

Book Reviews

RICHARD C. DALES, *The scientific achievement of the Middle Ages*, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1973, 8vo, pp. ix, 182, illus., \$12.50.

Professor Dales has selected extracts from primary sources to illustrate early medieval scientific thought, from the twelfth to fourteenth centuries, and presents them with lengthy introductions in the form of an historical narrative. There are also included evaluations of medieval science by modern scholars of varying points of view. His topics concern the twelfth century when scholars were manifesting increasing curiosity and intellectual adventuresomeness, Grosseteste (c. 1168–1253) and scientific method, the tides, studies of the rainbow, studies of local motion, astronomy, and the fringes of science, which includes astrology and alchemy. There is also an introductory essay on science and culture of early Europe, and a most valuable bibliographical essay at the end.

The author has omitted medicine and biology because of the small advances made in them during the Middle Ages. Even if this is true, it would have given the book more balance had a brief survey of them been provided. It should also be noted that the book's title is misleading inasmuch as most of the material concerns the early medieval period.

HÉLÈNE METZGER, *Newton, Stahl, Boerhaave et la doctrine chimique*, Paris, A. Blanchard, 1974, 8vo, pp. 332, Fr.32.

In 1923 Dr. Metzger published *Les doctrines chimiques en France du début du XVIIe à la fin du XVIIIe siècle*. Having been castigated by Sarton for the disproportionate emphasis she had laid in this her first book upon French achievements, the author tried to redress the balance in the present work published first in 1930, and now reprinted. This consists of three independent studies and was reviewed in *Isis*, 1931, 15: 351–353, and in *Archeion*, 1930, 12: 406–408. Much of the first two essays had already appeared in these two journals and only the third, on Boerhaave, was entirely new. On the whole it was given a lukewarm reception.

JAMES F. GIFFORD, jr., *The evolution of a medical center. A history of medicine at Duke University to 1941*, Durham, N.C., Duke University Press, 1972, 8vo, pp. [xi], 249, illus., \$8.75.

Duke University School of Medicine and Hospital is one of the outstanding medical centres in the United States, and this is the first of two projected volumes which will trace its progress from the beginning in 1930 to the present day. Established by the generosity of James Buchanan Duke, whose vast fortunes derived from the tobacco industry, it provides a complex of health care institutions. The initial planning of medical school activities were, as in the case of the other North American schools, influenced by the standards of education that had been set by the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Since then its reputation has continued to grow.

Dr. Gifford writes well, and he chronicles carefully, with full documentation, the problems faced by the founders and the steady growth of all the services provided by the centre, as well as the resultant improvement of medical care throughout the Carolinas, as was Duke's wish. But his history is more than a parochial chronicle