

Book Reviews

possessing a unique museum and a fine library to that of an internationally important post-graduate teaching centre associated with a finely equipped and well-staffed research institute, all this in spite of the disastrous bombing of 1941.

In addition there are interesting chapters on the Library by W. R. Le Fanu and on John Hunter's Museum by Jessie Dobson. Finally there are more than a hundred short biographies.

The book abounds in curious sidelights. The reader can find how the Company of Surgeons had at one time to pay an audience to attend the anatomical lectures of its own professor; how and why, when a newly elected member of the Council attends his first meeting he is presented with an envelope containing one pound note and one shilling; how the Members at one time were not allowed to use the main front entrance to the College, but had to use an insignificant back door in Portugal Street; how election to the panel of examiners and Council was for too long a lifetime appointment; how one President was essentially a physician but a poor surgeon; how another President burned John Hunter's unpublished manuscripts after, it is said, using material from them in his own writings.

Great names fill the pages, Cheselden, Pott, Astley Cooper, Brodie, Moynihan and Webb-Johnson to name only a few. Even Lister who was not very welcome there finds a place. Sir Zachary has done his work splendidly.

WILLIAM BROCKBANK

A Way of Life and other Selected Writings of Sir William Osler. With an introduction by G. L. KEYNES, M.D., F.R.C.S. New York: Dover Publications Inc., 1958; pp. xx+278. Illustrated. \$1.50.

The current criticism that most scientists learn little or nothing of the humanities, applies also to the medical practitioner. The medical student not only labours under the burden of an overloaded curriculum, but he also faces the ever-increasing technicality and complexity of advancing medicine with little or no help, in this country at any rate, from teachers of the history of medicine. How then is he to promote at least some contact with the more humanistic aspect of his education, so important to him in his future devotion to people?

A small contribution to the solution of this problem was offered in 1951 when *Selected Writings of Sir William Osler* was published specially for the student by a committee of the Osler Club and introduced by Sir Geoffrey Keynes. The essays thought most likely to appeal to, and to be of value to, the student and younger members of the profession were carefully chosen. Osler's multitudinous contributions to clinical medicine and pathology do not appear, but rather we find essays which illustrate his historical, philosophical and bibliographical endeavours.

This book has now been reproduced in the United States of America under a new title taken from one of the most important essays. There has been no alteration in the text which is well produced; the illustrations are likewise identical, though lacking some of their original clarity; it has a soft back and the price is very reasonable.

The reviewers of the British publication gave just praise to the wise selection of the contents, but it is perhaps surprising that Osler's essay *The Master-word in Medicine*, addressed to the students of his *alma mater*, the University of Toronto, in 1903, and his suggestions for a *Bed Side Library for Medical Students* have been omitted.

This volume, together with Dr. R. E. Verney's recent anthology *The Student Life, The Philosophy of Sir William Osler*, present 'the young man's friend' to the student

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and young practitioner at a price to fit their pockets. It will however, serve medical men at all stages in their career as a bridge between their medical science and the old-established truths of the humanities.

EDWIN CLARKE

SHORTER NOTICES

Medicin-Doctor und Chorherr Johann Heinrich Rahn, 1749-1812. Ursula von Schulthess. Ein Beitrag zur Medizingeschichte der Schweizerischen Aufklärung. Inaugural-Dissertation . . . Medizinischen Fakultät der Universität Zürich. Winterthur: P. G. Keller, 1959; pp. 132. Illustrated.

Johann Heinrich Rahn practised medicine in his native city of Zürich where he also taught physics in the gymnasium. He was the founder of a number of philanthropic and medical societies such as the Institut Medico-Chirurgical. In 1799 he was elected a member of the Swiss national assembly. Rahn was the editor of several medical periodicals of the period, in particular the *Gazette de Santé*, Zürich [1782-5], the *Archiv gemeinnütziger physischer und medicinische Kenntnisse* [1787-91] and the *Museum der Heilkunde* [1792-7].

Amerikanische Medizin von europäern Beurteilt. Felix Uhl. Inaugural-Dissertation . . . Medizinischen Fakultät der Universität Zürich. Horn, Austria: F. Berger, 1959; pp. 59.

This study of European observations on medical conditions in America has a chapter on the eighteenth century which records the opinions of Johann David Schöpff, a surgeon serving with the German forces engaged in the War of Independence. The main emphasis of the work, however, is on the period between 1880 and 1938. There is a full bibliography of 63 references to publications by Continental authors.

Revue Lyonnaise de Médecine. Lyon et la médecine, 43 av. J. C., 1958. Lyon, 1958; pp. 374, 1 l. Illustrated.

The city of Lyons was founded in 43 B.C. when the Romans built a fort at the confluence of the rivers Rhône and Saône and to celebrate this second millennium the *Revue Lyonnaise de Médecine* has published an excellently produced special number. All aspects of medical history are covered and there are sections on the development of pharmacy, veterinary medicine and dentistry in the locality. Articles on the medical publishing at Lyons in the sixteenth century, on the assassination of President Carnot in 1894, and on the Musée d'Histoire de la Médecine indicate the wide variety of interest in this volume.

F. M. S.

Ein Leben für die Orthopädie. Erinnerungen. . . . Fritz Lange. Stuttgart: F. Enke, 1959; pp. vii, 211. Illustrated.

The author, founder of the orthopaedic clinic at Munich, has made many original contributions to his specialty, notably in the wiring of vertebrae, in the transplantation of tendons, and in the use of celluloid for foot supports. In 1930 he published a monograph on the orthopaedics of poliomyelitis.