

Book Reviews

was responsible for organizing the Walter Reed Board, selecting its members, and authorizing its basic procedures is known to all medical historians, as is the fact that his failure to identify 'Bacillus A' with the disease aided the work of later investigators. Not everybody, however, knows that this great pioneer in American bacteriology discovered the pneumococcus in September 1880, a few months before Pasteur; that he stated the theory of phagocytosis two years before Metchnikoff; that he was, if not the very first, certainly one of the first, to demonstrate the tubercle bacillus in the United States, after its discovery by Koch; and that he first identified the Laveran organism in America. All this is told graphically and entertainingly by Mr. John M. Gibson, Librarian of the North Carolina State Board of Health, and author of *Physician to the World, the Life of General William C. Gorgas*, who has made extensive, but never pedantic, use of letters, contemporary newspapers, and other records. The reviewer has nothing but admiration for this scholarly, well-written, and human story of failures and triumphs, though he does not care for some of the chapter headings ('Doctor in Bed', 'Doctor on the Go', 'Bodies and Bacilli', 'Soldier at Rest'), nor for the frontispiece. On p. 121 Friedländer is persistently spelled 'Friedlander'. The book concludes with a bibliography (13 pp.) and an index (5 pp.).

W. R. BETT

The Sudan Medical Service. H. C. SQUIRES. London: William Heinemann—Medical Books Ltd., 1958; pp. xii, 138. 15s.

This little book is not easy to review as it is not at all clear just what the author intended it to be. He has divided what he has to say under seven heads: Early Pioneer Days; Epidemics; The First World War; and the Period of Expansion, etc. Each of these sections reads like a paper prepared for delivery at a public meeting and the style is free and easy, the author being fond of starting his sentences with 'and' or 'but' or 'so'. As a series of reflections and reminiscences by one with a long knowledge of parts of the Sudan and great interest in the affairs of that vast country the book has much of interest. It can be recommended to that large public who like to take their experience of hard work overseas from the ease of their own fireside. Dr. Squires certainly succeeds in whetting one's appetite for the full-scale history yet to come from some other source, of a Service and a period so important in the development of medical knowledge in regard to some of the major problems of health in hot climates.

C. A. BOZMAN

The History of the Birmingham Dental Hospital and Dental School, 1858-1958. R. A. COHEN.

Published by the Board of Governors of the United Birmingham Hospitals, 1958; pp. 40. Illustrated.

This brochure commemorates the centenary of the Birmingham Dental Hospital which was founded in January 1858 and is now the oldest institution of its kind in this country and perhaps in the world. The hospital, which was first called the Birmingham Dental Dispensary, had two short-lived forerunners—the Institution for the Diseases of the Teeth established by Saunders, Harrison, and Snell in Little Windmill Street, London, in 1839, and the London Dental Dispensary founded by C. J. Fox in 1855. The founder of the Birmingham Hospital was Samuel Adams Parker, son of the well-known Birmingham surgeon S. W. Langston Parker. It seems that there were arrangements for the admission of medical and dental students to the hospital as early as 1878, but the Dental School was not formally constituted until