

Book Reviews

manuscript at all and France only one of doubtful value. The editor has wisely confined himself to registering only those variants which have significance for the understanding of the text and in this way has eliminated much useless matter from the *apparatus criticus*.

The printing and layout of the book are excellent and there are few misprints, a tribute both to the printers and the proof-readers. All concerned in this enterprise deserve high praise, but none more than the actual editor, who has set the standard for other writers in the series to maintain.

C. T. ANDREWS, *The first Cornish hospital*, privately printed, 1975, 8vo, pp. 5 11. +225, illus., £3.75. [Copies obtainable from the author: 9 Tremorvah Barton, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1NN.]

Histories of relatively obscure provincial hospitals tend to be parochial, superficial and lacking in general interest because they are usually written for a local audience. This book, however, is quite different. It gives a vivid story of the Royal Cornwall Hospital from its foundation in the last few years of the eighteenth century to the 1930s, and has been well researched and well written. Moreover, the evolution of the hospital is depicted against a background of the working-class people it was created to serve. It is, therefore, a significant contribution to the history of hospitals and can be enthusiastically recommended as such. The nursing as well as the medical services are also considered, so that those interested in the history of nursing, together with historians of medicine, will find Dr. Andrews' book most valuable. As A. L. Rowse in his introduction says, it is an admirable book. In addition it has been written by a man who has himself been no mean contributor to the hospital's history and renown.

JOHN STUART BATTS, *British manuscript diaries of the 19th century; an annotated listing*, Fontwell, Centaur Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xi, 345, £10.00.

The diary's usefulness as a historical source is obvious, but the way in which relevant ones may be found is not. Matthews' *British Diaries* of 1950 covers the period of 1442 to 1942, but Dr. Batts has limited his list to the nineteenth century because of the increasing interest in this period, the greater availability now of its manuscript materials, thanks mainly to archival services, and the number of diaries available. Only manuscript diaries are recorded here, and there is some overlap with Matthews, but with corrections and additions where necessary. The format follows that of *British diaries*, with a chronological listing, 1800 to 1899, the date being the year that the diary was begun; within each year the arrangement is alphabetical. Each entry gives a brief note on the author and his dates, the contents of the diary and its present whereabouts. At the end there are indexes of diarists and of subjects, where at least forty-six members of the medical profession are listed: doctors (7), physicians (9), and surgeons (30). It would be interesting to know why surgeons are so articulate.

Clearly this book will become an essential source-book for all historians of the nineteenth century, and each will be indebted to Dr. Batts for being made aware of all these treasures.