

Book Reviews

usual pleased some more, others less; some chid and calumniated me, and laid it to me as a crime that I had dared to depart from the precepts and opinions of all anatomists; others desired further explanations of the novelties, which they said were both worthy of consideration and might perchance be found of signal use.'

Franklin's Harvey says: 'As happens, this view was acceptable to some, to others less so. The latter tore it to pieces, misrepresented it, and found cause of offence in my departure from the rules and belief of anatomists as a whole. The former asked for further explanation of the novelty, asserting that it would be worth investigating, and would prove of extreme practical importance.'

There can be no doubt which of the two sets of words is closer and more comprehensible to us.

Beyond differences of translation dependent on fashion and epoch, there lies the tantalizing question, which is nearer Harvey's real thought? Professor Franklin, as he translated, was imbued with the feeling that he was approaching closer to Harvey's essential meaning than ever before. As he reads, this feeling is conveyed to the reader, and it becomes clear that we have been presented with a translation of Harvey's *De Motu Cordis* which will remain the standard rendering for many years to come.

One cannot put this book down without noticing the additional pleasure it gives by its tasteful production. The coloured reproduction of the Janssen portrait of Harvey, and the inclusion of the original Latin text will both appeal to the discriminating reader and all this has been contrived at a most reasonable price.

KENNETH D. KEELE

The Discovery of the Circulation of the Blood. By CHARLES SINGER. London: Wm. Dawson & Sons Ltd., 1956. Pp. x+80. Illustrated. Price 10s. 6d.

This small book of seventy-five pages on the discovery of the circulation emulates William Harvey's classic on the subject in its brevity. Originally published in 1922, Dr. Singer has aptly chosen this tercentenary year of Harvey's death to have it reprinted, with but little alteration.

Its scheme is didactic, and the first chapter is devoted to a simple outline of the anatomy of the circulation. On this background the views of Galen are imposed. The attempts of Leonardo da Vinci and Vesalius to break away from these concepts are described with that freshness of touch so characteristic of Dr. Singer's writing. The insight into the devious workings of Servetus's mind whereby from a thesis on the spirit of God he reaches the postulate of the pulmonary circulation is also most refreshing. These workers and their successors such as Columbus and Fabricius, serve to provide a

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back-cloth to the brilliant labours of William Harvey whose work, cogently summarized in thirteen pages, is rounded off with a fine coda from Dr. Singer on scientific nomenclature and method.

This design of using the discovery of the circulation to illustrate the successful application of the scientific method is as logically successful now as it was in 1922. Since then, however, the work of Harvey's precursors has come to be more appreciated as shedding light on this process. Ibn an-Nafis's thirteenth century description of the pulmonary circulation was reached by speculation on the work of Galen combined with religious refusal to perform dissections of the human body—a fact that endorses Harvey's laudatory remarks on Galen in this regard. Leonardo da Vinci's obsessional efforts to comprehend the movement of the heart and blood, and his descriptions of its 'circulation', are now more recognized as efforts of scientific thought, premature in that contemporary knowledge of the sciences was insufficient to bear them. Cesalpino's successful speculations have been shown to rest on a combination of observation and intense Aristotelianism very close to Harvey's own attitude.

And so it is that one closes this little book of Dr. Singer's grateful for what has been received but, understandably enough, asking for more.

KENNETH D. KEELE

The Life, Work and Times of Charles Turner Thackrah, Surgeon and Apothecary of Leeds (1795–1833). A. MEIKLEJOHN. Edinburgh and London, E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1957. Pp. vii+50+238. 7 plates. 25s.

Medical historians and all workers in industrial health and in preventive medicine owe a great debt to Dr. Andrew Meiklejohn, Senior Lecturer on Industrial Health in the University of Glasgow, for making available to them in so pleasant a form a reprint of Thackrah's now rare classic, and for prefacing it with so scholarly and so delightful a biographical essay, based on extensive researches into original documents. They are indebted also to the Wellcome Trust and to Messrs. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., for financing the publication. Anatomist, experimental physiologist, clinician, teacher, founder of the Leeds Medical School, pioneer in preventive medicine, and humanitarian, Charles Turner Thackrah died of pulmonary tuberculosis on the day following his 38th birthday. A shrewd observer, a painstaking recorder, and a warmhearted man with imagination and vision, he published his famous tract of 124 pages in 1831. It is the second edition, entitled 'The effects of the arts, trades, and professions, and of civic states and habits of living, on health and longevity: with suggestions for the removal of many of the agents which produce disease, and shorten the duration of life' (1832) which as an exact facsimile has here been reproduced by photo-lithography