

Book Reviews

of what scholarship at the highest level has been able to do for a text of first importance in the history of anatomy, physiology and indeed of scientific medicine as a whole.

At the same time the text is one of the most difficult documents which we have, and not a few passages still leave room for speculation as to reading and meaning. It is quite impossible to go into any detail within the scope of a book-notice—the reviewer already dealt with some such passages elsewhere ('An Harveyan Prelude to Harvey', *Hist. Sci.*, 1963, 2, 114–25) and hopes to discuss them further at a later date and in a more comprehensive context. Here and there the reader will miss a reference (concerning an allusion made by Harvey) which can be found elsewhere, but such gaps are compensated for by the large number of references which can be found only in the present edition—an exemplar of scholarship, understanding and literary criticism answering a vital *desideratum* of some eighty years' standing.

WALTER PAGEL

Shakespeare's Son-in-Law: John Hall, Man and Physician, by HARRIET JOSEPH, with a facsimile of the second edition of Hall's *Select Observations on English Bodies*, Hamden, Connecticut, Archon Books, 1964, pp. 15, 328, illus., 72s.

The commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth gave us many opportunities in 1964 of exploring the background of the great dramatist's life and times. There are still many personal details of his life as writer, husband and father of which we are ignorant and we should like to know much more than we can ever know of his relations with his son-in-law, John Hall. This young man came to Stratford around the year 1600 and settled there as a medical practitioner. He was a Cambridge M.A. but no record can be found of any medical training or qualification. Despite this, he seems to have pleased his patients and in 1607 he married Shakespeare's elder daughter Susanna, then twenty-four. One child, Elizabeth, was born of this marriage, in their first home at Hall Croft. After Shakespeare's death in 1616, they moved to New Place where John Hall died in 1635 and Susanna in 1649. It made little or no difference to Hall's practice of medicine that his life was so uneventful and that it was passed away from the centres of medical teaching. Hall treated his patients in much the same way as a Stratford practitioner would have done two centuries earlier or two centuries later, and in much the same way as his contemporaries were treating their patients in London or Paris or Bologna. Like many of his contemporaries, he kept records of his cases in abbreviated Latin, and one notebook containing 178 case-reports was translated, edited and published by Dr. James Cooke, another Warwickshire practitioner, in 1657, a corrected second edition appearing in 1679. It is this now very rare book which is reproduced in facsimile in this volume (without Cooke's own additional cases which were added to the original).

The text is introduced by Mrs. Joseph who not only recapitulates all that is known of Hall and his place in the Shakespeare family but also provides most useful notes on the patients and on the conditions for which Hall treated them.

F. N. L. P.

Surgery in World War II: Activities of Surgical Consultants, vol. II, Editor-in-Chief, Colonel JOHN BOYD COATES, JR.: Editor for Activities of Surgical Consultants, B. NOLAND CARTER, Washington, Office of the Surgeon-General, 1964, pp. 1062, 365 illus.

The first of the two volumes dealing with the activities of the surgical consultants described their work 'in the office of the Surgeon General, the extension of the system