

### Book Reviews

due to an inadequate recognition of certain problems in modern technology. His book, therefore, has two themes: the evolution of technology, and a discussion of the ideas and objectives of the 1970s. Throughout, it is well written and fully documented with footnotes and a bibliography. It is intended for those with a general interest in the subject and therefore the historical narrative is non-technical, except for some parts of the discussion on the twentieth century.

Technology is an integral part of our culture and, therefore, just as the development of medicine cannot be considered in isolation, so the history of technology must be studied in relationship with science, architecture, religion, and literature, the so-called external influences of Shryock. Only by this method can its problems and advancement, or lack of advancement, be adequately appreciated, and only history looked at in this way can help us with present-day problems. Moreover, as with the history of science and of medicine, so with technology. It is the consideration of ideas that lifts the discipline from the level of antiquarianism to that of true history. The element of comparison with other cultures also adds depths to the subject. Thus the technical achievement of India and China compared with that of Europe is an important consideration, for it has proved of great economic significance to both East and West. In the final chapter, the author discusses present-day attitudes to technology and relates them to their origins in history.

Dr. Pacey has produced a most interesting and thought-provoking book. He has raised many questions and opened the way for considerable research into what may be termed the *new* history of technology. This, of course, is of great importance to the historian of medicine, who includes technology among the external factors influencing the creation and perpetuation of medical ideas. Just as Pacey asks what our philosophy of technology should be in the 1970s, we too have to consider its increasingly intimate association with medicine. Here the issues are frequently emotive, involving as they do the partial or total replacement of man by machines. The relative role of each has yet to be deduced.

This book deserves a wide distribution, and as far as historians of medicine are concerned, they should all read it, irrespective of their special areas of study.

ERWIN H. ACKERKNECHT and HEINRICH BUESS, *Kurze Geschichte der grossen Schweizer Ärzte*, Bern, Stuttgart, Vienna, H. Huber, 1975, 8vo, pp. 110, illus., DM.22.

Despite its small population Switzerland has contributed importantly to the advancement of medicine, due to the endeavours of many illustrious men. Two outstanding Swiss historians of medicine describe this process from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century, from Paracelsus to Daniel Bovet (born 1907) who received a Nobel prize for medicine in 1957, on account of his discoveries relating to synthetic compounds that inhibit the action of certain body substances.

There is a brief but useful bibliography and a name index. This is an excellent book, which traces briefly the history of Swiss medicine as well as the work of those who have given it a high reputation. It can be strongly recommended. It is curious that no one has thought of producing a similar book on British medicine.