

### Book Reviews

*The Story of Health*, by ANNE HOWATT and GEORGE HOWATT, Oxford, Pergamon Press, 1967, pp. viii, 118, illus., 12s. 6d.

Medical history is in the process of establishing itself in secondary education through the recently-introduced Certificate of Secondary Education. *The Story of Health*, intended to help school-children prepare for this Certificate, not only gives a synopsis of the history of medicine, suitably emphasizing the role of the sciences, but also deals with 'progress towards health today' by discussing such topics as the World Health Organization.

In 118 pages the material is treated sketchily but, remembering that such books can, albeit indirectly, affect the public's image of medicine, this one may be considered useful as it concentrates on the triumphs of medicine. Yet would it not lead to a more sympathetic understanding if at least some of medicine's failures and blind alleys had been indicated? It is also a pity that in a book dealing with research and discovery—and with each chapter concluding with a series of questions (the answers of which are not always to be found in the text)—the schoolchild (and parent) could not be helped with suggestions for further reading. In the absence of many teachers with expertise in medical history it is debatable whether the subject should be dealt with in schools, and it is certainly doubtful whether this book can be recommended for use without critical guidance and commentary.

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*Hahnemanns Krankenjournal Nr.4*, ed. by HEINZ HENNE (Veröffentlichungen aus dem Robert Bosch-Krankenhaus Stuttgart), Stuttgart, Hippokrates-Verlag, 1968, pp. 354, DM. 38.

The numbers given to these logbooks on patients are misleading, being the numbers used by Hahnemann. The Robert Bosch-Krankenhaus possesses two, three and four, but not one. Therefore a different title would have been preferable. Just as the earlier volume which contained Journals 2 and 3, the present one is admirably produced, retaining in print all the idiosyncrasies of Hahnemann's way of setting down day-to-day observations, down to the dialect and exact colloquial speech used by his patients. The introduction, longer this time, is mainly concerned with the importance of Hahnemann's insistence on using one drug at a time so as to observe the effects of each quantity under each set of circumstances. Most of the ailments complained of by the people of Eilenburg near Leipzig from autumn 1802 to summer 1803 were minor ones and provided an excellent opportunity for trying out the effect of drugs on a practically healthy body before experimenting with the sick one. Hahnemann records not only the objectively observed symptoms but also the patients' utterances allowing us an insight into their view of the situation, as on p. 207 'butter tastes bitter', or on p. 85, 'when she gets out into the open air it drives her nuts' (*will sie aus der Haut fahren*). What fun he would have had with our hallucinogenic drugs!

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