

Book Reviews

Catesby, the eighteenth-century botanist, to the conservationist, Rachel Carson. There are several elegant coloured plates, and altogether Mr. Hanley has produced an attractive and interesting book, although lacking the armamentaria of scholarship.

HULDRYCH M. KOELBING (general editor), *Short biographies of eminent men and women who died between 1930 and 1940*, Zürich, Medizinhistorisches Institut der Universität Zürich.

Professor H. M. Koelbing of the Institute for the History of Medicine in the University of Zürich, has initiated a new source of biographical information. The immensely valuable *Biographisches Lexikon hervorragender Aerzte* finished with the year 1880, and the two supplementary volumes by Isidor Fischer reach only 1930. Professor Koelbing plans to continue in part these works from 1930 to 1940. In collaboration with Dr. Esther Fischer-Homberger, Professor Koelbing conceived the excellent idea of recruiting the help of those students who elect to prepare an Inaugural-Dissertation in medical history. The project is now directed by Dr. Heinz Balmer. German, British, and French doctors of renown who died between 1930 and 1940 are included, and each student is allocated a year and a national group. So far the following have been produced:

German doctors dying in 1930 (Peter Kälin, 1977, pp. 239); 1934 (Ruth Grütter, 1978, pp. 138); 1938 (Marijan Skvarc, 1976, pp. 241); 1940 (Ladislav Razinger, 1977, pp. 226).

British doctors dying in 1933 (Charlotte Kinadeter-Meyer, 1976, [no pagination]); 1934 (Vincent Joseph Benedikt Ullmann, 1977, pp. 146); 1936 (Heinz Nüesch, 1976, pp. 193); 1939 (Ursula Flueler-Ambühl, 1977, pp. 165); 1940 (Sales Huber, 1976, pp. viii, 163).

French doctors dying in 1937 (Johannes Sigrist, 1977, pp. 104); 1939 (Josef Schäli, 1977, pp. 120).

Each entry gives a brief biography, a list of published work and sources for biographical data. American physicians have been excluded, mainly because of the lack of source material on them in Zürich. Thus, although this biographical dictionary will deal with only the three nations, it will be of the greatest usefulness to historians of medicine. Professor Koelbing, his staff, and his students must be congratulated on a most praiseworthy project. They will earn the thanks of many researchers whose task of discovering biographical data is made so much easier.

STEPHEN LOCK and **HEATHER WINDLE** (editors), *Remembering Henry*, London, British Medical Association, 1977, 8vo, pp. xii, 166, illus., £3.00 (paperback).

Henry Miller (1913–1976) was in turn Professor of Neurology, Dean of Medicine, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Newcastle, and it is an indication of his remarkable achievements, personality, and versatility that no less than thirty-seven individuals can contribute brief accounts of him, none of which is identical to another, although recurrent themes are obvious. They give a very full appreciation of his breadth, character, and greatness. There is also an 'Introduction' by the present Dean of Medicine and Professor of Neurology, John Walton, reprints of three of

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Miller's papers, and a list of his publications.

Henry Miller was an exceptional man: a brilliant clinician and a talented administrator, but also a hedonist, a wit, a scourge, a gadfly, a *bon viveur*, patron of the arts, raconteur, and humanist. This multi-faceted personality accounts for the varied impressions he made on individuals, which are here revealed. Together they gave Newcastle a man to be proud of and hard to forget.

DESMOND KING-HELE, *Doctor of revolution. The life and genius of Erasmus Darwin*, London, Faber & Faber, 1977, pp. 361, illus., £12.50.

Erasmus, the grandfather of Charles, Darwin was, like Franklin, one of the intellectual giants of the eighteenth century, but hardly the greatest Englishman of the century as the author claims. Erasmus Darwin was a polymath, equally at home in science and technology as in the arts. He was an outstanding physician, biologist, and meteorologist; a founder of the Birmingham Lunar Society; a major poet praised by Coleridge, whom he influenced, together with Wordsworth and Shelley; and a technologist of steam, carriages, windmills, and a rocket motor.

And yet Erasmus is relatively unknown when contrasted with Charles. Being in clinical medicine, he advertised his accomplishments less and, unlike his contemporary, Dr. Johnson, did not have a Boswell. On account of such undeserved neglect, he is, therefore, well worthy of this excellent biography, prepared by a scientist in elegant style and with full documentation. Mr. King-Hele has carried out extensive research, including the use of new material, which together help to rehabilitate a figure who until now has been in declining favour and insufficiently appreciated.

JOHN GINGER, *The notable man. The life and times of Oliver Goldsmith*, London, Hamish Hamilton, 1977, 8vo, pp. xv, 408, illus., £7.95.

One wonders why yet further biographies of outstanding men are produced, when no new material is available. This one, however, is justified by the author's sympathy for Goldsmith, by his searching and shrewd analysis of him, and by the new ideas he puts forward. The account of Goldsmith's medical studies in Edinburgh is fuller than usual; one of his teachers was Alexander Monro (not "Munro" as given here), presumably *secundus*.

Mr. Ginger presents an excellent biography, accurately depicted in its historical setting and eminently readable. It will replace most of the previous books on Goldsmith which have attempted a popular account of him.

A. E. GUNTHER, *The life of William Carmichael M'Intosh, M.D., F.R.S., of St. Andrews (1838-1931). A pioneer in marine biology*, Edinburgh, Scottish Academic Press for the University of St. Andrews, 1977, 4to, pp. 214, illus., [no price stated].

The materials available for a biography of M'Intosh are legion, and the author has made good use of them, not only to depict the long and full life of an outstanding Scottish scientist, but also to contribute to the history of marine biology, of the University of St. Andrews, and of St. Andrews Medical School. The text is well documented, there are ten plates of illustrations, and several appendices containing useful data. On the whole, this is a book to consult rather than to read, and it will be