

Book Reviews

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and its Medical School, 1784–1966, by J. D. H. WIDDESS, 2nd ed., Edinburgh and London, E. & S. Livingstone, 1967, pp. viii, 152, illus., 35s.

When it first appeared eighteen years ago Professor Widdess's book emphasized the importance of the Schools of Surgery, really a general medical school, founded in Dublin by the Irish College of Surgeons in 1789, five years after its own incorporation. Both College and School have contributed notably, as he shows, to the advance of surgery. Though this new edition is mainly a reprint of the first, Dr. Widdess has brought the story up to date and recorded somewhat more about the College itself. He has also made the book a really useful work for permanent reference by providing several new appendices. There are now lists of the Presidents and the Honorary Fellows of the College and its Faculties, a most distinguished roll, besides those of Professors and Scholarships which appeared in the first edition. We are also indebted to Dr. Widdess's wide-ranging interests for an informative explanation of the Arms borne by the College, with an account of their history and their relation to those of the French and English surgeons. There is a chronological summary of notable events in the history of medicine in Ireland, and a detailed story of the tragi-comedy of the College's occupation by a detachment of Insurgents during the Easter Rising of 1916. The illustrations have also been increased. Altogether this is a thoroughly worthwhile revision of a most readable history and one of far more than local interest.

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Claude Bernard; Ausgewählte physiologische Schriften, trans. and ed. by N. MANI (Hubers Klassiker der Medizin und der Naturwissenschaften, Bd. 8), Berne, Huber, 1966, pp. 133, illus., S.Fr./DM. 10.80.

This is No. 8 of the paper-back series on Medical Classics published by the Swiss firm of Huber, under the joint editorship of Professors Ackerknecht, Buess and Koyre.

It consists of a translation of four early (1849–1864) selected works of Bernard, collected and annotated by Professor Nikolaus Mani, of Madison, U.S.A. He also contributes a short introduction to Bernard's life and writings.

The titles of the papers are: 'On pancreatic juice and its role in alimentary digestion', *Archs. gén. Méd.*, Ser. 4, 1849, 19, 60–81; *Médecine*, 1849, Ser. 4, 19, pp. 60–81; 'On the physiological mechanism of liver glycogenesis', *C. r. hebd. Séanc. Acad. Sci., Paris*, 1857, 44, 578–86; 'On the influence of two types of nerve, whereby the colour changes of venous blood in glandular organs is evoked', *C. r. hebd. Séanc. Acad. Sci., Paris*, 1858, 47, 245–53; 'Physiological studies on some American cases of curare poisoning', from *La Science expérimentale*, Paris, Baillière, 1878, pp. 237–315, and also *Revue des deux Mondes*, T. 53, 1864, pp. 164–90.

This is an elegantly-produced volume and provides an excellent opportunity for those who would like to try their hand at Bernard in German. There may well be some loss of Bernard's original nuances in the translation, but I am not expert enough to determine this.

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