

contemporaries.

The book's main strength lies in its extensive use of primary sources, particularly medical texts, to elucidate Renaissance ideas on madness as a corporeal state. Its flaw lies in a disjuncture at certain points between the discussion of theory and the interpretation and analysis of the dramatic texts, where the author does not convincingly integrate the two. However, this work remains a thoughtful, well-argued and carefully researched study which will prove helpful both to students of Renaissance literature and to cultural historians with an interest in madness or medicine in the early modern period.

**Shirley Burgoyne Black**, *An 18th century mad-doctor: William Perfect of West Malling*, Sevenoaks, Darenth Valley Publications, 1995, pp. 85, illus., £3.95 (0-950-7334-7-4).

William Perfect is chiefly known to medical historians as the proprietor, in West Malling, Kent, of one of the new private lunatic asylums springing up in the last third of the eighteenth century, and as the author of *Select cases in the different species of insanity* (Rochester, Gillman, 1787), a work pioneering the case-history method of presentation of insanity. In an entertaining booklet, Shirley Burgoyne Black has put some flesh on these bare bones. Providing additional biographical material, she has shown how Perfect fits the model of the aspiring new "general practitioner" as depicted by Irvine Loudon—his surgical apprenticeship included, for example, training in man-midwifery, in which he built a sizeable (and successful) practice, while he was also an industrious inoculator, advertising his services in the newspapers. Perfect was furthermore, like a minor Erasmus Darwin, a "poor Parnassian scribe" (his self-description), publishing his light, occasional verse in various magazines. Not least he was a big cheese in the new freemason movement, rising to become Provincial Grand Master for Kent. In short, anyone seeking further confirmation of the existence of a lively entrepreneurial spirit in

the eighteenth-century medical trade will find much supporting evidence in this highly readable publication.

**Jürgen Hartwig Ibs**, *Die Pest in Schleswig-Holstein von 1350 bis 1547/48*, Kieler Werkstücke: Reihe A: Beiträge zur schleswig-holsteinischen und skandinavischen Geschichte, Band 12, Frankfurt am Main, Peter Lang, 1994, pp. 244, DM 27.00 (3-631-47600-0).

This revised dissertation provides the first serious study of the long term incidence and impact of plague in the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein covering the medieval and early modern period. Considering that it is more than a hundred years since the last scholarly work dealing with plague in this part of Germany was published, this study forms a most welcome addition to our knowledge about epidemic disease in this area of early modern, northern Europe. The author provides not only a detailed account of the incidence of plague in the duchies within a 200 year period, where possible offering assessments of the local, demographic impact, but he also includes an interesting chapter on the social and economic effects of plague in the major Hanseatic cities of Lübeck and Hamburg. Furthermore, he concludes his work with an illustrative chapter dealing with the popular and governmental responses to outbreaks of plague.

It is however unfortunate that the revisions of the original dissertation did not extend to a shortening of that third of the book which is concerned with the historiography of plague, especially the Norwegian material, including the recent publications of Ole Benedictow, which are dealt with in excessive and unnecessary detail.

#### BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of

*Book Notices*

Medicine.)

**B J M Aulbers** and **G J Bremer** (eds), *De huisarts van toen. Een historische benadering*, Rotterdam, Erasmus Publishing, 1995, pp. 188, illus., Hfl. 42.50 (90-5235-086-8).

**J A van Belzen**, *Zorg voor de ziel. Een selectie uit de verslagen van het Theologisch-Psychiatrisch Gezelschap 1945-1953*, Rotterdam, Erasmus Publishing, 1995, pp. 319, Hfl. 47.50 (90-5235-082-5).

**Hans Binneveld**, *Om de geest van Jan Soldaat. Beknopte geschiedenis van de militaire psychiatrie*, Rotterdam, Erasmus Publishing, 1995, pp. 263, illus., Hfl. 44.50

(90-5235-088-4).

**Annibale Fantoli**, *Galileo: for Copernicanism and for the church*, trans. George V Goyne, SJ, Vatican Observatory Publications, 2nd rev. ed. 1996, pp. xx, 567, \$22.95 (0-268-01032-3).

**K Y Guggenheim**, *Basic issues of the history of nutrition*, Jerusalem, The Magnes Press, The Hebrew University, 1995, second enlarged edition, pp.143, illus., no price given (965-223-896-1).

**Zvonka Zupanic Slavec** (ed.), *Pintarjevi dnevi: Medicinski in socialni pogledi na Ljubljanski potres 1895* [Medical and social views on the Ljubljana earthquake 1895], Institute for the History of Medicine of the Medical Faculty in Ljubljana, 1995, pp. 204,