

Book Notices

Paul Lydon, *A catalogue of records retained by hospices and related organisations in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*, EAHMH Research Guide Series, no. 3, Sheffield, EAHMH Publications, 1998, pp. xv, 124, £18.95 (0-9527045-8-7).

A product of the Hospice History Project at Sheffield University, this catalogue offers a useful guide to archival sources for the history of hospices and the hospice movement in the British Isles in the twentieth century. It has entries for some ninety hospices and for a small number of other organizations working in the field of palliative care. Using site visits and survey forms, the author has compiled a brief history of each hospice and a descriptive list of the archives in its keeping. Besides a brief introduction addressed to potential users of the archives, the book also includes notes on good record-keeping practice for the benefit of hospice administrators. As few of the hospices covered in the catalogue have yet transferred any of their records to an established archive service, the survival of the records may well depend on the extent to which these precepts are observed. As a guide for researchers, the book provides clear and thorough coverage of its subject; however it is arranged by the counties (and Scottish regions) of the 1974 local government reorganization, and its usefulness is slightly diminished by the need to seek Bristol under "Avon" and Grimsby under the now equally defunct county of "Humberside". No geographical index is provided, although there is an index of hospice names, from which hospices now closed are unfortunately omitted.

Charles S Bryan, *Osler: inspirations from a great physician*, Oxford University Press, 1997, pp. xii, 253, illus., £37.95 (0-19-511251-2).

Osler continues to inspire. This inspirational volume is a cut above the average, for a variety of reasons. First, Dr Bryan is well versed in the

Osler literature (four full-length biographies and over a thousand articles), as evidenced by the fact that only a minority of his references come from the standard source, Cushing's *Life of Sir William Osler*. Second, Bryan makes his hero into a very human figure, of fairly ordinary intelligence, though of extraordinary energy and determination. Finally, the Osler of this monograph is believable, in his foibles, but also in the way in which he deliberately set out to be the kind of person who would occupy a place in the medical pantheon. This is a good book for those seeking to discover exactly why there are Osler Societies all around the world.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

Johanna Bleker (ed.), *Der Eintritt der Frauen in die Gelehrtenrepublik. Zur Geschlechterfrage im akademischen Selbstverständnis und in der wissenschaftlichen Praxis am Anfang des 20. Jahrhunderts*, *Abhandlungen zur Geschichte der Medizin unter der Naturwissenschaften*, Heft 84, Husum, Matthiesen Verlag, 1998, pp. 192, DM 59.00 (3-7868-4084-9).

Julie Fairman and **Joan E Lynaugh**, *Critical care nursing: a history*, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1998, pp. x, 175, £25.00, \$27.50 (hardback 0-8122-1608).

Janet Grierson, *Dr. Wilson and his Malvern Hydro: Park View in the water cure era*, Malvern, Cora Weaver, 1998, pp. viii, 142, illus., £8.50 (including p&p. Orders to: Cora Weaver, 4 Hall Green, Malvern, Worcs. WR14 3QX).