

Book Reviews

for he has attempted, with perhaps less than complete success, to provide a social setting for his story. The book is, therefore, of interest to all concerned with medical education, especially those grappling with plans for new schools or the rehabilitation of old ones, and also to those concerned with the problems relating to the provision of health care. In other words it is not intended for purely domestic consumption in the Carolinas, and it should have a wide audience.

GAVIN DE BEER (editor), *Charles Darwin. Thomas Henry Huxley. Autobiographies*, London, Oxford University Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. xxvi, 123, illus., £3.30.

The late Sir Gavin de Beer had the excellent idea of juxtaposing autobiographies of Charles Darwin (1809–1895) and Thomas Huxley (1825–1895). By so doing the sharp contrasts between the two men become clear. Whereas Darwin had worked out how evolution took place, Huxley busied himself examining the remarkable results of this process. Their differing personalities are also highlighted. Darwin was modest and withdrawn, hiding from the world by means of a psychoneurotic disorder recently studied by Sir George Pickering, and he found writing a great labour. Huxley, on the other hand, was the reverse, because he was always in the limelight, leading the crusade on the concept of evolution, and writing interminably.

Sir Gavin has provided a brief but excellent introduction, notes on the autobiographies, a select biographical bibliography, chronologies of the two men, and explanatory notes. The book is elegantly produced with excellent portraits and represents a solid contribution to the history of evolution, which has been notable recently for a number of superficial and frothy studies.

THOMAS HOBBS, *De homine. Traité de l'homme*, translation and commentary by Paul-Marie Maurin, Paris, A. Blanchard, 1974, 8vo, pp. 205, illus., Fr.30.

In 1658 Hobbes (1588–1679) published his *De homine*, which includes sections on his elaborate theory of vision, the language of science and on psychology. It is here translated into French, with an excellent introduction and many explanatory notes to each section. The only defect is a lack of reference to the extensive secondary literature.

Hobbes, in his attempts to describe the nature of man as a basis for political theory, contributed substantially to the early history of association psychology by restating the then radical Aristotelian principle of association of ideas by contiguity. As well as having a psychological bias he also had mechanical and social ones, and the first two of these led to writings that we would term physiological psychology. Basically, he provided an idea of the thought process, of social motivation, and of the political contrast which forms a society.

However, Hobbes' *De homine* is less important than his other writings and gives the impression of being hurriedly thrown together. The theory of vision is out of place in a philosophical work, and much of the rest is found in fuller form in his *Human nature* and *Leviathan*. There will therefore be small demand for this book.