

Book Reviews

its future. Appendices include details of organization, international and national, its meetings and publications, and lists of recommended quantities, units and symbols.

Population, natural resources, and ecology are of wide concern today, and this account of international co-operation gives some hope of a greater understanding and control of these vital factors in human welfare.

JOHN ZIMAN, *The force of knowledge. The scientific dimension of society*, Cambridge University Press, 1976, 4to, pp. ix, 374, illus., £7.50.

The author is Professor of Physics at Bristol and his book is based on a course of ten weekly lectures which endeavours to teach students in the Faculty of Science the social relations of science and technology. His aim is to reach the practically-minded individual who has no great interest in philosophy or sociology. The materials he selects and the techniques he employs are ideal for his audience and he has provided an excellent book which should be studied by all students of natural science, including those entering medicine. Non-scientists too will benefit from it.

Professor Ziman adopts a historical approach and discusses the styles of individual scientists, their institutes and societies, other methods of communicating, the continual need for healthy scepticism and free intercourse, industrial innovations, the complexities and finances of present-day science, the social sciences, and science and social need. Medicine is touched on in a chapter entitled 'From craft to science' (pp. 147–165), but the section is marred by several errors and the illustrations contribute little to the theme; they are hardly referred to in the text. To give a sketch of medical progress since the Greeks is exceedingly difficult, but to omit Virchow and the German School when discussing scientific medicine is sacrilege.

IAN BRADLEY, *The call to seriousness. The Evangelical impact on the Victorians*, London, Jonathan Cape, 1976, pp. 224, illus., £4.95.

Evangelical religion had a powerful influence in shaping Victorian society, and from it stemmed the cult of respectability and conformity and the narrow philistinism and puritanism characteristic of the age. This well-written and well-researched book aims at examining the impact the Anglican Evangelicals had on English life in the first sixty years of the nineteenth century. It pervaded all aspects of it and was dominated by William Wilberforce, M.P., (1800 to about 1830), renowned for his anti-slavery activities, and then by Anthony Ashley Cooper, the seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, famous for his factory acts. Although other forces existed which also helped to create the Victorian age, Evangelicalism produced, ". . . The piety, the prudery, the imperialistic sentiments, the philanthropic endeavour, and the obsession with proper conduct which we think of as the distinctive characteristics of the Victorian era . . ." (p. 18). It was, in addition, responsible for the seriousness and high-mindedness which also pervaded Victorian behaviour. This found expression, especially amongst the professional middle classes, in missionary zeal, crusades against vice, and in obsessional reformation of public and personal morals.

The influence on Victorian medicine must also have been noteworthy and all those studying it should read this book carefully. Perhaps an independent investigation of Evangelicalism and medicine, both clinical and experimental, would be rewarding.