

Book Reviews

Dr. Risse's well-edited book can be recommended to all those interested in the Orient, and to those who wish to link their knowledge of ancient Chinese medicine with that of the present day.

ROBERT CLAIBORNE, *Climate, man and history*, London, Angus & Robertson, 1973, 8vo, pp. 444, illus., £3.25.

The effects of climate on history as a serious study is not as new a subject as is sometimes suggested, but it is now one of the "new ways" in history, popular especially with the French school, the members of which usually publish in the *Annales*. Robert Claiborne, who is a journalist and neither meteorologist nor historian by profession, first published his book in the U.S.A. in 1970, and he assembles in it a survey of how climate has affected the evolution and history of man. It is, therefore, a contribution to general history, climatology, palaeo-climatology, ecology, and to the history of science and medicine.

The author begins with a general account of climate ('Climate past and present'), which is itself a valuable survey, and this is followed by 'Climate and emerging man', 'Climate and civilization', and 'Climate and history'. Palaeometeorology is of importance to medical historians because of the possible effect of climate on disease, but this is not detailed here. In historical times it becomes of increasing interest to him, and a detailed survey of the meteorological aspects of the history of diseases would make a fascinating study, as D. J. Schove has already indicated in his work on the effects of weather on epidemics.

Although, as Mr. Claiborne admits, there is a great deal of information available on his topic in books and articles, this is the first major work devoted to it. It is written in an attractive style, but documentation of the text is very limited, and the bibliography lists only publications in English, with but seven referring to possible medical historical sources, on diet and on sickle cell trait. Nevertheless, as an introduction to the subject it can be warmly recommended, and its price is modest.

LUIS S. GRANJEL, *El ejercicio medico y otros capitulos de la medicina española*, Universidad de Salamanca, 1974, 8vo, pp. 280, (no price stated).

There are three distinct parts to this book. The first contains four studies. These deal with the practice of Spanish medicine in the Renaissance, in the seventeenth century, and with sanitary legislation in the nineteenth. In each the author is concerned with the organization of medicine and with its practitioners, professional and non-professional. The fourth discusses medical ethics, based on a book of 1668 by Diego de Aroza. The second part has essays on Spanish medicine and literature, such as medical aspects of writers and of their works, the third has a study of hydrotherapy in Spain in the seventeenth century, the life and work of Sorapán de Rieros, and Spanish translations of Hippocrates.

Most of these scholarly articles have appeared elsewhere, between 1971 and 1973. They are fully documented, being based exclusively on Spanish sources, and are worthy representatives of the very important and energetic Spanish school of medical history.