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J. A. BANKS, *Victorian values. Secularism and the size of families*, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1981, 8vo, pp. [viii], 203, £9.50.

Professor Banks poses once more the question as to why it was in the second half of the nineteenth century that the English birth rate began its long-term secular drop, perhaps associated most conspicuously with the professional middle classes, and due, almost certainly, to the deliberate practice of various forms of family limitation. His manoeuvres towards solutions involve not the use of detailed, personal, case-history probes, but broad sociological considerations. He tends to cast doubt on the argument that a late Victorian decline in religious belief diminished the moral and theological drive to go forth and multiply (the Church of England avoided giving *ex cathedra* pronouncements on such issues as birth control). Of greater importance, he believes, were the expectations and burdens of the professional middle classes. With professional remuneration low and often uncertain, and with costs of home-keeping and schooling rocketing, bringing up a family required great prudence and control. Perhaps essentially biological and medical issues might have received greater prominence here. The decline in infant and child mortality late in the century must surely have brought such questions as optimum family size, and planning the size and timing of one's family, within partners' control for the first time.

SHEILA A. M. McLEAN (editor), *Legal issues in medicine*, Aldershot, Hants., Gower Publishing Co., 1981, 8vo, pp. xiv, 219, £13.50.

This useful collection of essays, written chiefly from the legal point of view, surveys legislation and recent legal judgments in such areas as the relations of the law with medical genetics, ante-natal injuries, sterilization, medical products liability, and artificial insemination. Its historical perspective is to suggest that, although the law's emphasis upon the legal responsibility of the individual physician may have been appropriate in the past, the vast developments in the social, public, scientific, and technological dimensions of medicine over the last decades require much more community-oriented legal perspectives. Several of the essays deal with the issue of the juxtaposition of legal and medical expertise, throwing considerable historical light on the subject.

PAT THANE, *The foundations of the welfare state*, London and New York, Longman, 1982, 8vo, pp. x, 383, £5.75 (paperback).

A balanced survey of the development of welfare institutions in Britain over the last couple of hundred years, notable for its attention to broad social conditions as well as to administrative and political change, and containing a helpful, though brief, section of "documents" at the end. In attempting to answer the question of why the welfare state emerged, Pat Thane stresses politicians' commitments less to ideology than to national efficiency. The sections dealing with medical issues are derivative and occasionally shaky (e.g., it is suggested on p. 191 that the Peckham Health Centre was organized "on the model recommended by the Labour Party").

MARTIN S. STAUM and DONALD E. LARSEN (editors), *Doctors, patients, and society. Power and authority in medicine*, Calgary, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. xii, 285, \$9.50 Cdn (paperback).

A collection of essays distinctive largely through treating issues of medical rights and responsibilities from the viewpoint of the patient rather than the doctor. Most of the essays deal with the present rather than the past, and tend to be exhortatory and platitudinous, rather than original and analytical, but there are two historical essays of note. Harvey Mitchell, in his rather over-generalized 'The political economy of health in France 1770–1830', argues that the health and medical treatment of the French poor were rendered subordinate to the labour needs of the market. And, in his programmatic but acute 'The decline of the ordinary practitioner and

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the rise of a modern medical profession', Toby Gelfand suggests a radical distinction between general practitioners under the *ancien régime*, and since the mid-nineteenth century: the former, humble commercial tradesmen, the latter, superior, science-trailing professionals.

TEIZO OGAWA (editor), *History of psychiatry. Mental illness and its treatment* (Proceedings of the Fourth International Symposium on the Comparative History of Medicine—East and West), Osaka, Taniguchi Foundation, 1982, 8vo, pp. x, 216, \$39.00.

A valuable and stimulating collection of brief essays dealing with the classification, status, and treatment of mental illness, in East and West, over the last couple of centuries. Important contrasts emerge. Whereas, as Bynum shows, the keynote of the last century in the West was the asylum, locking up the mad in special institutions remained highly exceptional in both China and Japan, as is shown by Genshiro Hiruta, Yasuo Okada, and Hans Ågren. Similarly, whereas in Britain the category "moral insanity" always carried some element or implication of blame, Japanese traditional approaches to madness habitually thought of it as an illness. A particularly stimulating contribution is Henri Ellenberger's, 'Evolution of the ideas about the nature of the psychotherapeutic process in the Western world', which contains a comprehensive classification of the different theories of the nature and efficacy of psychotherapy.

