

Book Reviews

Moreover, Pavlov's colleagues recognized that his postulated "cortical" reflexes and his later concept of "second signal system", with which he claimed to conquer the citadel of mind, were "illusory physiology", despite their respectful or fatuous praise for the Nobel laureate. Nonetheless, both the Party leadership and the educated public persisted in the naïve belief that mind is or soon would be reducible to brain. This shared scientific fantasy sustained Pavlov's reputation and his funding in Russia; it ultimately made possible the artificial unity of psychology and neurophysiology in the Stalin era.

As for Soviet psychiatry, Joravsky acknowledges that the political bosses left authority over the insane largely to the acknowledged experts. The fundamental fact remains, in his view, the power of an essentially Stalinist mentality to continue dominating the profession long after the dictator was gone. His explanation is that "something within psychiatry, a persistent need to equate intuitive convictions with scientific knowledge, generated an enduring affinity between doctors of the mind and the authoritarian leaders of their country" (p. xix). This is consistent with other recent scholarship on psychology, psychotherapy, and psychiatry under Nazism, which shows that in these cases, too, professionals functioned most effectively as transporters—if need be, as enforcers—of dominant cultural values when they imagined themselves to be altruistic, objective practitioners of applied science. These findings have disturbing implications for professional practice elsewhere as well. If Joravsky is correct, then non-Soviet psychiatrists' condemnation of their Soviet colleagues is short-sighted at best, hypocritical at worst.

This tale is one of massive failure at all levels—those of science, of the attempted political direction of science, and of common humanity. Joravsky is deeply critical of the fragmentation and specialization characteristic of modern thought, and not only in Russia. He mourns most the separation of scientific "knowledge" from literary "wisdom". And yet, he fully acknowledges how necessary naturalistic and materialistic assumptions are for science of any kind to work, and how elusive the values of understanding and creative imagination treasured by the literary artist must seem from such foundations. Though he wants to weave a tapestry of wistful ironies in the spirit of Chekhov, he creates instead a Dostoyevskian universe, tragic, dark, and hopeless. Now that the Brezhnev era is past, a post-Communist era dawns in Eastern Europe, and the Soviet Union itself appears on the way to disintegration, this book could be read as an elegaic testament—if so much of it did not hit so close to our smug, self-satisfied Western home. This powerful, provocative work of mature scholarship will become more than a standard reference to be cited piously. It will be the target of choice, a necessary touchstone for work on this topic for some time to come.

Mitchell G. Ash, University of Iowa

C. C. CHEN in collaboration with FREDERICA M. BUNGE, *Medicine in rural China. A personal account*, Berkeley, University of California Press, 1989, 8vo, pp. xix, 218, illus., \$35.00.

This is a fascinating personal account of how a Chinese physician trained in modern medicine devoted over 50 years to developing ways of introducing scientific medical care into a predominantly rural society at a time when few physicians saw the health of country people as their responsibility. C. C. Chen, a 1929 graduate of the Rockefeller-sponsored Peking Union Medical College, has given a vivid account of his struggles to bring modern medical care to the peasantry during a period of great social and political changes.

The first part of the book describes the confrontation between traditional Chinese and modern Western medicine after the latter's introduction into China on a large scale by missionary doctors in the mid-nineteenth century, and the fatal family illnesses which led Chen to embark on a medical career and seek new means to fight disease. There follows a description of the author's pioneering experimental work at Dingxian, a county in Hebei Province, which attracted attention both at home and abroad and which anticipated the rural health service developed in China in recent years.

Book Reviews

The second part reviews the circumstances of health work in mainland China from 1949 to 1987. Here, the author gives a brief but systematic description of developments in government health policy and its impact and administration with special reference to rural areas. The author describes the unfavourable influences on health work and medical education of contemporary political campaigns, which deprived medical and public health work of the influence of technically-trained leadership. The account of the author's personal ups-and-downs during this time reveals, between the lines, a Chinese intellectual's strong sense of responsibility for the health of the people.

The last part consists of the author's reflections on the health problems of China with a summary of lessons for health policy makers and workers in developing countries. These include the need to provide the appropriate pioneering leadership and trained personnel and to build the necessary infrastructure for health work. The author also emphasizes the importance of fostering community responsibility and self-help and of securing co-operation with traditional practitioners. Through all shines Dr Chen's conviction that the best possible health care should be available to the population as a whole and not just to the privileged few.

Credit should also be given to the co-author, Frederica M. Bunge, who is responsible for historical material in the book. The photographs illustrated are rare and add significantly to its interest. It is a pleasure to welcome this work, whose appeal is not only to health policy makers and workers in developing countries, but also to students of many aspects of medical history.

Kan-Wen Ma, Wellcome Institute

COLIN HEYWOOD, *Childhood in nineteenth-century France: work, health and education among the classes populaires*, Cambridge University Press, 1988, 8vo, pp. xii, 350, £30.00, \$44.50.

Colin Heywood has, with this book, joined the distinguished band of English-speaking historians of the economy and society of France. Heywood's work brings together the world which has been explored by such writers as Olwen Hufton and William Sewell, that of the workers and the poor. It provides a significant new perspective by emphasizing the contribution of children to agricultural and artisan labour, and also proclaims its laudable objective of applying his conclusions to the prevention of the abuse of child labour in Third World countries today.

Heywood avoids sentimentalizing his subject, and instead locates it firmly within currently crucial areas of historical debate. Both labour history and the history of childhood, a sub-field often obsessed by the example of the middle class, benefit from Heywood's questioning of why it was that the employment of children, a custom that had been accepted without question for centuries, suddenly became a public issue during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, and declined in importance thereafter.

Educational history, which, in the hands of Marc Raeff and many other historians of Enlightenment Europe has become an integral part of the history of new disciplines crucial in the emergence of the modern world, is implicated in Heywood's second major topic, that of the way in which informal methods of educating the young in the family and the local community gave way to the formal educational system of the schools everywhere triumphant in Europe by 1914. The nature of the modern state itself, whose class base of repression has been so powerfully sketched by Michel Foucault, is implicated in Heywood's final major theme, that of the assessment of the effectiveness of the state in its efforts to promote the welfare of children. Historians of medicine will focus especially on Heywood's treatment of the debates on national physical and moral decline which fuelled pressure for the tighter state control of child labour, and of industrial working conditions generally. Though Heywood's treatment of this theme adds little to the classic account by William Coleman, it does highlight the close connections between campaigners' efforts to arouse public opinion on the specific issue of child labour as part of a broader context of public health concerns, and the rapid change of attitudes which led to more effective enforcement of regulation.