
PAPERBOUNDS

MEDICAL THINKING: A Historical Preface. By Lester S. King, M.D. Princeton, 1984. 336 pp. \$11.50

Bloodletting, employed as early as 2500 B.C. by Egyptian healers and as late as the 19th century by Western physicians, is frequently cited by medical historians "as a symbol for whatever was bad in earlier medical practice." But one reason for its longevity, argues King, a medical doctor and former editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, is that despite harmful effects and misapplications it often worked, especially on maladies that today would be diagnosed as vascular congestion and high blood pressure. Sound medical thinking, it appears, remains constant, despite leaps in technology and information. Concentrating on the treatment of tuberculosis (formerly called consumption) over four centuries, King distinguishes two main types of physicians: the empiric, who knows from experience which treatments often work, and the scientist, who goes beyond the data and prevailing theories to "listen to the 'still small voice' of critical judgment." It is the second group, says King, the Galens and Vesaliuses, that makes real progress in the healing arts.

RECOLLECTIONS OF WITTGENSTEIN. Edited by Rush Rhees. Oxford, 1984. 236 pp. \$7.95

In the *Logico-Philosophicus* (1921), Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889–1951), the Vienna-born, Cambridge-educated philosopher, set out to construct a philosophy of language as rigorously logical as any of the "hard" sciences. In his later work, published posthumously in *Philosophical Investigations* (1953), he surprised colleagues, including his former mentor, Bertrand Russell, by seemingly repudiating his earlier position: Mean-

ing, he now argued, was not absolute but, rather, the product of language "games." These recollections by five who knew him (his sister, two pupils, his Russian teacher, and a former colleague) show Wittgenstein to be as flinty, difficult, and fascinating a person as he was scrupulous and unpredictable a thinker. "Give up literary criticism," he once said to the renowned Cambridge don F. R. Leavis, advising him that such work was beneath a first-rate mind. "Such a strong personality could not fit smoothly and easily into every community," wrote his sister (whose house Wittgenstein had designed when he was between jobs). "But what a stimulus one received from every conversation one had with him."

BEYOND A BOUNDARY. By C.L.R. James. Pantheon, 1984. 257 pp. \$8.95

"What do they know of cricket who only cricket know?" asks James in what was heralded, shortly after its 1963 publication, as the most important sports book of its time. Even those who know nothing about the game of cricket will profit from this reissue, which conveniently includes an explanation of the game's Byzantine rules. James, a black Trinidadian, a historian, novelist, and teacher, moved to England in 1932 and became a leader of the West Indian nationalist movement as well as cricket correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*. No surprise, then, that this book explores the sport's connection with society, politics, and even art. James explains how cricket in the colonial West Indies diffused social, and particularly racial, unrest. But he also shows that black players (many of whom he affectionately portrays) found a degree of personal dignity and freedom within the "boundary" that they could not find beyond it.