

*Archives New Zealand 3: Medicine and Public Health*. Compiled by Frank Rogers. Archive Press, Plimmerton, 1990. 80 pp. NZ price: \$30.00.

THE HISTORY of medicine and public health is a subject of growing interest in university history departments and elsewhere. As the first compilation or directory of medical and public health archives and manuscript repositories this volume seeks to fill an important gap. There are, however, problems with using it, especially for anyone relatively new to the subject. The 'select bibliography' at the front is indeed select, and is more notable for what is omitted than what it has included. The archival entries, as Frank Rogers admits in the introduction, are not based on a perusal of the documents but on finders' aids and questionnaires to institutions. His warning that the items included 'should be used merely as clues to possible sources' is apt, for the medical content of some documents, as he surmises, is slight. This is not a comprehensive guide. The absence of biographical details on the individuals listed means that researchers unfamiliar with their subjects will not find much assistance here. The 'shorthand' annotations give the book an unprofessional look, and the layout is not 'user-friendly'. Nevertheless, Frank Rogers must be thanked for at least making a start at drawing together primary sources for the study specifically of the history of medicine and public health; it is, after all, the first.

LINDA BRYDER

*University of Auckland*