

Book Reviews

is a necessary item and a valuable addition to the library of every scholar-physician and surgeon.

MACDONALD CRITCHLEY

Dr. Jenner of Berkeley. DOROTHY FISK. London: Heinemann, 1959; pp. vii+288. Illustrated. 25s.

Much has been written about Edward Jenner, but there was need for a new appraisal of the life and work of the great physician-naturalist. John Baron's two-volume *Life* was published in 1827-38, but although it retains its value as a vast repository of facts it is not easy reading, and, what is perhaps more important, it is not accessible to the ordinary general reader. The late Dr. Dawtrey Drewitt's *Life*, originally published in 1931, is probably the best of the many short books, but it is a charming essay rather than a full-scale biography and it appears to be little known. Mrs. Fisk is a practised writer whose name is familiar to those interested in medical history by virtue of one of her earlier books, *Bouquet for the Doctor*. In writing the *Life of Edward Jenner* she had a fine subject and a challenging one, for Jenner's interests and achievements covered a very wide range, and, while there were abundant but widely scattered materials for a biographer to work on, much of it was of a controversial nature. Mrs. Fisk has done ample justice to Jenner the country doctor, the discoverer of vaccination, the naturalist, the poet and the man. Her book is detailed, accurate, and altogether absorbing. The background to country practice in the eighteenth century is sketched in with admirable skill, and extracts from Jenner's voluminous correspondence, especially the letters that passed between him and his friend and mentor John Hunter, are used with telling effect. Production, printing and illustration provide a worthy setting for an inspiring story superbly told. This admirable book should appeal to all classes of readers, not least to the boy or girl who may be thinking of taking up medicine as a career.

W. J. B.

St. Peter's Hospital for Stone, 1860-1960. Edited by CLIFFORD MORSON, O.B.E., F.R.C.S. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1960; pp. viii+64. Illustrated. 21s.

It is curious that although calculous disease was for long one of the commonest maladies in this country, a special hospital for stone was not established until 1860. One of the grounds put forward when the appeal for the original Hospital for Stone was launched was, indeed, the fact that there had been a marked increase in the frequency of stone in this country in the years 1850-60—an increase ascribed to bad feeding in the 'hungry forties'. Another declared object of the new institution was the development and application of the then comparatively new operation of lithotripsy in place of the ancient one of lithotomy. It is well-known that the establishment of all the special hospitals met with strong opposition, but in no other case was the reaction so vocal or so violent as that called forth by the proposal to establish a Hospital for Stone. The project was denounced in the medical press as useless and injurious. A manifesto signed by a large number of the leading physicians and surgeons on the staff of general hospitals described it as an 'evil'. This opposition died hard. In 1866, when the Hospital had been in existence for six years, Mr. W. J. Coulson was called upon to resign his office of surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital because he had accepted an appointment at St. Peter's.

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The original home of the Hospital was at 42 Great Marylebone Street, but in 1863 a move was made to larger premises at 54 Berners Street. At the same time the name of the institution was changed to St. Peter's Hospital for Stone. The Hospital flourished, but its work was sadly hampered by lack of space and of funds until, in 1873, its destiny was changed by one of the most remarkable events in the whole history of the British voluntary hospital movement. On 11 February 1873, a man walked into the Hospital and handed to the Secretary a packet, which he insisted was not to be opened until he had left the building. The packet contained ten Bank of England notes of one thousand pounds each! The name of the donor was never revealed, although many years later it became known to the authorities of the Hospital. With the aid of this princely donation a new St. Peter's Hospital was built in Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.

During the first forty years of its existence the Hospital was primarily renowned for the treatment of stone, but after that it became a world-famous centre for the treatment of all forms of genito-urinary disease. The most important events in its recent history are its amalgamation with St. Paul's and St. Philip's Hospitals, the organization of postgraduate instruction in 1947, and the opening of the Institute of Urology in 1954. In this beautifully produced book an admirably succinct history of the Hospital by Dr. Cuthbert Dukes is followed by biographies of deceased members of the consultant surgical staff including Sir T. Spencer Wells, Hurry Fenwick, Reginald Harrison, Sir Peter Freyer, Sir John Thomson-Walker, J. Swift Joly, and other famous men. There are also chapters on the physicians and on the various specialists who have been attached to the Hospital. There is a very interesting account of the Venereal Diseases Department by Dr. A. H. Harkness, its Director for more than thirty years. Production, as with all Messrs. Livingstone's work, is first class, and the book can be highly recommended as the story of a courageous venture which has resulted in untold good.

W. J. B.

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ERRATUM

With reference to the Bibliography of the late Dr. W. W. Francis (*Medical History*, April 1960, p. 164) it should have been made clear that the Bibliography was the joint work of Dr. Robert Fortune and Miss Cécile Desbarats.