BARBARA and REGINALD YORKE, *Britain's first lifeboat station, Formby, 1776–1918*, Liverpool, Alt Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. 72, illus., £1.80 (paperback) (£2.00 by post, from The Alt Press, 3 Wicks Lane, Formby, Liverpool L37 3JE).

This little book, the profits from whose sale go to the RNLi Widows' Fund, tells the story of Britain's first lifeboat station, set up on the Mersey estuary at Formby in 1776. Its guiding spirits included Dr Thomas Houlston and Richard Gerrard, apothecary to the Liverpool Infirmary, and a village surgeon, Richard Sumner, played a heroic part in the rescue of the *Good Intent* in 1833. It is interesting to record that in 1784, the Liverpool surgeon William Wilson was paid an annual salary of £20 for attending to persons apparently drowned: his success rate until 1790 was an astonishing seventy-two per cent.

BARRY BARNES, *T. S. Kuhn and social science*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. xiv, 125, \$26.00 (\$13.00 paperback).

Barry Barnes's lucid and sprightly book avoids sterile paraphrase of Kuhn's ideas on the structure of scientific revolutions, choosing rather to explore the fruitfulness of certain Kuhnian themes for the social sciences. Barnes identifies and analyses the "finitist" rather than "essentialist" epistemology embedded in the Kuhnian notions of paradigm, exemplar, and normal science, commending Kuhn's account of knowing by doing. Barnes argues that the mainstream critiques of Kuhn by philosophers of science such as the Popperians (e.g., on the issues of rationality and subjectivity) miss the point; yet Barnes himself is sceptical of the value of Kuhn's idea of scientific revolution. Far more useful is Kuhn's discussion of normal science, particularly the view that "normal science involves extending and developing the known", a concept of "discovering" as active process which Barnes recommends to empirical sociologists and historians.

DANIEL CALLAHAN and H. TRISTRAM ENGELHARDT jr. (editors), *The roots of ethics. Science, religion, and values*, New York and London, Plenum Press, 1981, pp. xiv, 440, \$25.00 in USA and Canada, \$30.00 elsewhere.

This is a collection of essays in the fields of meta-medical ethics and meta-bioethics, chiefly by leading moral philosophers such as Alasdair MacIntyre and Stephen Toulmin. In one way or another, most chew over that exceedingly intractable problem, the naturalistic fallacy (or, in John Ladd's title, 'Are science and ethics compatible?'). Though philosophically meaty, the collection as a whole leaves the reader seeking practical guidance in medicine's ethical dilemmas with a hungry stomach.

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ANN DALLY, *Inventing motherhood. The consequences of an ideal*, London, Burnett Books, 1982, 8vo, pp. 360, £12.95 (£5.95 paperback).

This investigation of the current consequences of "Bowlbyism", showing women on the horns of a dilemma created by the idealization of motherhood, probes at some length the wider historical forces at work – political, economic, sociological – which led to the cult of motherhood in the post-World War II world. It contains an unusually sympathetic account of the traditional English upper-class habit of having infants reared by nannies, suggesting through historical examples that the long-term presence of a nanny took pressure off the mother while giving the child the security and continuity it needed.

SAMUEL F. PICKERING jr, *John Locke and children's books in eighteenth-century England*, Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 1981, 8vo., pp. xiii, 286, illus., [no price stated].

Samuel Pickering has entertainingly and instructively documented what has long been surmised: that Locke's educational theories exerted a commanding explicit and implicit influence upon books for children in the age of Enlightenment. Lockeian pedagogics stressed the need for books for children (for man was wholly what he experienced, and therefore children became what they read). But Locke also specified, in his *Some thoughts concerning education*, the form of children's books, which should be moral and realistic (unlike many chapbooks), and should teach through enjoyment. Pickering shows how John Newbery, the great mid-century entrepreneur of books for the young (as well as vendor of patent medicines) perfectly embodied these Lockeian ideals, though his more evangelical successors, such as Mrs Sarah Trimmer, took sterner views of things (less delight, more profit). Even though Pickering does not drive his analysis of the ideological content of these books very far, this is a work that can be read with both profit and delight.

