Michaels, Leon: **The eighteenth-century origins of Angina Pectoris:** predisposing causes, recognition and aftermath. London, The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, 2001. XVII, 219 p. Ill. (Medical history, Supplement 21). £ 32.–; \$ 50.–. ISBN 0-85484-073-7.

This well-written and extensively researched analysis underscores the fact that Angina Pectoris, a term first used by Heberden, practically did not exist in England, nor elsewhere, before the observations William Heberden (1710–1801) reported before the Royal College of Physicians on July 21, 1768.

In his thorough, extremely detailed analysis the author explains the emergence of a new entity – angina due to coronary artery disease by the radical change of living conditions: fatty food, obesity through lack of exercise, the introduction of sugar, salt, coffee and tobacco, especially among the rich or upper-class population in England. This radical change was due to the agricultural revolution (animal fat through systematic raising of cattle, pork and poultry) as well as the industrial revolution with the emergence of an affluent society with its lack of exercise on the one hand and overrating coffee and tobacco as well as increase in stress on the other. All the important elements – a detailed analysis of the agricultural revolution, the factors of high blood pressure, obesity, stress, etc. are developed in separate chapters. Finally one chapter is devoted to susceptibility and resistance, genetically determined in various populations and races. Last but not least a thorough historical analysis discovers occasional evidence of coronary heart disease as far back as Antiquity (Egyptian mummies, Roman emperors as well as South American Indians).

The present volume on the history of Angina Pectoris may be of interest not only to cardiologists but just as well to the general medical community and allied health professionals. Furthermore, due to the extensive historical and sociological research, the volume is of definite interest for students and scholars in the fields of sociology, demography and the history of agriculture. All in all a very recommendable volume on general culture ...

Andreas P. Naef, Pully

Petit, Vincent: **Le curé et l'ivrogne.** Une histoire sociale et religieuse du Haut-Doubs au XIX^e siècle. Paris, L'Harmattan, 2003. 268 p. € 22.–. ISBN 2-7475-4103-7.

La lutte contre l'alcoolisme au XIX^e siècle est généralement le fait en milieu urbain – cadre de la majorité des études historiques – de philanthropes et de médecins mus par un idéal hygiéniste parfois teinté d'eugénisme social. Il ne s'agit toutefois pas là d'un modèle universel et tout le mérite de l'ouvrage de Vincent Petit est de nous rappeler que les régions catholiques en voie de modernisation – le Haut-Doubs français dans le cas présent, mais aussi la Bretagne ou les campagnes catholiques suisses – ont connu dans la seconde moitié du XIX^e siècle un type particulier de lutte contre l'ivrognerie de la part du clergé.

L'utilisation judicieuse de sources ecclésiastiques permet en effet à l'auteur de montrer que le discours sur l'alcoolisme est l'occasion d'une remise en question du monde moderne en formation (industrialisation, urbanisation, démocratie), destructeur de la société traditionnelle dans laquelle l'Eglise, la famille et l'économie