

### Book Reviews

may be reassured that in Dr. Pagel's hands the German language never runs amok among those 'misty profundities' to which—and especially in such a subject as this—it only too easily lends itself.

WILLIAM P. D. WIGHTMAN

*The London: A Study in the Voluntary Hospital System, vol. 1, 1740–1840*, by A. E. CLARK-KENNEDY, London, Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd., 1962, pp. 264, 30s.

Those who acquired their clinical training in the days of the voluntary hospitals will have no doubt that our present hospital service owes its greatness entirely to the voluntary tradition built up over a period of two centuries. Already there are young doctors who were no more than infants when the Second World War began and twenty years hence post-war doctors will be in the majority. It is fitting, therefore, not only that the histories of all hospitals should be recorded but that these chronicles should be compiled by those who knew them in the days when they were in fact still voluntary organizations. Histories of many of our hospitals have already been published; indeed some of the more famous can claim more than one. The history of the London Hospital prepared by E. W. Morris in 1910 is well known and full of valuable information, but Dr. Clark-Kennedy's account, which when completed will deal with the first two centuries of its life, will be more comprehensive. Dealing with the period 1740–1840 the present volume includes a wealth of material not found in the earlier account together with useful contemporary maps showing the sites of the Featherstone and Prescott Street hospitals.

The story is one of people rather than of bricks and mortar and it is written with insight and understanding of their ambitions and anxieties. The introductory chapter is as perfect an account as is possible to find of the mid-eighteenth-century scene. The devotion of John Harrison, the twenty-two-year-old surgeon, at whose insistence the hospital was opened on a capital of only one hundred guineas, and the poverty of the foundation in comparison with that of Guy's are revealed in the story. The special objects of this infirmary were to be the poor manufacturers and the sailors in the Merchant Service, together with their wives and children. The opening of the doors on 3 November 1740—and incidentally with only a shilling left in the bank—was less than six weeks after the inaugural meeting of the charity and the call on the thirty beds was so great that a move to a building in Prescott Street facing Goodman's Fields was rendered necessary six months later. By now a measure of financial stability seems to have been attained for not only were they able to purchase two dozen new beds but also 'chairs of Virginia Walnut Tree with matted seats' at six guineas each for the doctors and two for the dispensary not exceeding 4s. 6d. each. The patients may not have had the best of nursing and in their dinner stew they may have had to put up with 'the scragg and veiney pieces', but the doctors gave freely of their time while the spiritual welfare of the sick lacked nothing. Some customs, such as anniversary meetings persisted for many years but not, one would think, the adjournment of the committee each Thursday to the Angel and Crown 'for the better transacting of the business of the Infirmary'. (The Committee of Accounts, incidentally, seem to have preferred 'The George and Vulture'.)

It is with some surprise that one learns that the promoters of so laudable a design as a hospital for the sick poor should, on the occasion of their annual procession in 1744 from the Church of St. Lawrence through the City to their 3s. 9d. dinner at Draper's Hall, have had to pay thirty shillings for the privilege of hearing the bells of St. Lawrence and two guineas for those of St. Michael's, Cornhill. The preacher on that occasion was Bishop Isaac Maddox, recently translated from St. Asaph to

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Worcester. The author is not certain if it was Maddox who first foresaw the necessity to build a new hospital or if he was acting as the mouthpiece of Harrison. The former view would be more in keeping with what is known of this remarkable divine who would be familiar with the City and its people, for he had been Rector of St. Vedast's from 1730 till 1734. He was a vigorous and genial individual, bold in his planning. The fact that he was appointed Chairman of the Building Committee of 'the Infirmary' rather suggests that he had an active interest in its affairs and may well have been encouraging the young and enthusiastic Harrison to expand on the Mount Field site in Whitechapel.

There are many quotations from the minute books, entertaining both on account of their substance and because of the quaint formalities of that age of patronage. We learn of the regrettable misdemeanours of some of the nurses (apparently they had 2s. danger money added to their wages for nursing a case of smallpox), of early catering difficulties, of trouble with the sanitary arrangements, and of episodes of body-snatching within the hospital itself. We read too of the influence of the indefatigable William Blizard whose last operation was performed at the age of eighty-four; it was for an amputation above the knee-joint and the wound, it is good to note, healed by first intension.

The second volume of Dr. Clark-Kennedy's admirable book will be awaited with interest.

W. H. MCMENEMEY

*Readings in Pharmacy*, edited by PAUL A. DOYLE, New York and London, Interscience Publishers, 1962, pp. x, 429, 49s.

Students of pharmacy at Fordam University in the State of New York were fortunate in having as their guide to studies such a wise and widely read professor as Dr. Doyle. Fordam's loss, since Dr. Doyle is now at St. John's University, N.Y., is partly made good by the publication of these readings or essays and they will interest not only students for whom they were originally designed but also all concerned with the spread of knowledge of all phases of pharmacy—its beginnings, its development, and the present-day practice in the United States and in many countries overseas. This and much more is coupled with the part that the pharmacist must play in society if he is to fulfil with satisfaction to himself and to the community the responsibilities he shoulders.

Too often in these days of specialization the student is passed from one professor to another concerned only with the discipline that is his immediate charge. In this book Dr. Doyle has shown his appreciation of the need to overcome that tendency by helping the student to widen his horizons. He has culled from a variety of sources, some well known, others more rare, many of the best things that have been written about the art and practice of pharmacy. More, he has included extracts from the works of established authors who have ventured to describe their personal reactions to the work of the pharmacist or from those who in purely fanciful vein have drawn characters 'to the life' of men as they thought they might have seen them in the drug store or in whatever sphere the pharmacist has seen fit to enter—public life, the world of music, literature, or the opera. Only the stage seems to have been treated with less emphasis; save for Shakespeare, there is little reference to the apothecary in the theatre. Perhaps extracts from Molière or from *The Alchemist* by Ben Jonson, or from other plays of the seventeenth century might have enlisted interest in the alchemical 'goings-on' of that period. Gold, in whatever form, seems to commend itself to Fort Knox.

Subjects such as the separation of pharmacy from medicine and the obligations