

## Book Reviews

After the Restoration considerable changes were made in the staff, and rebuilding took place to remedy the losses sustained during the subsequent Great Fire. Wounded sailors and soldiers from the Dutch wars now became an increasing burden on the finances, until a small grant for each man was authorized as the result of the threat of closure. Late in the seventeenth century, however, several benefactors, such as the Lord Mayor, Sir Robert Clayton, came forward and the hospital was rebuilt and enlarged.

The eighteenth century saw the prestige of the hospital rise to new heights, largely as the result of the distinction of its professional staff, chief amongst whom were Richard Mead and William Cheselden.

All this and much more is told in the pleasantly produced little book *St. Thomas's Hospital*, written by the hospital's archivist, Miss McInnes, with the help of a grant from the Endowment Fund. The history of the Medical School from its beginnings in the eighteenth century, its official foundation in the nineteenth century, and the resultant unfortunate rift between the then 'United Hospitals' of St. Thomas's and Guy's is chronicled in some detail, as is the story of the move from Southwark to Lambeth. The chapters on the foundation of the Nightingale Training School for Nurses (1860) and its progress until the outbreak of the first World War are perhaps the best in the book.

From 1914 until the present day the chronicle becomes disappointing. Although the author states in her foreword that 'this is a lay history', it is unexpected to find almost no reference to scientific research and progress; although a number of pages are devoted to such matters as: 'The competence and enthusiasm of the catering staff was demonstrated at Hotelympia, the International cookery exhibition held at Olympia in 1961, when members of the kitchen staff won awards. . . .'

The story of the 'Blitz' is well recapitulated, and the effects of the National Health Service are summarized. The thumbnail sketches of hospital characters who were known to many of the present generation are, however, less happy, and the choice of those mentioned seems fortuitous and incomplete.

The book terminates in two interesting appendices—on the parish and estates of St. Thomas's, and on the hospitals within the new Group.

W. S. C. COPEMAN

*The Story of a Woman Physician*, by G. M. WAUCHOPE, Bristol, John Wright, 1963, pp. 146, 17s. 6d.

Dr. Gladys Mary Wauchope, born in 1889 and not starting medicine until 1916, entered the professional arena just too late to suffer from the restrictions and humiliations of the earlier generation of medical women, so that her autobiography, in spite of its title, has no particularly feminine bias. She had an ideal, even idyllic, preparation for her destiny in a childhood and youth before the First World War, from which she emerged with habits of fortitude, unselfishness, industry and honesty that were put to good use when she finally made up her mind what it was she wanted to do. Bearing in mind that selection is the essence of readable biography, Dr. Wauchope has sorted out her memories with considerable skill, and at least one of her selections, the daily round of a medical student and house officer at the London Hospital about 1920, may be historically valuable in the future.

After qualification in 1921, she eventually settled in general practice in Brighton for a few years, then took the higher degrees and became a busy consultant physician

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there until she retired. She attributes a successful way with patients in great measure to her experience in handling horses in the hunting field. How right she is, but riding to hounds will regrettably never be put into the curriculum for all that. She also values a good nurse at true worth and has thought out some interesting plans for nursing education, which unfortunately did not find favour when set out in 1942. Now, twenty years later, the creation of the State Enrolled Nurse, though not quite what she and Miss Ottley had in mind, goes some way towards it and one can only hope that one day their suggestions will be more fully adopted.

Dr. Wauchope has deliberately written a plain tale with few personal disclosures and no indiscretions, but a delicate touch of humour in the writing, and the fact that those two critical masters, Sir Robert Hutchison and Professor H. Turnbull, took her to their hearts, give a clue to her quality. The book is dedicated to them and their spirits were surely at her elbow as she wrote it; perhaps they would have frowned on any such breach of reserve, but to the ordinary reader it seems a pity that there is no portrait of the author.

NORAH SCHUSTER

*The First Hundred Years, 1863-1963, of the Launceston General Hospital, Tasmania*, by CLIFFORD CRAIG, Tasmania, published by the Board of Management, 1963, pp. vi+162 (no price given).

Never surely in the history of medicine has there been published such a detailed mass of information concerning a hospital as that with which we are presented here. Illustrated with a large number of photographs of buildings and personnel it gives full biographical accounts of the medical staff, past and present (some at great length), and lists of all the matrons, sisters and nurses, and laundry and boilerhouse staff who have been employed.

Nor does it omit to describe the petty squabbles of the nursing staff, the requisitions for minor repairs to the windows and the feelings of nurses at their first operations. Nothing that has happened in the last 100 years has been forgotten.

These invidities somewhat detract from the purpose of the book which otherwise it well fulfils; namely to record the steady growth of the hospital, and its faithful service to the community. Of particular interest is the evolution of its administration. Launceston having been founded as a military post, the hospital was under government control. This it has retained, but with enlightened modification in its management as the years have gone by. A further point of interest is that, incensed by the admission of well-to-do patients the British Medical Association fought the Government for seven years (1917-24) by refusing to allow its members to work in the hospital.

In conclusion let us wish the Launceston General Hospital a long continuance of its devoted work. Let us hope that future archivists will learn to forget as well as to remember.

FFRANGCON ROBERTS

*History of Modern Nursing*, by LENA DIXON DIETZ, R.N., Philadelphia, F. A. Davis Co., 1963, pp. 365, illus., 56s.

This comprehensive work is arranged on an original plan, widely different from that of the usual nursing history. For American nurses it provides a veritable mine of information, clearly set out both for continuous reading as well as easy reference. The