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the first reference to human dissection in England and at least one personal observation (concerning a variation from the Galenic description of the emulgent veins). However, only one copy of the treatise is extant—that preserved in the British Museum—not because it was used up to the point of annihilation (like Vesalius' *Tabulae*); but probably because of a small edition and the appearance of the continental masterpieces of anatomy. These encouraged translation rather than the production of indigenous bigger and better books continuing the tradition started by Edwardes who died early and was not mentioned by any contemporary. All this goes far to show the importance of the publication under review for the study of the history of medicine, particularly the history of anatomy and medical education in England. The latter two topics are the theme of the scholarly introduction. To this we owe the refutation of the traditional statement that the first English anatomical book was Thomas Vicary's *A Profitable Treatise of the Anatomie of Man's Body* (1548) no copy of which has survived but which was republished in 1577. In spite of Vicary's merits, his book is but a copy of a medieval manuscript chiefly compiled from Henri de Mondeville (1304; first edition by Julius Pagel 1889)—a text that was also used for the pirated edition of Vesalius' plates by Geminus in 1553 and is preserved in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library. The reviewer feels that we owe a special debt of gratitude to the learned editors for having acquainted us with Edwardes as a figure of the Renaissance and the author of a treatise which on closer inspection may still reveal more points of interest than we have been able to mention.

WALTER PAGEL

Great Moments in Medicine, a collection of the first thirty stories and paintings in the continuing series *A History of Medicine in Pictures*, GEORGE A. BENDER; paintings by ROBERT A. THOM, Detroit, Parke-Davis, 1961, 275 pp., 30 col. plates.

This is a presentation in volume form of the well-known series of paintings with explanatory text distributed by Parke-Davis. Great care had gone into ensuring the accuracy of the facts presented and the text is most readable. Among the most successful 'great moments' treated is the first use of general anaesthetics. It is not for sale, but may be obtained on request from Parke, Davis & Company, Detroit 32, Michigan, U.S.A. (Att. Mr. Geo. Bender).

F. N. L. P.

A Select Bibliography of Medical Biography, compiled by JOHN L. THORNTON, AUDREY J. MONK, and ELAINE S. BROOKE, London (Library Association bibliographies, No. 3.), 1961, 112 pp., 27s. 6d. (20s. 6d. to Members of the Library Association).

This collection of fifty-seven collective and over seven hundred individual biographies covers the lives of between three and four hundred medical men. The two sections are arranged alphabetically, by author in the first case and by biographee in the second.

The selection is limited to works in English, an unusually insular approach to a subject bibliography and one which results in the exclusion of admirable biographies of such important pioneers as Thomas Bartholin and Robert Koch. As there is a further limitation to monographic works no indication can be given of the published biographies (in English) of many other famous medical men which have appeared only as long articles in learned journals. The result is a list which has little usefulness for the medical historian, the biographies of the famous already being well known and

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the others being hardly worth recording. In view of the omissions it is odd that so much space is given in a guide to medical biography to such men as Keats, Sir Thomas Browne, and John Locke, whose fame owes little to their medical achievements.

Most of the biographies listed are out of print: what a pity, therefore, that those paperback editions now on the market were not indicated. The compilers could have got this information from the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, 1961, 49, 72–82.

The confused motives behind this compilation—for it attempts to serve the general reader, the librarian, and the student of medical history—are probably responsible for its failings. The price is far too high for what is little more than a reading-list.

E. GASKELL

Purkyně-Symposion, edited by RUDOLPH ZAUNICK, Nova Acta Leopoldina, Bd. 24, No. 151, Leipzig, D. A. Barth, 1960, 230 pp., port., illus.

Johannes Evangelista Purkyně (1787–1869) was among the leading physiologists of the nineteenth century. He was a pioneer histologist, being the first to use a microtome, and is remembered eponymously in a number of anatomical and other terms. After studying medicine at Prague he took the Chair of Physiology at Breslau in 1823 and in 1850 the similar Chair at Prague. He was a naturalist in the widest and best sense of the term as well as poet and Czech patriot. This is the man whose life and work was the subject of the symposium organized by the German Academy of Natural Scientists and the Czechoslovakian Academy of Science and held at Halle in October–November 1959. The proceedings of the symposium have now been edited and published as a special issue of the Nova Acta Leopoldina by Dr. Rudolph Zaunick. Among the distinguished contributors are several who have been responsible for the definitive edition of Purkyně's works (*Opera Omnia*, 7 vols., Prague, 1918–58) to which the present volume is a natural and most valuable supplement. As an example of the authoritative studies of Purkyně's work may be cited the papers on Purkyně as a physiologist (Kruta), as histologist (Frankenberger), and as pharmacologist (Sajner), while Professor Matoušek refers to documents in the Prague and Berlin archives which throw new light on Purkyně and his work, and Professor Kruta prints in an appendix letters to Purkyně from Johannes Müller. This is clearly a volume which no student of the history of physiology or the natural sciences in the nineteenth century can afford to ignore.

F. N. L. P.

The Historical Development of British Psychiatry, vol. 1, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries, by DENNIS LEIGH, M.D., F.R.C.P., London, Pergamon Press, 1961, 277 pp., 70s.

Dr. Leigh has rendered a service by compiling a lively record of British views and achievements in psychiatry during a chequered period of its growth. Compared with what has been written about the corresponding changes during the same time in France and Germany, historical surveys of development in this country are meagre and ill-balanced. Dr. Leigh has set out to redress this, using a biographical and bibliographic method. He brings us in touch with some men of very diverse abilities and character, who have influenced psychiatric thought. It is always open to question whether this approach gives a better understanding of what happened than would a more abstract appraisal of the pressure of social forces and ideas, but Dr. Leigh