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blessing for the poor of North London. In 1856 the parts around King's Cross were very badly provided with hospital accommodation, and to remedy this Statham set up at his own expense an independent institution which was opened on 30 June 1856 under the name of The Great Northern Hospital.

The founder died two years later, having contributed more than £1,400 to the early expenses of the hospital, and seen it fully established with a lay committee and a medical staff, which in 1857 already included such well-known men as J. Copland, F. C. Skey, C. Handfield Jones, John Gay and W. S. Savory. The work of the hospital increased at such a rate that additional accommodation had to be provided as early as February 1857, and after that the story is one of continuous progress and achievement. This story of ever-increasing demands and services, successive moves and rebuildings, recurrent financial crises, benefactions and new departments has much in common with the histories of most hospitals, but Dr. Jewesbury also tells of developments which were peculiar to the Royal Northern and which give his book a special interest. The hospital was a pioneer in the provision of modern out-patient departments and of pay beds and wards. The latter development led to a storm of protest from the local general practitioners and had wide repercussions.

The hospital has had a very distinguished staff. Prominent among its physicians were Dr. Robert Bridges, later to become Poet Laureate, Sir Andrew Clark, Sir Samuel Wilks, Lord Horder and Sir William Willcox; and on the surgical side it had William Adams, Sir William Savory, the two Allinghams, C. B. Lockwood, Sir George Makins and Sir Lancelot Barrington-Ward.

Dr. Jewesbury has handled his material with great skill, and the result is that a book which might have been of very circumscribed interest is in fact one which may be read with profit by everyone interested in the development of the British voluntary hospital system. A special word of praise is due to the illustrations, which are admirably chosen, and to the excellent index.

W. J. BISHOP

Samuel Smiles and his Surroundings. AILEEN SMILES. London, Robert Hale Ltd., 1956. Pp. 206 Illustrated. 18s.

Samuel ('Self Help') Smiles was a medical graduate of Edinburgh and Leyden who, after some years of practice in his native place, Haddington, East Lothian, 'among 3,000 healthy Scotsmen and in competition with seven other doctors', abandoned medicine for literature, and became the author of best-sellers which exerted an almost incredible influence on the people of his age. Like his contemporary, Trollope, he managed to combine authorship with a great deal of routine business, acting for many years as

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assistant secretary of the Leeds and Thirsk Railway and later as secretary of the South-Eastern Railway. His most famous work, *Self-Help* (1859), sold 20,000 copies in the first year, and has now been translated into more than a score of languages. This pleasantly written biography by one of Samuel Smiles's surviving grand-daughters should be added to every collection of books on medical truants. It gives brief but interesting accounts of his student days in Edinburgh, his life as a country surgeon, and his first (and only) medical book, *Physical Nurture and Education of Children* (1835), 750 copies of which were printed at his own expense. As a young man in London he met Southwood Smith, Edwin Chadwick and Dr. John Epps, who advised him to set up as a homoeopathic physician in Leeds—advice which he spurned. The quotations from Samuel Smiles's own posthumously published *Autobiography* (1905) should turn some readers towards this now forgotten work which, unlike his biographies of others, was a complete failure from the publishing point of view. This book is well produced generally, but the index is very imperfect. Apart from a reference to the famous French physiologist as 'Majendie' (p. 35), no errors in regard to medical matters have been detected.

W. J. BISHOP

Medicine in Manitoba: The Story of its Beginnings. ROSS MITCHELL, M.D.
Manitoba Medical Association, 1955. Pp. viii† 141.

This is an interesting contribution to the early history of medical practice in Canada, with special reference to the part played by medical men in the exploration and settlement of the North-West Territory which is now Manitoba. The influence of Indian medicine—which is by no means to be despised—on the white man's practice is illustrated from the records of the Hudson's Bay Company and other original sources. Other chapters are concerned with the pioneer hospitals and medical schools, women physicians, doctors as naturalists and explorers, and medical societies and journalism.

The School of Salernum. Regimen Sanitatis Salerni. The English Version by SIR JOHN HARRINGTON. Ente Provinciale per Il Turismo, Salerno [1953]. Pp. 92. Illustrated. Distributed in England by the Italian State Tourist Office.

This is a beautifully printed and produced edition of the famous *Regimen Sanitatis*, comprising the Latin text and Harrington's verse translation of 1607. An excellent introduction places the work in its setting, and should infuse many readers with a desire to visit the beautiful and historic region associated with the Salerne Schoole.