

Society Reports

PAMPHLETS IN ORDER OF PUBLICATION

- (1) T. M., A letter concerning the present state of physick, and the regulation of the practice of it in this kingdom, London, J. Martyn and J. Allestry, 1665. (This appears to have been written to Timothy Clarke who as host had been airing his hostility to apothecaries (See No. 6). This work is attributed to Merrett in Wing but internal evidence makes this impossible.)
- (2) [Coxe, D.,] A discourse wherein the interest of the patient in reference to physick and physicians is soberly debated. Many abuses of the Apothecaries . . . detected . . . , London, C.R., 1669 [1670]. This is largely based on No. 1. That Daniel Coxe was the author can be seen from No. 3. (2nd Edit.), p. 63, which is earlier than the authorities cited by F. H. Ellis in *Notes and Records of the Royal Society*, 1963, 18, 37.
- (3) Merrett, C., A short view of the frauds committed by Apothecaries . . . , London, J. Allestry, 1669 [1670?]. (A second edition of this outspoken book came out in the summer of 1670. Merrett had been made a freeman of the Apothecaries in 1659 (S.A.C., 1651-1680, f.50d), and so this gave more offence than those of T. M., Coxe and Goddard.)
- (4) Goddard, J., A discourse setting forth the unhappy condition of physick in London . . . , London, J. Martyn and J. Allestry, 1670. (This was written before the Plague (*ibid.*, pp. 57-58), but was not made ready for publication until shortly after Merrett's book. The two were then licensed by the Booksellers on the same day, 17 February 1670, *The Term Catalogues 1668-1709*, ed. E. Arber, 3 vols., London, privately, 1903-1906, I.)
- (5) Lex Talionis; sive vindiciae pharmacoporum: or a short reply to Dr. Merrett's book . . . , London, M. Pitt, 1670. (There is no real evidence that Henry Stubbe was the author of this counter-attack on the College of Physicians. The author, or authors probably, seem to have been apothecaries and the reason for concentrating the attack on Merrett has been noted.)
- (6) C[larke], T., Some papers writ in the year 1664. In answer to a letter, concerning the practice of physick in England, London, J. Allestry, 1670. (This is Timothy Clarke's answer to T.M. (No. 1). The reason for the delay in publication of this, and Goddard's book, is probably that the Plague and Fire had caused a temporary abatement of the quarrel.)

R. S. ROBERTS

Society Reports

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA BRANCH)

SECTION OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

At a meeting of the Section of Medical History held on 25 November 1963, Dr. John McLean presented a paper entitled 'A Short Biography of Fay Maclure'. Alfred Fay Maclure was an eminent Melbourne surgeon and an outstanding surgical teacher who is remembered with affection by many members of the medical profession in Melbourne. He was born in 1883 at Hay, New South Wales, and after a brilliant scholastic career at Wesley College, Melbourne, where he was dux in his final year, he entered Melbourne University and completed his medical course with distinction.

Maclure served his residences at the Kyneton District Hospital and at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, where he began a close association with Sir Hamilton Russell which lasted until the latter's death. In 1911, he went to England where he worked at the Middlesex Hospital and in the following year returned to Australia where he was appointed an out-patient surgeon at the Alfred Hospital. During World War I he served in the Australian Imperial Forces as a surgeon and spent some time in a plastic surgery unit under Sir Harry Gillies.

Book Reviews

After the War Maclure continued his career as a surgeon at the Alfred Hospital and became renowned both for his diagnostic judgment and surgical skill as well as for his outstanding qualities as a teacher. From 1929 to 1936 he was Medical Representative on the Dental Board of Victoria and was for a time Chairman of the Dental Post-Graduate Teaching Committee.

Although due for retirement in 1943 he continued on the Alfred Hospital Staff until the end of World War II. He suffered a stroke in 1947 and died in 1956.

M. L. VERSO

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE AUSTRALASIAN MEDICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

On 22 November 1963 the Australasian Medical Publishing Company celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a Ceremony of Commemoration in Sydney. The occasion also marked the fiftieth year of publication of the *Medical Journal of Australia*, a title suggested fifty years ago by Sir Henry Newland, C.B.E., D.S.O. who happily was able to attend the meeting and presented to Sir Cecil Colville of the Australian Medical Association the Gold Key to the Headquarters of the Association. A full report of the celebrations has been published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

Book Reviews

Sir John Simon 1816–1904 and English Social Administration, by ROYSTON LAMBERT, London, MacGibbon and Kee, 1963, pp. 669, frontis., 63s.

Although a legendary figure to most doctors in any field of medicine and to everyone in the field of public health, Sir John Simon had not, until the publication of Royston Lambert's magnificent treatise, been the subject of detailed examination. In one way, this curious deficiency has been disastrously unfortunate, since much that was vital to such a study has been lost or destroyed—some as recently as the Second World War. It is sad to read that the official papers covering Simon's years of office at the Privy Council and Local Government Board as well as his own private papers at St. Thomas's Hospital suffered or were destroyed in the blitz. In another way, however, the delay has been more than usually fortunate, since it has meant that a scholar of outstanding ability has sifted the surviving documents, 'pitifully few' as they have proved to be, with remarkable skill, presenting not only the life of a man spent selflessly in public service, but much more—although the author largely disclaims this—a history of public health from 1848 to 1876.

The objectivity of Lambert's treatment of so much that was controversial in Simon's life is equalled only by the perspicacity with which he has discovered the origins of his greatness and his undoing. In the inexorable syllogism of Lambert's writings John Simon is even greater than legendary accounts have made him out to be; for the reader sees him playing new and hitherto relatively unexplored roles in local government, State medicine and the development of social administration.

With so little to work upon, Lambert paints a most vivid and convincing picture of Simon's personality—his almost maniacal devotion to duty, his versatility, scholarship, love of children and humanity at large, his honesty and openness of mind, and