

Book Notices

Jacalyn Duffin, *History of medicine: a scandalously short introduction*, University of Toronto Press, 1999, pp. xvi, 432, illus., £52.00, \$70.00 (hardback 0-8020-0949-2), £15.00, \$24.95 (paperback 0-8020-7912-1).

In response to requests from her Canadian medical students, the author has crafted a general introduction of medical history based on her own teaching experiences. Duffin's strategy of curriculum "infiltration" and the branding of medical personalities as "heroes" or "villains" to provoke students and teach them historical methods have appeared elsewhere. Nevertheless, this book will find broad acceptance among teachers who wish to portray history as an antidote to medical dogma and an agent for explaining change.

Rosalie David, *The experience of ancient Egypt*, London and New York, Routledge, 2000, pp. xxii, 192, illus., £35.00 (hardback 0-415-03263-6).

The culture of ancient Egypt continues to fascinate young and old. This survey of our centuries-old quest to decipher and understand the land and its people examines religion and funerary practices, monumental construction, and everyday life. Of special interest is a final chapter on the contributions made by the biomedical sciences. Over time, the investigation of Egyptian mummies—from crude autopsies to sophisticated body scans—has yielded significant knowledge about the individual health of rulers and workers, often revealing aspects of the illnesses they suffered. Electron microscopy, histochemistry and DNA analysis promise further insights into the history of disease. To illustrate the importance of the biomedical approach in

Egyptology, the University of Manchester recently established an international mummy tissue bank to co-ordinate future studies.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Library.)

John Crawford Adams, *Shakespeare's physic*, London, Royal Society of Medicine Press, 2000 (first published 1989), pp. 192, illus., £10.00 (paperback 1-85315-463-6).

Vincent Aucante, *Descartes. Écrits physiologiques et médicaux*, Collection Épiméthée, Paris, Presses Universitaires de France, 2000, pp. viii, 288, FFr 298 (paperback 2-13-050623-2).

Lucy Bending, *The representation of bodily pain in late nineteenth-century English culture*, Oxford English Monographs, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 2000, pp. ix, 309, £37.50 (hardback 0-19-818717-3).

Marcel H Bickel, *Die Entwicklung zur experimentellen Pharmakologie 1790–1850. Wegbereiter von Rudolf Buchheim*, Gesnerus Supplementum 46, Basel, Schwabe, 2000, pp. 158, illus. (3-7965-1422-7).

Michael Bliss, *The discovery of insulin*, University of Toronto Press, 2000 (hardback 1982), pp. 304, illus., \$21.95 (paperback 0-8020-8344-7). The hardback was reviewed in the October 1988 issue of *Med. Hist.*, p. 478.