

Book Reviews

RUTH HALL, *Marie Stopes. A biography*, London, Deutsch, 1977, pp. 351, illus., £5.95.

The fascinating story of Marie Stopes (1880–1958) has been told twice before, but this will rank as the best biography of a powerful and extraordinary woman. Mrs. Hall writes well, and by means of the voluminous material available, together with interviews with survivors who were involved, successfully comes to grips with her subject. She is the first to do so and may well be the last. This outstanding biography will be essential reading for historians of birth control, eugenics, race, and women's lib.

SANDRA L. CHAFF, RUTH HAIMBACH, CAROL FENICHEL and NINA B. WOODSIDE, *Women in medicine. A bibliography of the literature on women physicians*, Metuchen, N. J., Scarecrow Press; (London, Bailey Bros. & Swinfen), 1977, 8vo, pp. xii, 1124, £29.75.

Many bibliographies turn out to be lists of references. This one, however, contains a wealth of annotated, some of them substantially, citations from the large and international literature that covers this topic. There are 4,087 entries altogether, and they are arranged under headings such as biographies, medical education, medical activity, specialties, psychosocial factors, fiction, etc. Each section is sub-divided topographically, and the entries give all the necessary bibliographical details. The indexes are extensive: to authors of the articles or books cited; to subjects; and to personal names of female physicians. The only major criticism is that much of the material is from American or British sources and European and Asian publications are less than fairly represented. Nevertheless, this book is a remarkably useful work of reference that will have wide popularity despite the price.

H. A. SNELLEN, *Selected papers on electrocardiography of Willem Einthoven*, Leiden University Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. 306, illus., [no price stated].

Professor Snellen, lately occupant of the chair of cardiology in the University of Leiden, has collected together facsimile reproductions of thirteen classical contributions by Willem Einthoven (1860–1927), ranging in time from 1894 to 1926, and in English (seven), French (three), and German (three). They include mainly articles, but there is also correspondence with Thomas Lewis and Frank Wilson. Each has a short introduction, and there is also a brief 'Life and work' and a bibliography of Einthoven. Professor Snellen is to be congratulated on this elegant tribute to his countryman and useful contribution to the history of electrocardiography.

WAYNE HANLEY, *Natural history in America. From Mark Catesby to Rachel Carson*, New York, New York Times Book Co.; London, Harper & Row, 1977, 8vo, pp. xii, 339, illus., £8.95.

A book teeming with quotations, facts, and names needs two guides to its contents: accurate documentation and an index. This book has neither, and its value is immediately considerably reduced.

It is made up of excerpts from observations made during the past two hundred years by American naturalists. They are termed "readable passages" and range from

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Catesby, the eighteenth-century botanist, to the conservationist, Rachel Carson. There are several elegant coloured plates, and altogether Mr. Hanley has produced an attractive and interesting book, although lacking the armamentaria of scholarship.

HULDRYCH M. KOELBING (general editor), *Short biographies of eminent men and women who died between 1930 and 1940*, Zürich, Medizinhistorisches Institut der Universität Zürich.

Professor H. M. Koelbing of the Institute for the History of Medicine in the University of Zürich, has initiated a new source of biographical information. The immensely valuable *Biographisches Lexikon hervorragender Aerzte* finished with the year 1880, and the two supplementary volumes by Isidor Fischer reach only 1930. Professor Koelbing plans to continue in part these works from 1930 to 1940. In collaboration with Dr. Esther Fischer-Homberger, Professor Koelbing conceived the excellent idea of recruiting the help of those students who elect to prepare an Inaugural-Dissertation in medical history. The project is now directed by Dr. Heinz Balmer. German, British, and French doctors of renown who died between 1930 and 1940 are included, and each student is allocated a year and a national group. So far the following have been produced:

German doctors dying in 1930 (Peter Kälin, 1977, pp. 239); 1934 (Ruth Grütter, 1978, pp. 138); 1938 (Marijan Skvarc, 1976, pp. 241); 1940 (Ladislav Razingar, 1977, pp. 226).

British doctors dying in 1933 (Charlotte Kinadeter-Meyer, 1976, [no pagination]); 1934 (Vincent Joseph Benedikt Ullmann, 1977, pp. 146); 1936 (Heinz Nüesch, 1976, pp. 193); 1939 (Ursula Flueler-Ambühl, 1977, pp. 165); 1940 (Sales Huber, 1976, pp. viii, 163).

French doctors dying in 1937 (Johannes Sigrist, 1977, pp. 104); 1939 (Josef Schäli, 1977, pp. 120).

Each entry gives a brief biography, a list of published work and sources for biographical data. American physicians have been excluded, mainly because of the lack of source material on them in Zürich. Thus, although this biographical dictionary will deal with only the three nations, it will be of the greatest usefulness to historians of medicine. Professor Koelbing, his staff, and his students must be congratulated on a most praiseworthy project. They will earn the thanks of many researchers whose task of discovering biographical data is made so much easier.

STEPHEN LOCK and **HEATHER WINDLE** (editors), *Remembering Henry*, London, British Medical Association, 1977, 8vo, pp. xii, 166, illus., £3.00 (paperback).

Henry Miller (1913–1976) was in turn Professor of Neurology, Dean of Medicine, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Newcastle, and it is an indication of his remarkable achievements, personality, and versatility that no less than thirty-seven individuals can contribute brief accounts of him, none of which is identical to another, although recurrent themes are obvious. They give a very full appreciation of his breadth, character, and greatness. There is also an 'Introduction' by the present Dean of Medicine and Professor of Neurology, John Walton, reprints of three of