

### Book Reviews

A. KORNBERG, B. L. HORECKER, L. CORNUDELLA and J. ORO (editors), *Reflections on biochemistry in honour of Severo Ochoa*, Oxford, Pergamon Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. ix, 465, illus., \$25.00 (\$9.00 paperback).

In September of 1975 students and colleagues of Ochoa (Nobel Laureate of 1959 in Physiology or Medicine, shared with A. Kornberg, the senior editor of this book, “. . . for their discovery of the mechanisms in the biological synthesis of ribonucleic acid and deoxyribonucleic acid.”) attended in Barcelona and Madrid an international symposium to celebrate his seventieth birthday. The papers were grouped into six colloquia, comprising the areas of biochemistry where Ochoa made his contributions: energy metabolism, lipids and saccharides, regulation, nucleic acids and the genetic code, protein bio-synthesis, and cell biology. They constitute the first six chapters of this *Festschrift*, which contains forty-one papers altogether. Although there is a considerable amount of technical material in them, most will be of the greatest value to historians evaluating the last five decades of what one author calls “the first golden age of biochemistry”. The personal account of research, which is always excluded from the impersonal scientific paper, is here in plenty, and will serve the same purpose as oral history to the future chronicler of twentieth-century biochemical advances. There is also a biographical introduction and a closing chapter on ‘Science in the time of Ochoa’.

Many of the household names of biochemistry are here, including Cori, Chain, and Krebs, and altogether there are ten Nobel Prizewinners. As a source-book of autobiographical material and historical data this book represents an important contribution to the history of the medical sciences. It should have wide appeal.

FRANCIS MADDISON, MARGARET PELLING and CHARLES WEBSTER (editors), *Linacre studies: Essays on the life and work of Thomas Linacre c. 1460–1524*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. liii, 416, illus., £12.00.

Sponsored by Linacre College Oxford, this excellent book has brought together eleven specialists from a variety of academic disciplines, united in their aim to expand the sadly defective body of knowledge concerning a great Renaissance physician and humanist. They achieve commendable success.

There is a fourteen-page editorial introduction, with twenty-one pages of notes, which discusses problems in Linacre’s biography and his reputation, and contains a Linacre chronology. There are papers on Linacre and humanistic studies at Oxford, his Latin grammar, his education at Padua, his place in medical humanism, his lands and lectureships, and his foundation of the College of Physicians. There is also a bibliography of his works, and of secondary sources on him written since the sixteenth century. An iconography and a final essay by Walter Pagel on ‘Medical humanism—a historical necessity in the era of the Renaissance’ complete the volume. The highest level of scholarship is maintained throughout, the index is comprehensive, and the twenty plates elegant. But, it is a pity that the dust-jacket “blurb” does not relate accurately to the contents.

Despite the title, there is no piece devoted entirely to Linacre’s life, but this is explained by the fact that published accounts cannot be improved on by present-day scholars. However, as this is the first in a series of Linacre studies perhaps future