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(including an introduction) with footnotes, in over four hundred pages. The limitations of this approach are obvious. Too many of the papers are too short, or superficial. Worse, there is far too much repetition. There are, for instance, several papers on Ossian, all of which recite the background to the "discovery" of the poems; and biographical repetition, notably with regard to James Beattie. A little editorial pruning in some places, and encouragement of authors to expand in others, could have made this work an important collection of scholarly essays and not simply the record of a conference.

All that said, there is much in this volume to be welcomed, and the editors are to be congratulated in getting together a number of important papers on north-east Scottish affairs. The volume starts with a polemical piece by Donald Withrington, denouncing the Edinburgh-centred preoccupation of Scottish Enlightenment studies. The attack is well delivered, although presumably shortage of space precludes Withrington from developing in any great detail the reasons why other areas qualify for membership of the Enlightenment, rather than why scholars have usually behaved as if they should not. A revisionist position is also adopted by Anand Chitnis, this time in attacking the authors who identify the Union of 1707 as a fence dividing dark from light. Chitnis lays particular stress on the economic and cultural changes of the late seventeenth century as the precursors of eighteenth-century events. However, here again it would have been useful to have had the argument at more length, since in its present form it almost totally ignores the indisputable changes in patronage relations created by the Union.

Almost every other essay in the volume is devoted to some much narrower topic. Alexander Gerard, George Campbell and James Beattie crop up frequently. There is an intriguing (but again too condensed) statistical study of the Aberdeen professoriate by Roger Emerson, and a nice account of the extramural science classes of Patrick Copland, by John S. Reid. There is also an excellent study of Macpherson (of Ossian fame) as an intriguer in Indian affairs, by George McElroy. There are a number of other finely-turned pieces, notably on painting and bibliography. Sadly, only in the back-cover blurb (not even in the index) is there a mention of John Gregory, cousin of Thomas Reid and probably Aberdeen's most famous physician before he moved to Edinburgh in 1764.

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JAY SCHLEICHKORN, *"The Sometime Physician", William John Little—Pioneer in Treatment of Cerebral Palsy and Orthopedic Surgery (1810–1894)*, Farmingdale, NY, The Author, 1987, 8vo, pp. xiii, 199, illus., \$18.95 (hard cover), \$14.00 (paperback), plus postage and packing \$2.00 (U.S.), \$5.00 (overseas) from Jay Schleichkorn, Ph.D., 39 Regina Road, Farmingdale NY 11735.

This important and valuable book was inspired by Dr Schleichkorn's determination to bring to modern readers an appreciation of Little, one of the great figures in the development of pediatrics and of orthopaedics in the classical sense. He has read and travelled widely, written perceptively, and fulfilled his purpose. As a patient and pupil of Stromeyer, Little brought the master's teaching to a wide audience, and emphasized one of the great principles in the correction of deformity: the removal or mitigation of a deforming force, even though the active part of treatment, by tendon transfer, was not then available. The author's decision to publish the whole of Little's great paper to the Obstetrical Society of London, of 1861, was well made. 'On the influence of abnormal parturition, difficult labours, premature birth, and asphyxia neonatorum on the mental and physical condition of the child, especially in relation to deformities' is a landmark in pediatrics and orthopaedics.

Although cerebral palsy has with some reason been called "Little's Disease", Little made other important contributions to orthopaedics. He recognized the rotational element in scoliosis, and liberated many young patients from heavy and cumbersome spinal braces.

One wonders what the "spinal paralysis" was which afflicted Mrs Little for nineteen years before her death, of which her husband would have been an astute observer. Achilles tenotomy or lengthening has a place in the treatment of talipes equino-varus, but there are many other

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problems in the congenital variety which would have been unaffected by a simple tenotomy. What was done for the deformity, pes calcaneo-valgus? Little was fluent in French, and later German. Was the "*Dissertatio inaguralis medica: symbolae ad talipedem varum cognoscendum*", presented for a Berlin MD in 1837, in Latin throughout and, if so, was it composed by Little?

It is regrettable that Dr Scheichkorn's energy and enthusiasm, which twice carried him across the Atlantic, were unable to encompass rigorous revision of the manuscript: errors of typography, grammar, and even of fact abound. If these could be rectified, a second edition would be more worthy of its great subject and a greater credit to its author. Nevertheless, he does not fall below a β^+ .

J. W. Dickson

MONICA E. BALY, *A history of the Queen's Nursing Institute: 100 years, 1887–1987*, London and Sydney, Croom Helm, 1987, 8vo, pp. 157, illus., £10.95 (paperback).

It is typical of the foresight of the Queen's Nursing Institute that Monica Baly was made its Centenary Fellow, and produced this book for its centenary celebrations. Dr Baly is a respected nurse historian, and her earlier study of the life and work of Florence Nightingale adds interest to this book: some of its most interesting sections are extracts from correspondence between Florence Nightingale and others, and it shows her influence on the development of district nursing. However, the book's most important revelation is probably that of the results a committed voluntary organization can achieve, in this instance with the continuous support of the Rathbone family. From its initial developments in 1887, the Institute has continued to initiate such ideas as the introduction of a research officer, in the 1960s, and the funding of the post of Professor of Community Nursing in 1987.

The Institute, which has always acted as a pressure group, influenced district nursing services throughout the world. It now complements the work of the statutory services. In highlighting changes in health needs, medicine, society, and economics, Dr Baly shows how the Institute has developed to meet the challenges these changes posed.

This is a book that will be treasured by Queen's Nurses who are proud of their tradition, but will also be of interest to a much wider audience of nurses, physicians, voluntary organizations, and indeed all those interested in the development of nursing care outside institutions.

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DAVID KNIGHT, *The age of science. The scientific world-view in the nineteenth century*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1986, 8vo, pp. xi, 251, illus., £17.50.

In this attempt to place science in the "cultural context of the nineteenth century", R. Lieberich's (of St Thomas's Hospital) Discourse at the Royal Institution in 1872 provides an obvious instance of cultural science, and scientific culture. Lieberich tried to "explain" the work of J. M. W. Turner, among other painters, in terms of a supposed eye disorder; he showed how, when a reproduction of a Turner canvas was viewed through a suitable lens, faults were "corrected" to natural exactitude. This Discourse is also a good example of David Knight's thesis: that if science is an organized body of public knowledge which can offer satisfactory explanations and simple predictions which can, in turn, be tested, then science's embrace was at its widest in the nineteenth century.

Each of the twelve chapters centres on a theme, not a decade, although their ordering is roughly chronological. This format does not oblige the reader to pay attention to any one branch of science for long. Medicine does not figure particularly often, but Knight uses its history to effect. He credits surgery as the first discipline to make the jump from craft to publicly-taught science, in late eighteenth-century France; and uses such alternative therapies as homeopathy to make the important point that it is not a rationale (which homeopathy has) which defines a science, but theory, the ability to explain and predict.