

Book Reviews

The Arabic texts are in general admirably printed, but there seems to be a misprint on p.7 line 14, where for *hl* one should read *khalli*.

A. F. L. BEESTON

- (i) *Westminster Hospital, 1716—1966*, by J. G. HUMBLE AND P. HANSELL, London, Pitman Medical Publishing Co., 1966, pp. x, 134, illus., 21s. (ii) *Geschichte des Hospitals*, Bd. 1: *Westdeutschland von den Anfängen bis 1850*, by D. JETTER (*Sudhoffs Archiv*, Beiheft 5), Wiesbaden, Franz Steiner Verlag, 1966, pp. viii, 270, 104 illus., DM. 66 or 74.

These two books could hardly be more different. Dr. Humble's is based on a course of lectures which he refers to rather disarmingly as his 'meanderings'. Nevertheless it will be welcomed and appreciated for the lively way in which it presents the Westminster's history, and there will be much admiration for the skilful interspersions of Mr. Hansell's photographs amongst the text.

Dieter Jetter's book is much more ambitious and does him nothing but credit. It is comprehensive, thorough and systematic, well documented (the bibliography contains 815 items) and based on much solid research in archives (the numerous illustrations include many plans and engravings found in these repositories). All this is worthy of praise. Impressive also is the author's concern to place hospitals in their authentic social setting. He constantly refers us to events which shaped the motives of hospital-founders or affected the evolution of hospitals.

There are those, apparently, who still need convincing of the contribution which medical history can make to a student's education. Such people ought to read Jetter's book (perhaps, one day, there will be an English version), for it expands one's horizons in most unexpected ways. It is, in fact, a road into the humanities.

To take examples from four areas of human activity.

- (i) *Architecture*. The plans and engravings assembled by Jetter are an education in themselves, covering as they do several centuries of architectural styles. Many of these hospitals can still be seen and one might easily arrange a holiday around visits to a few of them; e.g. the baroque 'Heilig-Geist' hospital at Fulda (founded 1729), Nördlingen's thirteenth-century foundation, and Celle's former madhouse-cum-prison (1710) where the inscription above the door reads 'This state-supported house is dedicated to the punishment of evildoers and the supervision of the deranged'. (ii) *Economics*. Jetter never tires of reminding us (cynically, perhaps, but with no little justification) of the mixed motives in the minds of certain hospital-founders. In this respect he mentions the 30 Years War and its aftermath of devastated lands and depopulated territories. After repopulation came the need to maintain good health, for productivity was no less important then than today. (iii) *Religion*. Again Jetter loves to lay motives bare and nowhere more aptly does he do this than when he describes Germany's finest sixteenth-century hospital, at Würzburg, founded by the Bishop von Mespelbrunn as a 'bulwark against Luther and Calvin' and as a sort of prepayment for the salvation of his soul—'In praee pauperum spem habui'. (iv) *Government*. Jetter relates how an obsession with the need to maintain public order led many rulers to lump 'lunatics' and 'criminals' in almost the same category and to

Book Reviews

place them under one roof (as in Celle, though it is true they were divided from each other). He also tells how, in Saxony, it was seriously suggested in the early eighteenth century that lunatics should be shipped to the Venetian galleys or alternatively to British and Dutch colonies; and how either sheer fear of the insane, or a plain inability to cope with them, prevented the Mayor of Frankfurt-am-Main in 1738 from releasing the inmates of his town's asylum from their burning building.

The chapters in this book vary greatly in length: seven pages on Roman valetudinarium, almost fifty on nineteenth-century academic hospitals. They contain some surprises and confirm the old adage that there is nothing new under the sun. We read, amongst other things, of the gradual laicisation of hospitals during the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries, of their siting beside streams 'in aptiorem et ampliorem locum in suburbia' and the generous provision of quadrangles for the laying-out of clothes and other apparel, of an operating theatre with a gallery for spectators (Munich, 1809), of strife between doctors and lay bodies (the universities laying stress on teaching, the municipalities on quick cures), and of the great 'rationalization' in early nineteenth-century Munich where 'curable' cases were transferred from a variety of small institutions to a new 'allgemeine Krankenhaus'—an important step in the development of modern German medicine.

This is not a book to be read at one sitting. It is a work of reference which will suggest ideas to some and be used as a model by others.

E. GASKELL

The Father of Child Care: Life of William Cadogan (1711-1797), by MORWENNA and JOHN RENDLE-SHORT, Bristol, John Wright, 1966, pp. 54 + 34, illus., 19s. 6d.

This is an interesting little book. The authors have done a useful service in providing this brief study of William Cadogan. In their preface they write 'Although his writings on child care are so brief, he stands like a Colossus, head and shoulders above his contemporaries. His main interest was in the practical management of infants and in this sphere his influence was immense. He did more than any other man of his time to advance common sense methods in bringing up children'.

Cadogan spoke vehemently against the current practice of swaddling; he advocated the exposure of infants to fresh air; he spoke against wet nursing and against purging the newborn to get rid of meconium. He was the first to question the belief that dentition was a highly dangerous condition, causing convulsions, fever, cough, diarrhoea and other ills. His *Essay upon Nursing and the Management of Children from their Birth to three years of Age*, published in 1748, is printed as an addendum.

Nothing is known about the early life of William Cadogan. He took a B.A. at Oxford, studied medicine at Leyden, and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1758. He gave two Harveian orations, in 1764 and 1792. He became physician to Bristol Royal Infirmary at the age of thirty-six. In 1771 he wrote his well-known book on gout.

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