

well-produced book. Teachers will use it frequently, and so will students, and it should be on every library shelf. It is more than a pity, however, that every other time one turns to it for information, one draws a blank. The evidence for human evolution is still so slight that we cannot afford to overlook any part of it. The fossils which are missing are not unimportant and it is to be hoped that students will not treat them as such. But for what it contains, this guide fills a unique place as a most valuable text on human palaeontology. **BERNARD CAMPBELL**

## SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

### The Rise of the Technocrats

A Social History. By Prof. W. H. G. Armytage. (Studies in Social History.) Pp. vii + 448. (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul; Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1965.) 56s.; 9 dollars.

**I**N title, Prof. Armytage's book recalls Dr. Michael Young's *The Rise of the Meritocracy*, but there the resemblance ends. There is nothing futurist about Prof. Armytage's study of the place of the scientist in society and his influence on public affairs, though, regarded as a social history, the book disappoints. Covering roughly the past four centuries, its span is immense, and it is based on a range of reading that is vast and impressive. Prof. Armytage begins with the botanists and gardeners of the sixteenth century and traces the emergence of the scientific societies in the following two centuries, the beginnings of scientific and of technical education, the founding of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, to the establishment in our own times of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the complex inter-relationships between Government, industry and the universities. In all this, he scarcely fails to note a significant factor or figure, and it is done, moreover, on an international scale which portrays the interactions of developments in one country or another. Mainly the treatment is pragmatic and practical, but sometimes he ventures into philosophy, as in his final chapter, "An Operational World".

The treatment varies considerably. There are imaginative and sensitive passages, but there are other much more pedestrian, which do not match the originality of the headings, and in which he seems sometimes so overwhelmed by detail that the wood is hidden by the trees. Sometimes, on the other hand, the passage of events is condensed to an extent that gives a picture of the situation which is not entirely accurate, and sometimes again his judgment seems to have been at fault in selecting trivialities, rather than significant factors or events, in order to make his point. Nevertheless, the overwhelming mass of detail which he has examined has not betrayed Prof. Armytage into jargon.

If, as a piece of social history, *The Rise of the Technocrats* disappoints, this is not because too large a canvas has been attempted or because the material is unbalanced. It is rather because Prof. Armytage nowhere defines what he understands by 'technocrat' and shows no clear understanding of the relations between science and technology to-day, particularly of their intellectual value. He describes events without pausing for any searching or satisfying examination of their real causes and leaves the impression at times that he is a little out of his depth. His quotations and references are copious and remarkably up to date, but he has at times a tendency to quote a secondary source when the primary one is even more accessible. Moreover, it is astonishing to find no mention of Tocqueville in an account of Anglo-American relations in the nineteenth century so full as Prof. Armytage gives us. Apart from this, the book is useful for its extensive references and bibliography alone, and the conscientious

and painstaking reader should have little difficulty in correcting for himself any passages where either compression or imperfect judgment seems to have distorted the true picture. **R. BRIGHTMAN**

## A HISTORY OF HYSTERIA

### Hysteria

The History of a Disease. By Dr. Ilza Veith. Pp. xvi + 301 + 14 plates. (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1965.) 7.95 dollars; 59s. 6d.

**D**R. ILZA VEITH has essayed a difficult task in choosing hysteria for historical research. *Hysteria: The History of a Disease* is timely, for at present hysteria is a controversial subject between neurologists and psychiatrists. The word itself no longer appears in the *Standard Nomenclature of Diseases*, and it was eliminated from the *Mental Disorders Diagnostic Manual* of the American Psychiatric Association in 1952, being replaced by the term 'conversion symptom'.

In spite of the long recognition of hysteria, over the centuries, to be a clinical entity, so eminent a psychiatrist as Dr. Eliot Slater in his Shorvon Lecture<sup>1</sup> holds there is no such disease. Sir Francis Walshe<sup>2</sup> in a recent paper, as a neurologist, defends the clinical unity of hysteria. He writes: "Apart from the mimesis of somatic disease hysteria may present, the dramatizations, the exaggerations and the pathological lying are also behavioural disorders, part of the total expression of the abnormal psychical state which is hysteria. A diversity of symptoms from case to case and, in any single case from time to time, no more destroy the unitary quality of the malady than the same diversities destroy that of disseminated sclerosis or of neurosyphilis". It is to be noted that Walshe also adds: "Nevertheless, Slater's nihilism in regard to hysteria is a challenge to neurologists once again to justify the concept of hysteria as a nosological entity in its own right". Dr. Veith also considers hysteria a disease. The extensive bibliography shows that she has read widely on the subject, and she sets forth much new and interesting information.

From early times in Ancient Egypt, hysteria (derived from ὑστέρα, the Greek word for uterus) was associated with uterine disorders, the symptoms being ascribed to wanderings of that organ. The remedies applied were designed "to cause the womb to go back to its place". The Hippocratic corpus described hysterical symptoms, such as the *globus hystericus*, carefully and also associated the disease with uterine displacements. Aretaeus considered the uterus a migratory organ, but noted that the malady also occurred in men. Soranus and Galen pointed out the fallacy of uterine migration.

In Chapter 3, Dr. Veith emphasizes that St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, regarded hysteria to be due to demoniac possession, induced by magic or witchcraft. For centuries in the Middle Ages many innocent persons were accused, tortured and executed for witchcraft. William Harvey investigated an accusation of this kind and was more enlightened than Sir Thomas Browne at a later date in that he secured a reprieve for four out of seven of the convicted witches. The sad story of the Salem witches is re-told, whose accusation was supported by so eminent a man as Cotton Mather (1663-1728). Even so late as 1749, a number of nuns were seized with mass hysteria and thought themselves bewitched by a young nun who was condemned and burnt alive in the market-place of Wurzburg.

Magie in the Far East is described and is followed by a chapter on hysteria in England. A striking example, which Dr. Veith does not mention, was the case of Queen Elizabeth I. She was subject to 'a spice of the Mother', as hysteria was termed, and, occasionally, had cataleptic seizures. Her malady was most apparent after the death