

Book Reviews

Hospitals, (2) South London, (3) The Formative Years, (4) Growth and Consolidation, (5) The Past Twenty-five Years, he draws a picture not only of this hospital, but of the industrial and economic changes that took place during the formative years of the hospital, the need for better sight by the more exacting demands of developing industries, and the extension of the services to schoolchildren, etc. The development was slow, and in spite of the condemnation by the Royal Colleges, the British Medical Association, the Director-Generals of the Army and Navy Medical Departments, and the medical press, the specialist eye hospitals gained in strength.

The personalities of the surgeons, the members of the management committees and the administration are skilfully woven into the history and though a generous factual material is presented the freshness and readability is not diminished. The delaying tactics of the ground landlord, the overcoming of budgeting difficulties, staffing, negotiating with the London County Council are all part of the life and growth of the hospital.

The milestones stand out clearly: over 20,000 new patients by 1902, 2,000 school-children by 1910, and the number of outpatients steadily increasing to the 45,000 mark by 1951. The number of beds has increased from 2 in 1861 to 136 in 1946, including the complement in Lambeth and Surbiton.

Extensive changes have taken place during the past twenty-five years, and a notable new development was the opening of the Research Department and of the Courage Laboratory.

This short booklet, which was written on the occasion of the centenary of the Royal Eye Hospital in 1957, is recommended to all interested in hospitals and especially to ophthalmologists.

M. KLEIN

The Impact of the Antibiotics on Medicine and Society. Edited by IAGO GALDSTON, M.D.

The New York Academy of Medicine. New York: International Universities Press Inc., 1958; pp. x+222. \$5.00.

The sixteen papers contained in this volume were contributed to a conference held by the Institute of Social and Historical Medicine of the New York Academy of Medicine. They are of varied interest and tend to overlap each other. They deal with the subject up to 1954 and they are not confined to medicine. The longest discusses the application of antibiotics to the livestock industry. Some have little relation to the title of the volume; for example, the paper on some dynamic interrelations between the hospital and the community. By far the most entertaining is by W. C. Alvarez, entitled 'Antibiotics and the Clinical Practice of Medicine'. Here, too, the speaker strays far off his subject in describing in dramatic language the great changes that have taken place in medicine in the last half-century as seen in his wards and ending with a frightening warning that new cures bring new problems. There is also an interesting paper by J. F. Mahoney on the effects of the antibiotics on the concepts and practices of public health. The volume ends with the words: 'Having provided society with the benefits of antibiotics and other life saving drugs, science must now seek solutions for the social difficulties these agents have created.'

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