

### *News, Notes and Queries*

treasures, was built up by a young thoracic surgeon who died before he was forty, and it was given to his university by his widow. News of a similar event, this time at the University of Alabama Medical Centre, has just reached me. Dr. Lawrence Reynolds, a native of Alabama but now living in Detroit, has just given to his alma mater a collection of rare books and other items of medical historical interest which is valued at half a million dollars. The new library was solemnly dedicated at the university on 2 February with over a thousand people present at the ceremony. The Reynolds Library, which includes original Pasteur letters among its treasures, is the first unit of a proposed new medical library. Here again is tradition in the making, a fascinating study in the migration of cultures, with the best of the old world being drawn upon to redress the balance of the new.

F. N. L. POYNTER

### VICTOR ROBINSON LECTURE

GEORGE ROSEN, M.D., PH.D., Columbia University Faculty of Medicine, gave the First Annual Victor Robinson Lecture in History of Medicine at Temple University School of Medicine on 23 September 1958. His topic was: 'Victor Robinson—A Romantic Medical Historian'.

This lectureship, named in honour of Dr. Victor Robinson, Professor of History of Medicine at Temple University from 1929 until his death in 1947, was appropriately initiated by Dr. Rosen, who was a personal friend of Dr. Robinson.

Dr. Rosen is the author of *The History of Miners' Diseases* (1934), *A Short History of Public Health* (1958), and many other books. He is also editor of the *American Journal of Public Health*.

### MEDICINE IN AUSTRALIA

INTEREST in the history of medicine in Australia is by no means a new phenomenon, but even those who are aware of it will be surprised that it has already produced a bibliography ample enough to fill a volume.\* Dr. Bryan Gandevia, who is Honorary Curator of the Medical History Museum of the Medical Society of Victoria in Melbourne, took the opportunity offered by a prolonged stay in Britain to complete a task which he had begun at home and his classified and annotated bibliography of Australian medical history forms an admirable framework on which we hope the author will find time to erect a full-scale history. Even in its present form it is an indispensable reference book for any medical library which caters for its readers' historical interests. It contains information which can be found elsewhere only with difficulty and after long search. Sir Gordon Gordon-Taylor, whose Syme Oration in 1947 was on 'The debt of surgical science to Australasia', contributes a characteristically charming introduction. The completion of the work was assisted by a grant from the Wellcome Foundation, and it is published as the first of the monographs of the Federal Council of the British Medical Association in Australia.

F. N. L. P.

\* An annotated bibliography of the history of medicine in Australia. By Bryan Gandevia, M.D. (Melbourne), M.R.A.C.P. Sydney, Australasian Medical Publishing Company Limited, 1957, pp. 140. £1 15s. 0d.