

Book Reviews

the donor, the recipient, and the doctors involved, the definitions of death, the uncertainty of recently evolved experimental techniques, and the problem of availability of organs and dialysis machines. Of a more fundamental nature are the scientific, social and religious repercussions and interactions which the authors suggest may lead to basic changes in attitudes to health and disease, life and death. Their book, which is very well written and fully documented, with a useful bibliography, is an important contribution and introduction to an area of medicine which is increasing in dimensions, dilemmas, complexities and social repercussions. It will be read widely by all those concerned with transplantation and dialysis, but the historian of medicine, who should preserve his contact with the modern medicine, must also know of its existence.

L. L. LANGLEY, *Contraception*, Stroudsburg, Penn., Dowden, Hutchinson & Ross, 1973, 8vo, pp. xiii, 500, illus., £14.70.

The series Benchmark Papers in Human Physiology, is providing useful compilations of important contributions to selected topics. Facsimile reprints of parts of journal articles and books are grouped in sections, each of which is introduced with brief editorial comments. In this book there are forty-three extracts, ranging in time from the Bible to recent papers on the "pill" and family planning. The various contraceptive methods are represented, but, as in other books in this series, there is a preponderance of American authors, and the one German article appears in its original state, whereas translation into English is usually expected. The one extract in Latin suffers from a number of errors in translation. On the whole, it is petty to cavil with the author's selection of extracts in this type of work, but it seems a pity that no reference is made here to a person who did as much as any one else in the field of contraception, Marie Stopes (1880–1958).

However, the editor offers students an excellent collection of primary sources, by means of which he can savour the works of pioneers as they actually appeared in print, rather than having to rely upon the historian who, for better or for worse, summarizes, cites and interprets data and opinions. It will provide greater accuracy in those using this material for further historical work, and it should induce them always to consult the original articles and books whenever they are available and not to accept on trust someone else's reference to it.

KEITH MICHAEL BAKER, *Condorcet. From natural philosophy to social mathematics*, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xiv, 538, £13.10.

Professor Baker's intention is primarily to look at what he believes to be the central and unifying theme of Condorcet's thought and existence: his conception of social science. Its nature and origins in relationship to the Enlightenment, and its chronological development set against a background of eighteenth-century French social and political science are discussed, thus contributing to the new interpretation of this period. Condorcet provides an ideal model, for he was a central figure in applying scientific thinking to all aspects of social affairs. He was a scientific statesman, mathematician and permanent secretary of the Academy of Sciences, as well as political