

Book Reviews

historians seek to learn the nature of the young Scots doctors who came in droves to England throughout the hundred years straddling the first World War, this autobiography will be essential reading.

When Sydney Laird's generation was at its most clinically active, a venereologist was jokingly defined as a doctor with many acquaintances but few friends. The joke stops here. My abiding memory of this book will be the writer's innate gift for friendship and how it so singularly fitted him for his chosen speciality. His patients were indeed fortunate.

R. S. Morton

LUIGI CAPASSO (editor), *Journal of Paleopathology* [Chieti, Italy], Vol. 1, No. 1, 1987, pp. 40, illus., [no price stated].

The *Journal of Paleopathology* is, like *OSSA* from Stockholm, committed to the publication of papers relevant to the history of disease in humans and subhuman primates; they are the only two English-language journals in which palaeopathology forms the bulk of substance. The *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* and the *Journal of Archaeological Science* regularly publish palaeopathological papers, but their principal interests lie elsewhere. In the world of palaeopathology therefore, the *Journal of Paleopathology* is most welcome; the more so because, unlike the sadly irregular *OSSA*, it is committed to thrice-yearly publications.

The journal is well produced, with colour and black and white photographs, although several of these are rather hazy. It is also questionable whether colour is really necessary for the display of pathological lesions in dry bone. The five papers in this issue are classified at heading by symbols, indicating the main thrust of the individual paper. The purpose of the classification and symbolic reference is not clear unless it is to form part of a collated index in due course.

Four of these papers describe specific skeletal specimens, and the fifth, by Marcsik and Baglyas, is an overall review, within a specific time period, of a palaeopathological problem. The papers are all of high standard. In particular, the paper by Waldron is an admirable and very well illustrated demonstration of the intellectual processes of differential diagnosis in palaeopathology. The balance within the journal between individual lesion description and overall synthesis is correct.

This journal, which is welcomed and much needed, is rather highly priced at \$50 per annum especially since this first number has only 40 pages. However, it is to be hoped that this journal will succeed and continue to attract contributions of the high standard of this first issue.

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R. P. W. VISSER and C. HAKFOORT (editors), *Werkplaatsen van wetenschap en techniek. Industriële en academische laboratoria in Nederland 1860–1940. Tijdschrift voor de Geschiedenis der Geneeskunde, Natuurwetenschappen, Wiskunde en Techniek*, 1986, 9, no. 4, Amsterdam, Rodopi, 1987, 8vo, pp. 184, illus., Dfl. 38.00 (paperback).

The eleven articles in this issue of *TGGNWT* concern the development of Dutch industrial and university laboratories. The first five present summary accounts of who built laboratories, and why; who used them, and how. As laboratory work became recognized as a useful adjunct to the production of textile dyes, refined sugar, and high-pressure mercury discharge lamps (this pleasing cross-section of the Dutch manufacturing base is treated in the next three articles) the laboratories were promoted from corners of shop-floors to their own quarters. H. Beukers's 'The development of laboratories in Dutch medical faculties' explains that as subjects of medical research changed, there arose the need not only for new teaching methods, but for the teaching of new research methods. The construction, consolidation and partition of both general-purpose laboratories and such functionally-dedicated quarters as spectroscopy rooms had profound implications for the relationships between the pre-clinical and clinical disciplines.

Finally, M. J. van Lieburg's 'The development of the clinical-diagnosis laboratory in the Netherlands until ca 1945' shows how changes in diagnostic objects both resulted from, and

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encouraged, advances in instrumentation and the expansion of homes for the instruments. In other words, the patient's presence was not obligatory for a diagnosis made on the evidence of a tissue sample, once the techniques were known and the instruments available; the work could be done elsewhere. Lieburg does not ignore the general practitioner's reaction to the gap widening between technical and clinical work. He discusses the differences between laboratory function in teaching- and other kinds of hospitals; and relates how the emergence of physicians specializing in clinical laboratory work, and such technicians as microscopists, came to alter the Dutch medical profession. All the articles have summaries in English.

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