

Book Reviews

Alamein; the case corresponds in neither age nor wound with Wainwright's example. The book has many irritating errors and a poor index. For example, the first child cured by penicillin broth is "a 3-year-old baby" on p. 42 but was clearly three weeks old, as witnessed by the illustrations, and Wainwright's own article; Rollin and Hotchkiss (neither appears in the index) was really Rollin D. Hotchkiss; "Erlich" should be "Ehrlich".

I found this an interesting but, because of some discrepancies, an irritating book.

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JONATHAN LIEBENAU, GREGORY J. HIGBY, and ELAINE C. STROUD (eds.), *Pill Peddlers: essays on the history of the pharmaceutical industry*, Madison, Wis., American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, 1990, 8vo, pp. vii, 133, illus., \$9.95 (paperback).

A symposium on this subject was held at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, London, in January 1987. The material presented was of great value, and much of it has now appeared as a group of essays.

The introduction and a chapter on the British pharmaceutical industry are written by Jonathan Liebenau, who organized the symposium. Roy and Dorothy Porter's contribution has already been published in *Medical History* (1989, 33: 277–95). John Parascandola describes in detail the "preposterous provision" of the American Society for Pharmacology and Therapeutics, which, from 1908 until 1941, excluded from membership anyone who was in the permanent employ of any drug firm. E. M. Tansey and Rosemary Milligan record the early history of the Wellcome Research Laboratories, and Michael Robson gives an informative account of the development of the French pharmaceutical industry between the two World Wars. An essay by John P. Swann provides a conveniently short version of his work on academic and industrial collaboration in the United States, and one by Renate Reidl of Sandoz outlines the development of the Swiss pharmaceutical industry.

The history of the industry can be looked at from many angles—economic, political, social, therapeutic, scientific—and its development has been strikingly different in different countries. Details have been hard to come by; few firms have seen themselves as responsible for their history, and their centenary and other pamphlets seldom progress beyond accounts of their success in discovery, manufacture, and trading. Most of the present essays include detailed references, and show the growing readiness of firms to lay open their archives (as far as they may have been preserved) to allow serious study of a complex subject. These essays are good starting points for exploring a largely uncharted industry, which has had great consequences for all human life.

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