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it, and even helped to prepare the questions which should be put to them in order to obtain the most telling replies, and that most of the Report was written by her. She had some justification therefore in claiming the Report as being her work. That it was signed by Sidney Herbert does not contradict her claim.

Much of Miss Nightingale's later writings lack the vigour and originality of her earlier works. Her grasp of Indian affairs was phenomenal in view of the fact that she never visited India, but Jowett was very critical of some of her writing about India and she never published the book on *The Zemindar, etc.* In later days also originality left her. She was constantly writing to others to supply ideas. In December 1781 she wrote to Sutherland as follows

I am asked to write in a newspaper article the essence of several volumes—If you chose to put down a series of little axioms for me to enlarge upon and write in my own style (as I did the India letters) that would be a different thing—and I would undertake it.

In the same way she wrote to Miss Crossland, the Home Sister at the Nightingale Training School for Nurses, asking her for any ideas which she might incorporate in the letters which she regularly wrote to nurses at St. Thomas's and elsewhere.

Though Miss Nightingale was conservative on some aspects of nursing it is interesting to find (see p. 30 of this Biobibliography) that she was modern and even ultra-modern in some aspects. For in the 'Suggestions on the subject of providing, training and organizing nurses for the sick poor in workhouse infirmaries' she suggests that girls of fourteen or fifteen might be recruited from the Union Schools and trained in the basic principles of good nursing in the women's wards. She added what might well become a modern slogan 'Perhaps I need scarcely add that nurses must be paid the market price for their labour, like any other workers; and this is yearly rising.' Perhaps we had better close on that note.

ZACHARY COPE

Matthaus Mederer von Mederer und Wuthwehr, edited by ERNST THEODOR NAUK, (Sudhoffs Klassiker der Medizin), Leipzig, Johann Ambrosius Barth, 1961, pp. 72, port., illus., DM.4.90.

One of the pleasant rewards of medical historical reviewing is the opportunity it affords of delving into the lesser known aspects of medical practice and the lives of neglected personalities.

Nowadays, the unity of medicine and surgery is taken for granted unquestionably throughout the world both East and West. It is salutary to remember that this happy state of affairs has virtually only occurred within the last hundred years.

Matthaus Mederer was Professor of Surgery and Obstetrics in Freiburg im Breisgau from 1773 until his death in 1805. During his professional career he championed the cause of medical unity unceasingly. *Medicus, nisi chirurgus, nullus est*, might be his epitaph.

This little book really consists of facsimiles of his two famous pamphlets on this subject. The first was published in November 1773, the second in March 1782. Although to present-day eyes, his point is established, there appears no hint as to how this unity is to be achieved in the conditions of his own time. He not only failed to convince the influential professors of the University of Vienna, but perhaps because of his outspokenness, he also failed in his cherished ambition to hold the surgical Chair in the capital. He had to content himself with the lesser post of Inspector of the Zoological Institute there.

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It is of interest that he compared Austria with 'more advanced countries including England', but if he had been able to visit England (there is no mention of his having done so) he might have found a rather different state of affairs. As Poynter has shown, although the second half of the eighteenth century saw a renaissance of surgery, it also saw long and bitter conflicts between the College of Physicians, the Barber Surgeons and the Apothecaries. The College of Physicians had for long contended on the basis of the Act of 1540 that major surgery should be performed only in the presence of a physician! When Parliament was asked to confirm this by legislation, the Barber Surgeons reacted strongly and the Physicians finally dropped the matter.

However, conditions in France were somewhat better. As Sherrington points out in his biography of Jean Fernel, the title 'Officier du Santé' was created by the Republic in 1794 to cover *both* physician and surgeon in one term. A portrait medal of Fernel and Paré in profile, after the woodcut of 1554, was struck to commemorate 'La Médecine rendu à son unité primitive'.

The medieval practice of taking an Arts course before starting medicine, meant that the student had perforce some grounding in grammar, dialectic and logic. In this way, medicine was prevented from being debased into a mere craft like surgery, which had to await the nineteenth century before achieving an equal status. Mederer was thus ahead of his time in holding this unitarian concept.

This small volume of seventy-two pages is another in the series of 'Sudhoffs Medical Classics', published by J. A. Barth of Leipzig. It is edited by E. T. Nauck, Professor of Medicine in Freiburg, as a tribute to his illustrious predecessor, who was also an early member of the Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina, under whose auspices the series is published.

The booklet also contains six illustrations including two of Mederer himself. There is a table of contents and notes on the text both throughout and at the end of the book. In 1774 Mederer married Maria Francisca Strobl, daughter of a colleague. He had eleven children, nine sons and two daughters, who are the subject of a most interesting family tree, compiled by a present-day descendant, Obersleutnant Konrad Mederer-Wuthwehr.

Altogether a most fascinating vignette and well worth a place in the library.

I. M. LIBRACH

The Origin of Medical Terms, by HENRY ALAN SKINNER, second edition, Baltimore, The Williams and Wilkins Company, 1961, pp. x, 437, illus., \$12.50.

Dr. Skinner, who is Professor of Anatomy at London, Ontario, has enlarged and improved his historical dictionary of medical terms, which first appeared in 1949 and made a notable impression then. Though its type is smaller and neater, the new edition is fifty pages longer. This is due to wider coverage, rather than revision of the original entries. In so far as it carries out the purpose of its title, to explain the origin and history of words used in the medical sciences, this book can be warmly welcomed. Anatomical terms and the names of diseases, instruments and operations are clearly discussed, where the history of both word and concept can be precise. For these classes of medical terms the book is directly informative and persuasively educative through the historic perspectives which it opens. Many such terms incorporate the personal name of a discoverer, and Dr. Skinner has included brief biographies of these eponymous pioneers and of other men important in the history of medicine. In this new edition his son, Mr. Paul Skinner, has provided excellent small portraits of many of these famous people, expressive line-drawings derived from contemporary likenesses,