claimed his attentions (although he was personal physician to Jefferson, Madison and Monroe), and he was really the ideal person to direct a medical school which was intended by Jefferson to impart fundamentals of medicine to students who would later proceed to hospitals further north for their clinical experience.

From Virginia, Dunglison went by invitation to Baltimore in 1833 (his reputation was such that he was always 'invited'); but, in his own words, 'the tide set so strongly towards Philadelphia' that he was soon tempted to move to Philadelphia, the birthplace of American medical education. The controversies, feuds and quarrels in which Dunglison was involved as a member of one of the two rival medical schools in Philadelphia are described in a series of character sketches of the participants. Dunglison was always essentially the peacemaker, however, and he played a large part in establishing Jefferson Medical College on firm foundations. Three years after his arrival the number of students had jumped from 163 to 341.

Dunglison continued to write prodigiously, and it was his books rather than his medical accomplishments which formed the basis of his reputation. Textbooks of physiology, hygiene and medicine earned him the plaudits, and the money, of the medical public. They also won for him in certain quarters the epithet of 'plagiarist'—for they comprised information culled from a variety of sources, rather than experimental observations of his own. His *Dictionary* was exceptionally successful and went through five editions. As to his medical credo, Dunglison became more of a sceptic the longer he lived. Towards the end of his diary he says, in words which might come from Hippocrates or Sydenham; 'The well-informed physician . . . becomes less and less satisfied of the curative powers of his "remedial agents"; and more and more satisfied of the benefit to be produced by placing the system . . . in the most favourable circumstances for curing itself.'

E. GASKELL

Vom Leben der Gewebe, by REMBERT WATERMANN, Cologne University Press, 1964, pp. 113, no price stated.

This is a short paper-back of 113 pages from Cologne University Press. The author was an assistant in the department of anatomy at Cairo University. It was this experience together with his historical interest in cellular morphology that prompted the writing of what is really a long essay on the subject.

He begins with the cell theory of Schwann, tracing the concept of the cell-unit back in time to Galen and Democrites and then forward to the Renaissance.

He discusses the influence of the discovery of the microscope and its relationship to the work of Leclerc Buffon on 'les molécules organiques', passing on to the concept of the cell-membrane as enunciated by Purkinje and Valentin. Like all good Germans, he ends with a quasi-philosophical analysis of the relationship of the cell-theory to a materialistic or idealistic view of the world! There then follows ten pages of portraiture and illustrations from the work of the main authors quoted in the text.

Germans rank with Americans in circumlocution and verbosity. This pamphlet is no exception. For those with patience, it may prove interesting and even rewarding.

I. M. LIBRACH