

Book Reviews

A History of Medicine in South Carolina, 1825–1900, by JOSEPH I. WARING, Charleston, South Carolina Medical Association, 1967, pp. xv, 366, illus., \$7.70.

In this second volume Waring has continued the history of South Carolina from the graduation in 1825 of the first class at the Medical College. He deals separately with plantation medicine, the growth of hospitals, medical education, professional bodies, epidemics, and treats in great detail the medical care of soldiers in the Army of the Confederacy. The author's unique knowledge of private and official archives has made possible another series of biographies of distinguished physicians in practice between 1825 and 1900, which was one of the outstanding features in Waring's previous volume.

The book is rich in information and constitutes a precious document for the understanding of Southern medicine in the United States. Waring divides his period of study 1825–1900 into three parts: the years prior to the Civil War, during that conflict, and after the military fall of the Confederacy. This fact is another reminder that Charleston was the place where the first shots of that conflict were fired. Not just the war, but the political, social, and economic ideas behind the war affected the evolution of medical practice in South Carolina, and in fact permeate Waring's book. Some of his findings are indeed disturbing, and show, for instance, that the civil war that freed the slaves in the Southern States, far from improving their welfare, was followed by a deterioration of the Negro's health which has persisted until the present day.

F. GUERRA

Schiff und Seuche 1795–1799. Ein medizinischer Beitrag zur historischen Kenntnis der Gesundheitsverhältnisse an Bord dänisch-norwegischer Kriegsschiffe auf den Fahrten nach Dänisch-Westindien, by ØVIND LARSEN, Oslo, Universitetsforlaget, 1968, pp. 267, illus., N.kr. 48.

In the eighteenth century Denmark and Norway possessed colonies in the West Indies and maintained commercial relations via their North German possessions as well as military and commercial bases in the East and on the African coast. Therefore ships and the health of their occupants were of prime importance to their economic progress. This well-documented and well-illustrated book gives statistical details on the main diseases encountered, the conditions on the various ships, using the diaries of ships' surgeons who had ample time to set down their observations on paper. There are introductory chapters on education and textbooks of Naval Medicine during the second half of the eighteenth century when the Academy of Surgery at Copenhagen copied the example of a similar Academy at Vienna. Britain's influence, too, is noticeable in that Gilbert Blane was read in German translation and the question of scurvy as a seamen's disease was widely discussed. With its short summaries in French and Russian and a longer one in English, this book should appeal to all those interested in the history of Naval Medicine.

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