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the eighteenth century. Because of Neuburger's brief, he gives only a short but effective account of electrophysiology. Dr Brazier, although concerned with all of neurophysiology, has selected the reverse arrangement: little reference to brain localization with no account of Willis's important contribution, and great emphasis laid on nerve conduction. Even in Part I, the latter topic receives considerable space, at the expense of other concepts, and even if this provides an excellent prologue to Part II's account of neural electrophysiology, it results in an unbalanced survey of advances in the neurosciences. Perhaps some reference to the bias should have been given in the title of the book. Another criticism is that at times the non-scientific background, admittedly of vital importance, is given more prominence than it deserves. Thus, Haller, the greatest physiologist of the eighteenth century, is discussed in the same amount of space as Denis Diderot, who, even though an outstanding Enlightenment figure, does not warrant such treatment in this book. Neuburger gave Haller and his school a great deal of justifiable attention.

We can therefore recommend Dr Brazier's book to all those concerned with the practical and historical aspects of the nervous system in health and disease, but with the proviso that they are aware of the two main shortcomings described above. We look forward with anticipation to her second volume.

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Leonardo da Vinci. Anatomical drawings from the Royal Library, Windsor Castle, (essays by C. Pedretti and K. Keele, catalogue by Keele and J. Roberts), New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Oxford, Blackwells, 1984, 4to, pp. 166, illus., £30.50.

Recent Leonardo publishing has thrown up some curious and remarkable projects, none more so than the series of massively expensive facsimiles, capped by the *Corpus of anatomical studies in the collection of Her Majesty the Queen at Windsor Castle*, currently available for \$8,000! Now we have an exhibition catalogue, which began life at the Royal Academy in 1977 for £2.00, revamped for the Metropolitan Museum of Art at a price of £30.50.

What do we receive for the fifteen-fold increase in price? We are given a larger format, hardback binding, eight well-printed colour plates, and a more strongly printed set of black-and-white illustrations. A new "honorary" foreword and preface have been provided by the Museum Director, Philippe de Montebello, and the Royal Librarian, Sir Robin Mackworth Young. Otherwise, the apposite essays and informative catalogue entries have remained untouched. This minimal revision is particularly unfortunate with respect to the 'Bibliographical Note'. A good deal has happened in Leonardo scholarship in the last seven years, including Keele's own impressive *Leonardo da Vinci's Elements of the Science of Man*. The reader might reasonably expect more generous treatment from the publisher.

This is a great pity, since the catalogue continues to serve as an effective guide to the fifty magnificent drawings which have continued their regal progress around the world's museums. The most notable omission from the selection is the sheet illustrating Leonardo's characteristic analogy between the heart and a germinating seed, which provides an ideal key to the analogical thinking behind his interpretation of the forms and functions of man in the context of universal law.

As a memorial to the visual intensity, intellectual complexity, and inventive subtlety of Leonardo's studies, this volume contains much to delight and inform—but it is not all it should be at this price and at this time.

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FRANZ MERKE, *History and iconography of endemic goitre and cretinism*, translated by Dennis Q. Stephenson, Lancaster, MTP Press, 1984, 4to, pp. xi, 339, illus., £62.50.

This well-produced magnum opus, originally published in German in 1971, took Franz Merke, MD, twenty years to complete. The English version of this unique classic is particularly

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welcome, and medical historians will have cause to be grateful for this worthy legacy from Prof. Merke, who died on 6 June 1975.

The subject is pursued from the Ice Age through the Middle Ages down to the nineteenth century, and includes quotations from the many original texts of Ancient Egyptian, Ethiopian, Grecian, Roman, and Arabian authors. The well-documented works of medical and lay personalities are recorded, many with brief biographical notes. The author states that, "The Ice Age must be the primordial cause of Endemic Goitre", for the soil and water are impoverished of iodine by erosion and the leaching of glaciation. This is illustrated by maps of these endemic areas in Switzerland, the Iberian Peninsula, Scandinavia, and North America. Such iodine-containing agents found in marine plant life as *spongia marina* and *bella usta* were used empirically for endemic goitre in the twelfth century by the School of Salerno, which is ranked "as the cradle of conservative treatment of goitre". Despite the suggestion in 1825 that iodine in the diet would serve as a prophylaxis, a century elapsed before this was adopted.

Endemic cretinism is considered as being equally as old. The Cagots in the Pyrenees, an outcast race of Southern France, were confused with lepers and as such were segregated from the eleventh to the fourteenth centuries, when they were identified by later chroniclers as cretins with or without goitres, and not as monsters. The co-existence of goitre and cretinism is found in the carvings at Aosta Cathedral of the fifteenth century near the Great St Bernard area.

The iconography section receives expert attention, and includes fine illustrations, some in colour, of goitrous and cretinous figures through the ages from manuscripts, misericords, Indian art, psalters, altar pieces, and even puppets.

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MIKULAS SIMON, *Die soziale Stellung der Apotheker in der Zürcher Stadtgesellschaft in Mittelalter und Früher Neuzeit*, Stuttgart, Deutscher Apotheker Verlag, 1983, 8vo, pp. xii, 298, illus., DM.42.00.

The author, a practising pharmacist in Zurich, presents in this book the results of a thorough study of the abundant source material kept in Zurich archives concerning the local history of apothecaries and pharmacists from the thirteenth to the seventeenth centuries. In preparing his doctoral thesis, he was supervised by Professor Rudolf Schmitz, Marburg, who also contributes a substantial foreword.

Investigating the social position of their predecessors has always fascinated the historians of a profession or trade. The author attacks the problems in a laudable attitude of criticism. In the first part of his book, he outlines the three main hypotheses discussed in literature about the origin and development of his profession: (1) continuity from monastic to lay pharmacy; (2) specialization of spice dealers and shopkeepers (confirmed in the case of Zurich); (3) legal institutionalization. A chronological list of fifty-nine quotations shows how the terminology in the source documents changes from "*Speciger*" (spice dealer) in 1291 to "*apothecarius*" or "*Apotheker*" in the fifteenth century. This leads Simon to the conclusion that one has to be very cautious in defining the exact meaning of terms; only the analysis of the stock-in-trade and of social and legal conditions may throw more light on the activities of the so-called apothecaries, vacillating between trade and science.

Parts 2 and 3 are devoted to short accounts of the political, social, and economic history of the city-state of Zurich and the development of a public health organization. It seems that the guilds' government, which was in power since 1336, was not very keen on organizing public health care. While the office of the town physician became a constant institution, a town apothecary is mentioned only in one instance in 1293. During the whole period here considered, apothecaries were subordinate to doctors. Their shops were visited by the town physician and the trade was regulated by the authorities; doctors, on the other hand, were allowed to dispense drugs themselves.

As the author shows in part 4 of his book, a higher social rank was attained by "apothecaries" only if they went into wholesale trade in raw materials and banking, entrusting