

Book Reviews

number of errors, especially relating to Greek medical theory, indicating that Professor Nasr is not familiar with all of the recent literature. Thus on p. 161 the faulty diagram of Galen's cardio-vascular system, first used by Charles Singer, is reproduced. Also in this section, and elsewhere, although the illustrations are numerous and dramatic, they are not described adequately nor keyed into the text. Perhaps a better plan would have been to adopt multiple rather than single authorship for such a large and complex field.

Professor Nasr is contrasting the Golden Age of Islam with modern technological civilization, which can be a hazardous and unhistorical approach. He also credits the Arabs with more inventions than they actually made. However, there is a great deal of valuable data presented with full documentation. There is also a useful 'Glossary' of Arabic terms, a 'Select bibliography in European languages', and an excellent index.

DONALD L. PADGITT, *A short history of the early American microscopes*, London, Microscope Publications, 1975, 8vo, pp. xi, 147, illus., £3.75.

The development of microscope-making in America is described here for the first time, with an illustrated chronology of stands, accompanied by all known information on their designers and makers. The survey begins with C. A. Spencer (1813–1881) who began selling microscopes in 1838, and it ends in the 1880s. The microscopes are well described and illustrated and there is helpful documentation, but, as with most catalogues of this kind, little is said about the capabilities of the instruments or their practical uses. The author is a lawyer with no scientific training and so is understandably handicapped.

However, his book, as far as it goes, is a useful addition to the literature of the microscope's history, and it is especially interesting to note the European influences which inspired and moulded the American microscope industry.

D. V. GLASS and ROGER REVELLE (editors), *Population and social change*, London, Edward Arnold, 1972, 8vo, pp. viii, 520, £12.00.

When first published this book was greeted as a work of intellectual significance because it showed that historical demography had entered its heroic age. There has been no reason since then to challenge this opinion and the twenty-six contributions are as valuable now as they were then. By exploring the past, our views on the future of populations can be more meaningful. Thus knowledge of events during European industrialization may help us with current problems in developing communities. The papers deal with several countries in addition to Britain, and each is a well-documented study. They remain relevant and their data useful, so that the anthology can still be recommended as an outstanding addition to the literature of historical demography.