THOMAS L. HANKINS, *Sir William Rowan Hamilton*, Baltimore, Md., and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980, 8vo, pp. xxi, 474, illus., £19.50.

At the 1977 International Congress of the History of Science, Hankins gave a lecture entitled 'In defence of biography'. It is a sign of immaturity in our field that any defence of biography should be needed, and those still in doubt would be particularly urged to examine this work. Hamilton is not only an important figure in the history of nineteenth-century science; there are also available fairly copious quantities of manuscripts by and about him for the biographer-historian to exploit. Hankins has achieved a remarkable synthesis here, for chapters (or sections) on Hamilton's scientific and mathematical work are interspersed – but naturally – with details of his personal life and the general social and educational changes which bear on it. Thus we learn things about (for example) the British Association for the Advancement of Science and the Oxford Movement as well as the least action principle and quaternions. The endnotes, bibliographical essay, and index are very thorough and precise. The book is to be warmly recommended to students of Irish nineteenth-century science (an excessively neglected topic) as well as to biographobes, for their enlightenment.

MIKE MULLER, *The health of nations. A north-south investigation*, London, Faber & Faber, 1982, 8vo, pp. 255, £3.95 (paperback).

A historical and contemporary survey of the interface between Western high technology, "magic bullet" medicine, and Third World health problems. Muller stresses the inappropriateness of much Western polypharmacy to the real health needs of India, Africa, and South America, indicts drug companies of profiteering and malpractice, and lays down some ground-rules whereby Western scientific expertise could be made to dovetail with the difficulties and resources of these societies.

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FRANÇOIS DELAPORTE, *Nature's second kingdom: explorations of vegetality in the eighteenth century*, trans. by Arthur Goldhammer, Cambridge, Mass., and London, MIT Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. xiv, 266, illus., £14.00.

A philosophically acute book about eighteenth-century views of plant life and the role that analogy with animals has played in accounts of plant anatomy, nutrition, generation, and movement. Basing his work on Foucault's *epistemes*, François Delaporte hopes to show how the botany of this period was neither an epilogue to the Renaissance nor a prologue to the nineteenth century, and that analogical reasoning was – as Foucault puts it – a disciplined error. Among other things, this approach casts an intriguing new light on responses to the idea of plant sexuality – cultural fears and inhibitions were projected on to the plant kingdom and new depth was given to the age-old imagery of women, sex, and flowers. This book is translated from the French edition of 1979.

D. A. DOW, M. M. LEITCH and A. F. MACLEAN, *From almoner to social worker. Social work at Glasgow Royal Infirmary 1932–1982*, Glasgow Royal Infirmary, 1982, 8vo, pp. 24, illus., £2.00 (paperback). (Obtainable from Principal Social Worker, Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Glasgow G4 0SF.)

This booklet was produced to commemorate fifty years' development of social work services in Glasgow Royal Infirmary. It describes how small beginnings, made possible by the enthusiasm and commitment of volunteers, backed in due course by medical and nursing staff and hospital administrators, formed the basis of a service now universally accepted as an essential component of the health service. The development of the work of almoners in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary illustrates how they responded to the changing social conditions and patterns of care. The booklet also outlines the development of social work provision in a highly deprived area of West Central Scotland. A larger publication, showing the development of social work services within the paediatric and psychiatric setting, is projected.

ANN THOMSON, *Materialism and society in the mid-eighteenth century: La Mettrie's Discours préliminaire*, Geneva, Librairie Droz, 1981, 8vo, pp. xii, 278 [no price stated], (paperback).

La Mettrie's *Discours préliminaire* was published in 1751 as the introduction to his *Oeuvres philosophiques*. Intended as a defence of philosophy, its theme is the relationship between materialism, and religion and morality. Ann Thomson has provided a valuable and lengthy introduction, which discusses La Mettrie's life and medical training, the development of his materialist philosophy, the origins and issues of the *Discours*, and contemporary reactions to its publication. One of the last productions of La Mettrie's brief but controversial career, the *Discours préliminaire* offers new insight into La Mettrie's social and moral philosophy. Its present edition is a welcome contribution to Enlightenment studies.

RALPH BURRI, *Die Delfter Pest von 1557 nach den Beobachtungen von Petrus Forestus*, (Zürcher Medizingeschichtliche Abhandlungen Neue Reihe Nr. 151), Zürich, Juris Druck, 1982, 8vo, pp. 219, SFr. 46.00 (paperback).

