

### Book Reviews

was responsible for organizing the Walter Reed Board, selecting its members, and authorizing its basic procedures is known to all medical historians, as is the fact that his failure to identify 'Bacillus A' with the disease aided the work of later investigators. Not everybody, however, knows that this great pioneer in American bacteriology discovered the pneumococcus in September 1880, a few months before Pasteur; that he stated the theory of phagocytosis two years before Metchnikoff; that he was, if not the very first, certainly one of the first, to demonstrate the tubercle bacillus in the United States, after its discovery by Koch; and that he first identified the Laveran organism in America. All this is told graphically and entertainingly by Mr. John M. Gibson, Librarian of the North Carolina State Board of Health, and author of *Physician to the World, the Life of General William C. Gorgas*, who has made extensive, but never pedantic, use of letters, contemporary newspapers, and other records. The reviewer has nothing but admiration for this scholarly, well-written, and human story of failures and triumphs, though he does not care for some of the chapter headings ('Doctor in Bed', 'Doctor on the Go', 'Bodies and Bacilli', 'Soldier at Rest'), nor for the frontispiece. On p. 121 Friedländer is persistently spelled 'Friedlander'. The book concludes with a bibliography (13 pp.) and an index (5 pp.).

W. R. BETT

*The Sudan Medical Service.* H. C. SQUIRES. London: William Heinemann—Medical Books Ltd., 1958; pp. xii, 138. 15s.

This little book is not easy to review as it is not at all clear just what the author intended it to be. He has divided what he has to say under seven heads: Early Pioneer Days; Epidemics; The First World War; and the Period of Expansion, etc. Each of these sections reads like a paper prepared for delivery at a public meeting and the style is free and easy, the author being fond of starting his sentences with 'and' or 'but' or 'so'. As a series of reflections and reminiscences by one with a long knowledge of parts of the Sudan and great interest in the affairs of that vast country the book has much of interest. It can be recommended to that large public who like to take their experience of hard work overseas from the ease of their own fireside. Dr. Squires certainly succeeds in whetting one's appetite for the full-scale history yet to come from some other source, of a Service and a period so important in the development of medical knowledge in regard to some of the major problems of health in hot climates.

C. A. BOZMAN

*The History of the Birmingham Dental Hospital and Dental School, 1858-1958.* R. A. COHEN.

Published by the Board of Governors of the United Birmingham Hospitals, 1958; pp. 40. Illustrated.

This brochure commemorates the centenary of the Birmingham Dental Hospital which was founded in January 1858 and is now the oldest institution of its kind in this country and perhaps in the world. The hospital, which was first called the Birmingham Dental Dispensary, had two short-lived forerunners—the Institution for the Diseases of the Teeth established by Saunders, Harrison, and Snell in Little Windmill Street, London, in 1839, and the London Dental Dispensary founded by C. J. Fox in 1855. The founder of the Birmingham Hospital was Samuel Adams Parker, son of the well-known Birmingham surgeon S. W. Langston Parker. It seems that there were arrangements for the admission of medical and dental students to the hospital as early as 1878, but the Dental School was not formally constituted until

### *Notes on Contributors*

1880. This school, which was connected with Queen's College and with the Birmingham Clinical Board, was recognized by the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1880 and finally approved by that corporation in 1881. Three dental professorships were created in 1880, and these chairs were retained in Mason's College when the medical and dental faculties of Queen's College were transferred to Mason's College in 1882.

Mason's College became Birmingham University in 1900, and the new university had from its commencement a medical faculty incorporating a dental department. Birmingham University was the first in this country to grant dental degrees. The story of the early struggles of the hospital and school and of their subsequent achievements is an inspiring one and Mr. Cohen, who is one of our leading dental historians, tells it with admirable brevity and spirit.

#### NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

- BETT, WALTER R., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.R.S.L., Editor of the *Medical Digest* and the *Tuberculosis Index*. President of the Society for the Study of Addiction. Secretary of the Osler Club.
- BOZMAN, COLONEL C. A., O.B.E., M.B., D.P.H., Director of the Wellcome Museum of Medical Science.
- BROCKBANK, WILLIAM, T.D., M.A., M.D. Camb., F.R.C.P., Physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary. Author of *Portrait of a Hospital* (1952) and *Ancient Therapeutic Arts* (1954) etc.
- BUESS, HEINRICH, M.D., Professor and Director of the Department of the History of Medicine, University of Basle.
- CRITCHLEY, MACDONALD, M.D., F.R.C.P., Neurologist to King's College Hospital and Physician to the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases.
- DALRYMPLE-CHAMPNEYS, SIR WELDON, BART., C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., Late Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health. President of the Section of the History of Medicine, Royal Society of Medicine.
- DIBLE, J. HENRY, M.B., LL.D., F.R.C.P., Emeritus Professor of Pathology, University of London.
- ELAUT, LEON, M.D., Urologist of Ghent, has also published many papers on historical subjects.
- GUTHRIE, DOUGLAS, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Ed.), Former Lecturer in the History of Medicine, University of Edinburgh. Founder and Honorary President, Scottish Society of the History of Medicine. Author of *A History of Medicine* (1945; New Edition, 1958).
- HOLLOWAY, S. W. F., B.A., Research Student, Department of History, University College, London.
- ØRBECK, ALF. LORENTZ, M.D., District Physician, Fana, Norway.
- PLATT, ROBERT, M.D., M.Sc., LL.D., President of the Royal College of Physicians of London. Professor of Medicine, University of Manchester.
- TIZARD, BARBARA, PH.D., Clinical Psychologist, the London Hospital.