

by J.G. Rusher's use – and bowdlerization – of Thomas Bewick's beautiful cuts (see 37 and 38, p.75, and 40 and 41, p.77).

I am not surprised that an innkeeper like John Cheney of the Unicorn should have set up a printing press, though Dr De Freitas is (p.30). The wills and inventories of pedlars and chapmen, which I have read, more commonly have the names of inn or alehouse keepers as executors, overseers or supervisors, than family. These chapmen were men who lived on the road, and they were more likely to use the men who put them up to help them as they died than anyone else. Banbury was a prosperous, well-established market-town, and it already, naturally, had its own chapmen in the sixteenth century (p.21). If they could satisfy the popular thirst for cheap print by buying from a local printer, he would undoubtedly have a ready sale. John Cheney's initiative will have been welcome.

Dr De Freitas' Appendix on the titles published in Banbury shows the amazing continued popularity of some titles. In *Small Books* I printed the trade list of William Thackeray, who held the entire stock of the London specialist partnerships in 1689. It is fascinating to compare the two lists, and find out just how deep-rooted in the past some of these titles were. *Tom Thumb* was the first 'chapbook' we have indentified as registered with the Stationers in 1621. Here it is, with *John and Kate* and *Fair Rosamund* and other friends from the seventeenth century, printed by Cheney and Rusher in the eighteenth and nineteenth century in Banbury.

Truly, little James Raine, delighting himself with his grandmother's heap of books and ballads in the 1790s, had his hands on more popular history than he knew. Dr De Freitas is to be congratulated on adding one more splendid piece to the jigsaw puzzle of popular print, and its salesmen.

**Margaret Spufford**

**Man-Midwife, Male Feminist: The Life and Times of George Macaulay, M.D., Ph.D. (1716-1766)**, James Wyatt Cook and Barbara Collier Cook. 304pp. The Scholarly Publishing Office, The University of Michigan University Library, 2004. \$40.00.

In the Spring of 1997 (*C&CH* 13.8) we published 'The House at Pye Corner', by the above authors, relating George Macaulay's time as a physician in Banbury in the later 1740s. That article formed the basis of Chapter Four, 'The Banbury Years, c.1740-1750', of this biography of Macaulay, which has now at last been published in full.

Macaulay's main claim to fame was that his second wife Catherine became a leading feminist who wrote a history of England, and her biographer, Bridget Hill, has dismissed George Macaulay as one of whom 'all too little is known' – an assertion repeated in the new *Oxford DNB*. To have written a full length book about him is in itself an achievement. To make such an unpromising subject so readable and enjoyable is all the more so.

I understand it should be available in several local libraries, but also it is or soon will be available *gratis* on-line.

**J.G.**