

Book Reviews

title entry has been chosen with a note of relevant STC and Wing numbers. The printing is large and clear, and seems to be accurate. The sensible binding will prolong the shelf life of this useful little book.

E. J. FREEMAN

The History of Diabetes Mellitus, 2nd ed., by N. S. PAPANPYROS, Stuttgart, G. Thieme Verlag, 1964, pp. 104, 10 plates, revised and supplemented, DM. 19.50.

No research scholar of real value has ever understated the importance of the history of his problem. So writes the author of this excellent little book on the history of diabetes.

Diabetes, a major problem in the metabolism of the body, is here considered from the historical aspect, and perhaps in no other disease is a survey of history so essential as a background to present-day knowledge.

It was Aretaeus, in the second century A.D., who first described this morbid condition, and gave it the name Diabetes. Since that time the many aspects of the problem have been gradually solved. Willis inaugurated a new era in laying stress on the psychogenic factors in diabetes, Claude Bernard discovered the glycogenic function of the liver, Minkowski drew attention to the role of the pancreas, while Langerhans noticed his 'islets' in that organ. Naunyn, Pavy, Noorden and others devoted their lives to the study of diabetes. Then came the brilliant discovery of insulin by Banting and Best, and later still the study of the possibility of oral treatment.

The interesting story is well told by Dr. Papanpyros, who is Director of the Diabetic Centre at Athens, and a pupil of Dr. R. D. Lawrence, who contributes the Preface. This is the second edition of a book originally published in 1952 and sold out within a year. New material, illustrations and 208 references have been added, besides a good index. The contributions of chemists and physiologists to what appeared at first to be only a clinical problem, is especially noteworthy, and the whole study demonstrates how important is the past as an integral part of present-day knowledge.

Well written, and clearly printed, this work will certainly take its place as the authoritative short history of Diabetes. The reviewer can detect only two trivial printer's errors, (p. xiv), though an R has been added to his own name, and wrong initial (p. lx).

DOUGLAS GUTHRIE

Bibliotheca Belgica: livraisons 227e-228e (HUGO FAVOLIUS, P. VAN GOORLE, T. MONTIS, J. SAUVAGE), edited by ELLY COCKX, Brussels, Indestege, 1963, illus. (no price stated).

The *Bibliotheca Belgica*, now in its third series, lists and describes early works printed in Belgium and Holland, and books by Belgian and Dutch authors printed elsewhere. The fascicles under review are devoted to the now rare books of four obscure medical men, all of whom flourished in the sixteenth century; three of them at the town of Anvers. Hugo Favolius (1523-85) achieved some local eminence as a physician and poet. He studied at Padua and travelled in Asia Minor. His publications were miscellaneous, including an epic poem on his journeys, almanacs, and a book of plague remedies. Jacques Sauvage, a doctor of astronomy as well as of medicine, issued a series of almanacs, some of which were popular in England. Of Thomas Montis and Peeter van Goorle, both medical astrologers, little is known beyond their published astrological prognostications.

As is usual in this series, a simplified transcription of the title-page is flanked by