

Book Reviews

authors when they write 'How far psychiatry is still behind medicine is shown not only by the survival of therapeutic principles long since discarded from the parent science (of medicine) as for instance treatment by shock, but also by the persistence of schools of psychiatry, not to mention psychology or psychotherapy, the like of which vanished from the medical scene one hundred years ago with the scientific developments of the nineteenth century'.

It is not surprising that this book has already been widely acclaimed in the lay press and it can be assured of a permanent and important place in the literature of medicine, psychiatry and medical history. Samuel Johnson, whose rating of historians was a low one, stated the requirements in that sphere as comprising penetration, accuracy, colouring and application. Each one of these qualifications is completely fulfilled by the authors of this quite outstanding book.

MACDONALD CRITCHLEY

A History of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London (vol. 1, 1617-1815), abstracted . . . from the manuscript notes of C. WALL, by H. C. CAMERON, revised . . . and edited by E. A. UNDERWOOD, London, for Wellcome Historical Medical Museum by Oxford University Press, 1963, pp. xiv, 450, 28 plates, 55s.

Until recently students of the History of Pharmacy in England had to rely on obviously out-of-date works by Barrett, and Bell and Redwood, but in the last twelve months two new works have added much to our knowledge. L. G. Matthews gave a very clear account of the general development of pharmacy in Britain and now E. A. Underwood has described in greater detail the development from 1617 to 1815 of the London Society of Apothecaries which was the only body controlling the profession in this period.

This important work has had a somewhat chequered history, for Dr. Underwood has had the invidious task of revising and editing the manuscript of the late Dr. Cameron which in turn was based on the notes of the late Dr. Wall. The thoroughness with which the editor has done this difficult job can be seen from the fact that the references and annotations occupy more pages than the text itself. This, however, has had unfortunate consequences; the references, which often include important quotations, are so long and complicated (one covers 45 pages) that one fears that they will never be given that care and attention they deserve. Even more unfortunate is the fact that in such a mass of detail it is often impossible in the end to know what citation is backing what fact. All this is particularly true of the first few chapters, which deal with the most critical period of the Society's history. This period of conflict, first with the Grocers and then with the Physicians, is admittedly complicated, but could be made much clearer if it were shown that the *Pharmacopoeia* of 1618, especially the second edition, was both a weapon against the Grocers and at the same time the guarantee to the College of Physicians that the Apothecaries would stop practising medicine.

As it is, in these chapters the references and quotations are often almost impossible to reconcile with the text—was there a *Quo Warranto* (p. 52) against the Apothecaries between June 1636 and April 1638 or not? This failure to combine with the text what is essential and important in the notes also leads to many mistakes, especially in chronology, in both notes and text. 'The Humble Request' (p. 52) came after the meeting of the Privy Council in April 1638 and not some months before; the trial of Moorcrofte in 1634 (p. 301) came after, not before, Houghton's imprisonment by the College of Physicians. Many of these mistakes, such as the statement (on p. 54) that

Book Reviews

there was no meeting of the Apothecaries with the Privy Council in February 1640, could have been avoided by consulting the Council's Register. There are also numerous slips that need correcting if there is another edition; the episcopal licensing act was 1512 (not 1511 as on p. 108), the inspeximus of the Grocers Charter was 1606 (not 1607 as in p. 17), there was no House of Commons sitting in 1619 (p. 35), and the candle cup (p. 66) is presumably a misprint for caudle cup.

Nevertheless the internal history of the Society is an exciting story to tell, and the text does this well and succeeds in relating the development of the Society with the general background of events in a way that the older histories certainly failed to do. It is now possible to see more clearly why the company of humble apothecary-tradesmen of London of 1617 should two centuries later have become the first real licensing body for general practitioners of medicine throughout England and Wales; as the editor says, the wheel had gone the full circle; and one awaits now with impatience Dr. Underwood's next volume which will show the gradual decline of the Society in the late nineteenth century, when at last all medical men were given a proper professional organization.

R. S. ROBERTS

The Journal of James Yonge, Plymouth Surgeon, edited by F. N. L. POYNTER, London, Longmans, 1963, pp. 247, 8 plates, 35s.

The keeping of a diary or journal is an arduous task, but when well done furnishes a perpetual pleasure to future generations, provided, that is, that it be rendered available to the public. Everyone will therefore thank Dr. Poynter for so carefully editing James Yonge's *Journal of all the Memorable Occurrences of my Life* which spans the period 1650–1708, years full of exciting events. Though the writer was a surgeon in a provincial city, his journal is for every man and every woman, for he travelled widely and saw many important persons, and this book will be in its proper place alongside Pepys and Evelyn.

James Yonge lived a hard life. Born in Plymouth on 27 February 1647 he could read and write well at the age of nine and before he was eleven knew a useful amount of Latin. He was then apprenticed to Silvester Richmond, Surgeon to the *Constant Warwick*, a ship carrying a hundred and fifty men and thirty-one guns. For twelve years, interrupted by a few turns on shore and a term of imprisonment in Amsterdam, he lived a rough life at sea, crossing the Atlantic in all weathers to look after the men in the Newfoundland fisheries, sailing the North Sea and the English Channel amid the perils of warfare, and all the time writing notes which give one a vivid picture of life on board those small yet venturesome craft. When twenty-three he married and settled down to surgical practice in Plymouth where he acted as surgeon to the war hospital. He prospered, brought up a large family and became Mayor of Plymouth and a noted man. From time to time he visited London, Oxford, and other places, always recording his impressions of men and things, though he always had an eye to business. Passing through London at the end of February 1667 he saw the ruin caused by the Great Fire and commented, 'but what sorrow possessed my soul and heart when I saw that once glorious city lie in ruins and ashes, divers of the heaps of rubble yet smoking'. (That was six months after the fire.) At Oxford in 1681 he saw All Souls 'where the beer was the best and cheapest in the world', and on visiting Christ Church said he could stand in the dimensions of Great Tom which, he added, cost £3,000 to cast. He came from the West and naturally said that Exeter College was 'eminent for the stateliest hall of any house in the University'.