

### Book Reviews

These collected papers—whose publication was made possible by his admirers and those near and dear to Dandy—bear witness to the truth of an editorial on his death in the *Baltimore Sun*: 'He had the imaginative genius to conceive new and startling techniques, courage to try them, and skill—the superb skill—to make them successful.'

Dandy's work inspired many during his lifetime and afterwards. This work, published a decade after his death, will inspire and re-inspire many more. It will also ensure that his stature in the field of medicine, great though it is, will grow greater in the perspective of time, and for posterity it will remain a beautiful and lasting memorial to a surgical genius.

ILLTYD JAMES

*Florence Nightingale and the Doctors.* ZACHARY COPE. London: Museum Press Ltd., 1958; pp. 163. Illustrated. 21s.

Florence Nightingale once said that she could talk better to a medical man than to anyone else. Because of this Sir Zachary felt that, by a study of her relations with doctors, it may be possible to obtain a truer picture of her character than by other lines of investigation. It was a wise thought admirably worked out and makes good reading.

At nearly every stage of her public life she came into contact with doctors, and among them were many of her best friends. Her life work had much in common with the work of medical men, and she herself had an important influence on certain aspects of medicine, particularly preventive medicine. She was a great sanitarian, an earnest advocate of fresh air, pure water and good drainage. She took a great interest in the construction of hospitals, and for half a century her advice was sought by most of those who were planning large hospitals in all parts of the English-speaking world. Mainly by her efforts the Army Medical College was founded, and her work in connexion with the Sanitary Commission of 1857 led to a great improvement in the general health and conditions in the Army. With the help of Dr. Farr she made a brave attempt to put the classification of diseases on a surer foundation and to institute a uniform system of hospital statistics.

During her long life Miss Nightingale necessarily corresponded or came in contact with many leaders of the medical profession. This lively study of the voluminous material now available and hitherto unpublished shows how great her influence was, and how much she was helped by the doctors with whom she collaborated. It goes a long way towards helping to elucidate the complex character of this most distinguished woman of the Victorian era.

Readers who enjoyed the splendid biography by Cecil Woodham Smith must have wondered why the apparently healthy Miss Nightingale took to her bed for the last forty years of her life. Sir Zachary in the final chapter suggests a convincing solution to this curious problem.

WILLIAM BROCKBANK

*The Royal Eye Hospital, 1857-1957.* ARNOLD SORSBY. London: Royal Eye Hospital, St. George's Circus, S.E.1, 1957; pp. 24. Illustrated. 1s. 6d.

The influence of specialized eye hospitals on ophthalmic education is without doubt, and the short history of the Royal Eye Hospital, one of the four still existing, makes interesting reading.

Professor Sorsby is an historian and under the five headings (1) The Rise of Eye

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Hospitals, (2) South London, (3) The Formative Years, (4) Growth and Consolidation, (5) The Past Twenty-five Years, he draws a picture not only of this hospital, but of the industrial and economic changes that took place during the formative years of the hospital, the need for better sight by the more exacting demands of developing industries, and the extension of the services to schoolchildren, etc. The development was slow, and in spite of the condemnation by the Royal Colleges, the British Medical Association, the Director-Generals of the Army and Navy Medical Departments, and the medical press, the specialist eye hospitals gained in strength.

The personalities of the surgeons, the members of the management committees and the administration are skilfully woven into the history and though a generous factual material is presented the freshness and readability is not diminished. The delaying tactics of the ground landlord, the overcoming of budgeting difficulties, staffing, negotiating with the London County Council are all part of the life and growth of the hospital.

The milestones stand out clearly: over 20,000 new patients by 1902, 2,000 school-children by 1910, and the number of outpatients steadily increasing to the 45,000 mark by 1951. The number of beds has increased from 2 in 1861 to 136 in 1946, including the complement in Lambeth and Surbiton.

Extensive changes have taken place during the past twenty-five years, and a notable new development was the opening of the Research Department and of the Courage Laboratory.

This short booklet, which was written on the occasion of the centenary of the Royal Eye Hospital in 1957, is recommended to all interested in hospitals and especially to ophthalmologists.

M. KLEIN

*The Impact of the Antibiotics on Medicine and Society.* Edited by IAGO GALDSTON, M.D.

The New York Academy of Medicine. New York: International Universities Press Inc., 1958; pp. x+222. \$5.00.

The sixteen papers contained in this volume were contributed to a conference held by the Institute of Social and Historical Medicine of the New York Academy of Medicine. They are of varied interest and tend to overlap each other. They deal with the subject up to 1954 and they are not confined to medicine. The longest discusses the application of antibiotics to the livestock industry. Some have little relation to the title of the volume; for example, the paper on some dynamic interrelations between the hospital and the community. By far the most entertaining is by W. C. Alvarez, entitled 'Antibiotics and the Clinical Practice of Medicine'. Here, too, the speaker strays far off his subject in describing in dramatic language the great changes that have taken place in medicine in the last half-century as seen in his wards and ending with a frightening warning that new cures bring new problems. There is also an interesting paper by J. F. Mahoney on the effects of the antibiotics on the concepts and practices of public health. The volume ends with the words: 'Having provided society with the benefits of antibiotics and other life saving drugs, science must now seek solutions for the social difficulties these agents have created.'

WILLIAM BROCKBANK