This book contains a translation (pp. 17–182) of an extract from the 1653 edition of the *Observationes* of the physician Pieter van Foreest (1522–1597). Why translate a Latin work by a Dutchman into German? Not, apparently, on account of the intrinsic importance of Forestus's observations on the Delft plague (which are representative of his time rather than unusual), but because of the growing need for translations as knowledge of classical languages recedes. Dr Burri's book will therefore be welcomed, at least in German-speaking circles. The introduction, on the other hand, does little to place this text either in the broader context of Forestus's *Opera*, or in that of the wider literature on plague. The notes are also brief, and, at times, questionable.

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Forestus's Montanus, frequently cited, is surely Joannes Baptista of Paduan fame rather than Jakob Montanus of Königsberg (p. 186), and his Fuchs more probably Leonhart than Remacle (p. 206). Cardanus died in 1576, not 1596 (p. 186), and so on.

FERDINAND MOUNT, *The subversive family. An alternative history of love and marriage*. London, Jonathan Cape, 1982, 8vo, pp. 282, £9.50.

Ferdinand Mount has written a shrewd and telling polemic against those fashionable historians and anthropologists who claim that familiar patterns of family life and expressions of intimate affection are specific to our own times. Medieval literary critics who claim that romantic love was merely a rhetorical artifice, Marxist speculative anthropologists who write conjectural histories of the shift from primitive horde to monogamy, and historians such as Lawrence Stone who see little family intimacy in the past, are briskly shot down with a fusillade of contrary evidence and common sense. Mr Mount makes effective use of Laslettian family reconstitution to argue for the stability of modes of bonding and affection through past time.

R. C. FINUCANE, *Appearances of the dead. A cultural history of ghosts*, London, Junction Books, 1982, 8vo, pp. vii, 232, £13.50 (£6.50 paperback).

This sprightly book tells the stories of ghosts from Homer's Hades down to classic twentieth-century haunted houses such as Borley Rectory, focusing less on high academic and formal theological theories about their nature than on the way they appeared to those who claimed to see them and on the popular psychology of the will to believe in disembodied spirits and survival after death. He neatly shows how classical ideas of wandering spirits, though frowned upon by orthodox Christian theology, were paradoxically kept alive by the doctrine of purgatory; and how, in the late nineteenth century, ghosts themselves were sought by those clutching at religious straws. Dr Finucane's other thrust is to demonstrate from a cultural history point of view that each age recreates ghosts after its own image (with the mildly paradoxical rider that our century still chooses to see essentially Victorian *Turn-of-the-screw* ghosts!).

JEAN PIERROT, *The decadent imagination, 1880–1900*, trans. by Derek Coltman, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press, 1981, 8vo, pp. viii, 309, £15.75.

Professor Pierrot offers a fresh and well-focused analysis of conceptions of decadence within aesthetics, and literary theory and practice, concentrating on *fin-de-siècle* France, but also drawing on an understanding of earlier figures such as Poe and Schopenhauer. Particularly in his sections dealing with occultism and the spiritual, death, drugs, and dreams, with sex, and with the unconscious, he is adroit in demonstrating the interpenetration of literary creation with scientific and medical ideas, and with currents in philosophy. The book forms a useful intellectual-history complement to Roger Williams's more biographically oriented *The horror of life* (1980).

'Patient, ziekte en medische zorg in het verleden', Special issue of *Tijdschrift voor sociale Geschiedenis*, June 1982, No. 26, The Hague, Martinus Nijhoff, 1982, pp. 91–225, Dfl. 15.40 (paperback).

This special issue of the Dutch journal of social history is devoted to the patient, disease, and medical care in the past. After an introduction by P. C. Jansen, J. M. W. Binneveld writes on disease and health in historical perspective; P. Kooij on health care in Groningen 1870–1914; M. J. van Lieburg on the problem of where and how Dutch syphilitic patients were housed in the period before 1900; and P. C. Jansen and J. M. M. de Meere on patterns of mortality in Amsterdam from 1774 (when the records start) to 1930, with an analysis of the causes of death. All the articles are in Dutch but comparative material is adduced, and there is much reference to Professor McKeown. For the next issue (No. 27), an article by F. van Poppel on infant mortality 1850–1940 is announced.