

Book Reviews

the occasional bitter controversies. The modern idea of a classification system which could keep pace with the rapid development of the sciences begins with the scheme devised by H. W. Eppelsheimer in 1929, based on constant elements in literary form (e.g. reference works, textbooks, essays) and treatment (historical periods, geographical factors), and which was applicable to all sciences. Dr. Mann shows how this plan has been developed in compiling subject-catalogues for the institutes of the history of medicine at Frankfurt and at Mainz.

In essence an alphabetically classed catalogue has resulted. The system outlines an initial class on general medicine followed by forty-six classes arranged alphabetically (Anatomie, Augenheilkunde, Bakteriologie, etc.). Each class is subdivided 1 to 100, the first ninety divisions being the same in each class, representing those constant elements in literature, *not* subdivisions of the subject. The remaining ten divisions are for monographs on individual topics in each class, the topics being arranged alphabetically. (This double use of the alphabet permits interpolation of any new class or topic. Further, important topics can be pulled out and made into main classes.) An alphabetical index is provided of all subjects and topics. There is a notation, e.g. Anat. 39, Bakt. 98, which however is quite independent of the order of material on the shelves; a second symbol indicates location. In this way articles from journals and references to works in other libraries can be included. Thus the catalogue becomes a bibliography, facilitating the author's second objective. Both principles and methods deserve careful study and might well be adopted to advantage.

G. F. A. MARMOY

Joseph Lister, the man who made surgery safe, by FREDERICK F. CARTWRIGHT, London, Weidenfeld and Nicolson (Educational) Ltd., Pathfinder Biographies, 1963, pp. 128, 13 illus., 10s. 6d.

This admirable short life of Lister, written 'for young people', may be read with pleasure and profit by any serious person. Dr. Cartwright compresses in a small space the story of Lister's career and discoveries, describing examples of his researches and surgical operations. These descriptions are masterpieces of simple explanation. He also draws an attractive sketch of Lister's personality, not glossing over his slight defects of formality and unpunctuality. The book is well illustrated, but Lister's portrait appears only on the wrapper, which nine out of ten readers will throw away. But what *advocatus diaboli* tempted Dr. Cartwright to say that Lister was 'not a clever man and not a very good surgeon'? His whole story contradicts him.

W. R. LE FANU

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

BROWN, E. G., *Arabian Medicine*, Cambridge, University Press, 1962, illus., pp. 138, 21s. (\$3.95).

This book gives the text of the Fitzpatrick lectures delivered at the Royal College of Physicians in 1919 and 1920. It has been out of print for some time and is now reissued in this centenary year of the author's birth.

JEVONS, F. R., *The Biochemical Approach to Life*, London, George Allen & Unwin, 1963, pp. 184, 28s.

In this book Dr. Jevons presents biochemistry as a fundamental form of biology rather than as a complicated kind of chemistry, with the emphasis on biochemistry as a way of explaining the phenomena of life.

Contributors

PLATT, SIR HARRY, *Selected Papers*, London and Edinburgh, E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1963, illus., pp. vii, 186, 25s.

The author has brought together a number of articles, addresses, speeches and memoranda on various non-clinical topics, including some interesting studies in the field of medical history.

PINEL, P., *A Treatise on Insanity*, translated from the French by D. Davies, New York, Hafner Publishing Co., 1962, pp. 288, 20s.

The New York Academy of Medicine's reprints of medical classics includes this translation of Pinel's first edition published in London in 1806. It is perhaps a pity the sponsors did not commission a translation of the more important second edition which has never yet been translated into English.

RUSH, BENJAMIN, *Medical Inquiries and Observations upon the Diseases of the Mind*, New York, Hafner Publishing Co., 1962, pp. 367, 20s.

This book is Number 15 in the New York Academy of Medicine's useful series of paper-back reprints of some of the classics of medicine.

SMYTHE, R. H., *Healers on Horseback, The Reminiscences of an English Veterinary Surgeon*, Springfield, Ill., C. C. Thomas, 1963, pp. 135, \$5.00.

The author sets out to give an authentic picture of the country practice of both veterinary surgeon and doctor in the days before motor transport.

CONTRIBUTORS

AVERY, HAROLD, D.Sc., M.R.C.P., 23 Harley Street, London, W.1.

BRICKBANK, WILLIAM, M.D., F.R.C.P., 2 St. John Street, Manchester 3.

COPEMAN, W. S. G., O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., 129 Harley Street, London, W.1.

DICKSON-WRIGHT, A., M.S., F.R.C.S., Lister House, 12 Wimpole Street, London, W.1.

FROGGATT, P., M.A., M.D., D.P.H., Lecturer in Social and Preventive Medicine, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, The Queen's University, Belfast, N. Ireland.

GLENISTER, T. W., Ph.D., M.B., B.S., Department of Anatomy, Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, London, W.C.2.

GUERRA, FRANCISCO, M.D., D.Sc., Ph.D., Wellcome Historical Medical Library, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

HOLMES SELLORS, SIR THOMAS, D.M., F.R.C.S., 16 Park Village East, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

HUNTER, RICHARD, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.M., Department of Psychological Medicine, The National Hospital, Queen Square, W.C.1.

KEELE, K. D., M.D., F.R.C.P., Leacroft House, 37 Leacroft, Staines, Middlesex.

LE FANU, WILLIAM R., M.A., The Library, Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2.

MCCRIE, J. G., O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed., Faculty of Medicine, 304 Western Bank, Sheffield 10.

MACNALT, SIR ARTHUR, K.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., Bocketts, Downs Road, Epsom, Surrey.

MARMOY, C. F. A., F.L.A., Thane Library of Medical Science, University College London, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

PAGEL, WALTER, M.D., 58 Millway, London, N.W.7.

PAYNE, L. M., F.L.A., The Library, Royal College of Physicians of London, 53 Albany Street, London, N.W.1.

RATTANSI, PYARALI, Ph.D., Department of Philosophy, The University, Leeds 2.

ROBERTS, FFRANGCON, Bellingdon, Chesham, Bucks.

SCHUSTER, NORAH, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., 72 Clarewood Court, Crawford Street, London, W.1.

SEYMER, LUCY, M.A., S.R.N., 5 Cope Hill, Wimbledon, London, S.W.20.

WALLS, PROFESSOR E. W., F.R.S.Ed., M.D., B.Sc., Department of Anatomy, The Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London, W.1.