

### Book Reviews

surgery, and prosthesis. On the whole, this chapter is disappointing, as it is almost entirely descriptive without general principles and without sufficient correlation with medicine. The next chapter is a competent survey of water supply and waste disposal; and the next, on food technology, is the best of the three.

Thus the Oxford *History of technology* is now complete up to 1950, and the two new volumes will help to enhance further the reputation it has established over the last twenty-five years.

DOUGLAS B. PRICE and NEIL J. TWOMBLY, *The phantom limb phenomenon. A medical, folkloric, and historical study, Texts and translations*, Washington, D.C., Georgetown University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xl, 526, illus., \$5.95 (paperback).

The authors have produced a fascinating book dealing with the folklore, superstitions, and religious aspects of this well-known phenomenon. They present the original texts and English translations of seventy-five medieval and eleven modern accounts of the miraculous restoration of bodily parts. By means of them it can be shown that the phenomenon was known before its first scientific recognition in the mid-sixteenth century. Illustrations represent the leg of Peter of Grenoble, Gunrada's nose and lip, the hand of St. John of Damascus, the leg transplant of Sts. Cosmas and Damian, and the leg of Miguel Juan Pellicero.

This collaborative, scholarly work has an extensive introduction and a large bibliography. It is elegantly produced, the presence of the original texts in particular being welcome. In this regard it is remarkably cheap. It deserves wide attention, for it should be read by all concerned with the medical, church, and general history of the medieval period. It will also be of interest to historians of neurology, psychiatry, folklore, and related fields.

CHARLES E. ROSENBERG (editor), *Healing and history. Essays for George Rosen*, Folkestone, Kent, Dawson, 1978, 8vo, pp. viii, 262, £14.00.

George Rosen, the renowned and revered American historian of medicine who held the chair in this subject at Yale University, was to retire in 1978, and his students and colleagues went about preparing a *Festschrift* to commemorate the happy day when George could begin to devote all his remarkable talents to research and writing. Unfortunately in 1977 he died suddenly during a visit to Britain, and the celebratory volume became a memorial tome.

It contains sixteen essays, including an appreciation. They deal with topics which Rosen has illuminated by his skill and scholarship: social history of medicine, medical ethics, mental health and illness, nineteenth-century medicine, hospitals, public health, and social psychiatry. They are all original, scholarly contributions written as Professor Rosen himself would have wished. Added is a bibliography of his writings, which indicates the breadth of his interests, the versatility of his approach to medical history, and the dimension of his industry. He is sorely missed.

F. B. SMITH, *The people's health, 1830-1910*, London, Croom Helm, 1979, 8vo, pp. 436, £14.95

The claim is made on the jacket of this book that "most medical history has been