

### Book Reviews

that the nursing sisters of a French asylum recognized that a patient's behaviour seemed to be that of an epileptic, *but she does not fall*. 'Les religieuses me disent: "elle est méchante comme une épileptique, mais elle ne tombe pas."'

The revision has taken into account such concepts as psychomotor epilepsy and temporal lobe epilepsy, 'which were as yet rare or non-existent at the writing of the first edition'. This has added to the value of the book, without detracting from the author's aim 'to let the past speak for itself and to bring it near to the understanding of the modern reader'.

JOHN CULE

*Medical History and Medical Care* (a symposium of perspectives, arranged by the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust and the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation), ed. by G. McLACHLAN and T. McKEOWN, Oxford University Press, 1971, pp. xii, 244, £3.00.

In October 1970 a symposium under this title was held in London under the joint auspices of the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust and the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation. Except for the two Nuffield trustees, the twenty-four participants were medical men, each one distinguished in one or other branch of his profession. The papers submitted to the symposium are reproduced in full, after they had been revised by the contributors in the light of the context of the other papers and the discussion which followed their presentation. The result is a uniform and readable book: a feature which is not often achieved in similar reports. The first paper, which is an abridgement of Dr. McKeown's inaugural lecture to the Society for the Social History of Medicine, sets the tone for those which follow. Next comes a short, masterly, and necessary, statement by Dr. John Z. Bowers, president of the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, of the changes which have taken place in the education of the doctor in the U.S.A. during this century. A second paper by Dr. McKeown outlines the historical appraisal of the tasks which lie ahead, and this theme is developed in the subsequent papers. Prof. George Rosen reviews the historical trends and future prospects in public health both in the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. Sir John Brotherston gives a good, concise evaluation of medical practice, concentrating chiefly on family doctoring, and looking aslant into the future. Dr. Paul J. Sanazaro deals with and compares the development of the hospitals and health services in both countries. Prof. Bernard Towers, while admitting the glowing promise of the computer in the service of medicine, throws doubt on the value of the present dominance of technology over clinical medicine at the expense of care, *caritas*; a situation of which we are all aware but one which we seldom find stated in such forthright terms. Dr. Rasi Fein, professor of the economics of medicine at Harvard, in a closely argued paper deals with the economic benefits of health programmes. The summing up by Prof. Henry Miller is lively and controversial.

In his opening paper Dr. McKeown remarks that 'if social history is history with politics left out, the social history of medicine is medical history with the public interest put in'. This definition by analogy is good, but we still concentrate too much on how medical care is and has been handed out and too little on how it is and has been received. Dr. Towers throws doubt on the wisdom of many of the things that we do to our patients, but has it not always been so? The bleedings, purgings and sweatings of past ages would have been defended by their advocates quite as valiantly as the replacement therapists of today justify their ends.

## Contributors

Each paper in this volume presents new ideas and fresh facts. Planners, about whom we hear less today than we did twenty years ago, will find much of value in this book, for it demonstrates more clearly than most that 'What's past is prologue'.

R. M. S. MCCONAGHEY

*Preventive Medicine in World War II, Vol. IX: Special Fields*, ed. by R. S. ANDERSON, E. C. HOFF, and P. M. HOFF, Washington, D. C. Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, 1971, pp. xxii, 650, illus., \$8.00.

The latest volume to be issued on the medical history of the United States army in World War II is that on 'Special Fields in Preventive Medicine'. The special fields are those subjects which did not fit readily into other volumes and, as one might expect, cover a very wide range—e.g. training, health education, medical intelligence, enemy prisoners of war, etc.—but all are relevant to preventive medicine.

Each special field is dealt with by its own experts, but all are written with honesty, clarity and authority, so that they are a pleasure to read. The volume is full of commonsense, and the mistakes as well as the successes are included so that the lessons learned remain with the reader; it is a book we can all profit from, even though the appeal of the various special fields will differ in accordance with our different interests and experiences.

This volume is worthy of its predecessors in the series, for not only is its production of the same high standard, but the contents, despite the many different contributors, are of a uniform excellence, for which the editorial staff deserve every credit.

ALASTAIR MACLENNAN

## CONTRIBUTORS

- CULE, JOHN, M.D., Aber Eion, Capel Dewi, Llandysul, Cards., Wales.  
GANDEVIA, BRYAN, M.D., M.R.A.C.P., Department of Medicine, Prince Henry Hospital, Little Bay, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.  
GASKELL, E., B.A., A.L.A., Wellcome Institute of the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.  
HOWELL, TREVOR E., F.R.C.P.Ed., Geriatric Research Unit, St. John's Hospital, St. John's Hill, London SW11 1SP.  
HUGHES, R. ELWYN, M.A., Ph.D., University Reader in Applied Biology, University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF1 3NU, Wales.  
KEELE, KENNETH D., M.D., F.R.C.P., Leacroft House, Leacroft, Staines, Middx.  
LONIE, I. M., B.A.(N.Z.), M.A.(Cantab), Associate Professor in Classics, University of Otago, Box 56 Dunedin, New Zealand.  
MCCONAGHEY, R. M. S., O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.G.P., Prospect House, Dartmouth, Devon.  
MACLENNAN, Major-General ALASTAIR, O.B.E., R.A.M.C. Historical Museum, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants.  
Scottish Society of the History of Medicine. Secretary: Dr. H. P. Tait, St. Anne's, 59 Woodhall Road, Edinburgh EH13 0FH, Scotland.  
TOMKINSON, J. S., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Guy's Hospital Medical School, London SE1 9RT.  
VAN ZWANENBERG, D., D.M., M.A., D.C.H., D.P.H., The Ipswich Hospital, St. Helen's Wing, Foxhall Road, Ipswich, IP3 8LY.  
WADDINGTON, IVAN, B.A., Department of Sociology, The University, Leicester LE1 7RH.  
WAUGH, M.A., M.B., B.S., D.H.M.S.A., Department of Venereology, West London Hospital, Charing Cross Group, London W6.  
WINDER, MARIANNE, M.A., A.L.A., Wellcome Institute of the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.