. Rosalin Barker’s teaching portfolio takes up the challenge, with good introductory booklets on epidemiology (‘How plague happens’) and historical demography (‘Tracing the plague’). Investigations of plagues in Colchester and Great Oakley, and further evidence from Borough records and a contemporary diary, illuminate plague precautions, poor relief, and much else, and show how history in the classroom can be transformed from a recital of facts to a research activity. This material relates to Essex in the seventeenth century, but lessons learned here can well be applied to other periods and places.

H. B. GIBSON, *Pain and its conquest*, London, Peter Owen, 1983, 8vo, pp. 221, £10.95.

H. B. Gibson’s latest book is about what C. S. Lewis called “the problem of pain”. Gibson examines its medical management (and mis-management) and contemporary psychological and neurophysiological research on its causation. This pleasantly written volume is up-to-date scientifically, with a good discussion of the Melzack-Wall “gate theory” of pain, and a brief consideration of the endorphins and enkephalins. Much weaker are the historical sections on anaesthesia and earlier attitudes towards pain and suffering, which are mostly culled from secondary sources and perpetuate various historical stereotypes, such as widespread theological and medical opposition to anaesthesia in childbirth. Davy appears as “Humphrey” and Charles Meigs becomes “Meegs”.

BRIGITTE and HELMUT HEINTEL, *Historische Stätten der Neurologie in Baden-Württemberg*, Stuttgart and New York, Gustav Fischer, 1982, 4to, [unpaginated], DM. 28.00 (paperback).

The German Society for the History of Medicine, Science, and Technology encourages the preparation of historical topographies of parts of West Germany, and this elegant, pictorial monograph is one of them. It deals with academic establishments at Heidelberg, Tübingen, Freiburg-im-Breisgau, and Stuttgart in particular, and the photographs are of buildings associated with eminent neurologists and neuroscientists, and of their birthplaces and graves. The number of household neurological names is a remarkable tribute to the contribution of this district to neurology, mainly in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Amongst those

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included are Erb, Friedreich, Westphal, the Vogts, Gall (born at Tiefenbronn), Nissl, Helmholtz, Hitzig, and Oppenheim, together with Paracelsus, Kepler, Haller, and Goethe, who likewise had connexions with the area. The captions deal chiefly with the achievements of these and other individuals, and they pose the question whether any other part of the world has provided such a galaxy of neurological talent. This miniature medical and scientific Baedeker should accompany all neurologists and medical historians touring Baden-Württemberg.

DANIEL L. O'KEEFE, *Stolen lightning. The social theory of magic*, Oxford, Martin Robertson, 1982, 8vo, pp. xxii, 581, £17.50.

This remarkable, erudite, argumentative, and often witty book surveys the seven great categories of magic – medical magic, black magic, ceremonial magic, religious magic, the occult sciences, the paranormal, and magical cults and sects – drawing them together within a general and historical theory. O'Keefe views magic as a set of opportunistic borrowings from religion. Whereas religion is, in a Durkheimian way, a celebration of social order, magic is the protection of the individual against the pressures and threats of society. This thesis has important ramifications for medicine, which are, unfortunately, short-circuited by O'Keefe's tendency to regard all forms of knowledge and action as ultimately "magical".

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

Annali dell'Istituto storico italo-germanico in Trento, 1981, vol. 7, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1982, 8vo, pp. 452, L. 40.000.

Bibliography of the history of medicine, No. 17, 1981, Bethesda, Md., National Library of Medicine, 1982, 4to, pp. 240, [no price stated], (paperback).

Charité-Annalen, Neue Folge, Band 1, 1981, Berlin DDR, Akademie-Verlag, 1982, 8vo, pp. 273, illus., M. 58.00 (paperback).

KENNETH HAMBLY, *Overcoming tension*, London, Sheldon Press, 1983, 8vo, pp. 81, £1.95 (paperback).

M. J. VAN LIEBURG, *A. N. Nolst Trenite en zijn 'Handboek der Ziekenverpleging' (1894)*, Amsterdam, Rodopi, 1983, 8vo, pp. 65, illus., Dfl. 20.00 (paperback).

C. DAVID TOLLISON, *Managing chronic pain: a patient's guide*, New York, Sterling Press; Poole, Dorset, Blandford Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. 144, illus., £7.95.