(anatomy), Franz Hofmann (hygiene), Hubert Sattler (ophthalmology), Adolf Strümpell (internal medicine), Paul Flechsig (brain research), Felix Löhnis (microbiology), Henry E. Sigerist (history of medicine and natural sciences), Richard Arwed Pfeifer (neurology), Robert Schröder (gynaecology). While neurology and brain research at Leipzig are represented, an early founder of psychiatry, J. C. Heinroth, is only mentioned in the article on Pfeifer.

MARIANNE WINDER

Blood Program in World War II, by Brigadier General DOUGLAS B. KENDRICK, M.C., U.S.A., prepared and published under the direction of Lieutenant General Leonard D. Heaton, The Surgeon General the United States Army, Editor in Chief Colonel John Boyd Coates, M.C., U.S.A., Associate Editor Elizabeth M. McFetridge, M.A., Office of the Surgeon General of the Army, Washington, D.C. 1964, pp. 922, 195 illus., $8.00.

This volume of over 900 pages contains a comprehensive account of the administrative scheme devised to supply the United States Armed Forces with the blood required in World War II and the Korean War for the resuscitation of those severely wounded. It contains a remarkable amount of valuable information.

The opening chapter gives a brief sketch of the evolution of blood transfusion from the time of William Harvey's discovery to the present day. The second chapter discusses the changing views on shock and gives reasons for the present day conception of the shocked state; while in the succeeding chapter we are shown how incontrovertible testimony proved that transfusion of whole blood was the best restorative measure for severely shocked battle casualties.

Chapters IV, V, and VI are chiefly concerned with the methods adopted to obtain the necessary blood, chiefly from the willing volunteers of the United States, through the wonderful organization of the American National Red Cross who altogether organized over thirteen million donations of blood. It is stated that there was some degree of syncope in nearly two per cent of donors.

The next few chapters give full details of the preparation, packaging and transport of blood, plasma and albumin, together with the laboratory technique necessary to preserve the products in perfect condition. Chapter XIV is devoted to a consideration of blood-substitutes and other intravenous fluids. Gum acacia solution was not used in World War II, and it is stated (on page 791) that amyloid degeneration had been known to follow its administration.

Chapters XV, XVI, and XVII give full accounts of the methods employed and the results obtained respectively in the Mediterranean, the European and the Pacific theatres of war. Then come two chapters of special importance to all surgeons for they contain a description of the reactions to and the complications which may follow transfusion, and enunciate the general principles of treatment of wound-shock. The final chapter (XX) deals at length with the methods adopted in the Korean War to supply an adequate supply of blood and blood-products for the treatment of the wounded.

The American Army authorities are commendably self-critical. In his Foreword the Surgeon General comments, 'It is hard to understand why the United States was

so slow to grasp the implication of the use of whole blood in World War I, limited though that experience was; why it did not take advantage of the successful blood-program used during the Spanish Civil War; and why it did not immediately make use of the British experience in the early months of World War II when the necessity and value of whole blood for combat casualties were so clearly proved'. In the Preface also the Editor makes the criticism that when the Korean War began 'administrative personnel had not yet learned that whole blood is best handled out of supply channels as a separate self-supporting service.'

A tribute is paid to the British methods—'The British policy was remarkably successful. It was carefully planned before hostilities began . . . .' 'We followed that plan only partially in World War II and not much more efficiently in Korea, and in both wars we paid the penalty for our folly.'

There is much to be learnt from this book.

ZACHARY COPE

Ein Bericht vom Pestjahr London 1665, *Daniel Defoe*, trans. by Ernst Betz, epilogue by Ernst Gerhard Jacob, Bremen, Schünemann Verlag, 1965, pp. 359, illus., DM. 16.80.

The year 1965 was the Tercentenary of the Great Plague of London. Apart from Lyle Eddar's article in *Medical News* of 4 June, it is somewhat surprising to find—at the time of this notice—that it is a German translation of Defoe which is apparently the only other to commemorate the event!

This small hardback of 359 pages is Volume 296 of the Dieterich Collection of Classic Works and Authors, published by Carl Schünemann of Bremen. The translation is by Ernst Betz. As far as can be judged by superficial reading, it is fair and reasonable, bearing in mind that it is always difficult to reproduce the nuances of meaning in another language.

The text is enlivened by a facsimile of the original title page, and by several interesting maps and tables, including a bill of mortality and a pertinent notice by the contemporary Hamburg paper—*Nordischen Mercurius*—of August 1665.

There is an excellent postscript by Ernst Gerhard Jacob, giving details of Defoe's life as well as a critical commentary of the *Journal*. Jacob rightly stresses that Defoe was one of the earliest journalists. This accounts for some of the flights of journalistic fancy which colour the original work. However in fairness it should also be remembered that Defoe was only six years old at the time of the Plague.

Although Jacob mentions Camus' novel, *The Plague*, I can find no reference to F. P. Wilson's *The Plague in Shakespeare's London*, nor to the pamphlets of Thomas Dekker who was an eye-witness of the plagues of 1603 and 1625. However, these omissions do not detract from the author's scholarship.

The book itself is nicely bound and printed. For those with a taste for the exotic this little German tribute can be warmly recommended.

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