

Book Reviews

so slow to grasp the implication of the use of whole blood in World War I, limited though that experience was; why it did not take advantage of the successful blood-program used during the Spanish Civil War; and why it did not immediately make use of the British experience in the early months of World War II when the necessity and value of whole blood for combat casualties were so clearly proved'. In the Preface also the Editor makes the criticism that when the Korean War began 'administrative personnel had not yet learned that whole blood is best handled out of supply channels as a separate self-supporting service.'

A tribute is paid to the British methods—'The British policy was remarkably successful. It was carefully planned before hostilities began . . . ' 'We followed that plan only partially in World War II and not much more efficiently in Korea, and in both wars we paid the penalty for our folly.'

There is much to be learnt from this book.

ZACHARY COPE

Ein Bericht vom Pestjahr London 1665, Daniel Defoe, trans. by Ernst Betz, epilogue by Ernst Gerhard Jacob, Bremen, Schünemann Verlag, 1965, pp. 359, illus., DM. 16.80.

The year 1965 was the Tercentenary of the Great Plague of London. Apart from Lyle Eddar's article in *Medical News* of 4 June, it is somewhat surprising to find—at the time of this notice—that it is a German translation of Defoe which is apparently the only other to commemorate the event!

This small hardback of 359 pages is Volume 296 of the Dieterich Collection of Classic Works and Authors, published by Carl Schünemann of Bremen. The translation is by Ernst Betz. As far as can be judged by superficial reading, it is fair and reasonable, bearing in mind that it is always difficult to reproduce the nuances of meaning in another language.

The text is enlivened by a facsimile of the original title page, and by several interesting maps and tables, including a bill of mortality and a pertinent notice by the contemporary Hamburg paper—*Nordischen Mercurius*—of August 1665.

There is an excellent postscript by Ernst Gerhard Jacob, giving details of Defoe's life as well as a critical commentary of the *Journal*. Jacob rightly stresses that Defoe was one of the earliest journalists. This accounts for some of the flights of journalistic fancy which colour the original work. However in fairness it should also be remembered that Defoe was only six years old at the time of the Plague.

Although Jacob mentions Camus' novel, *The Plague*, I can find no reference to F. P. Wilson's *The Plague in Shakespeare's London*, nor to the pamphlets of Thomas Dekker who was an eye-witness of the plagues of 1603 and 1625. However, these omissions do not detract from the author's scholarship.

The book itself is nicely bound and printed. For those with a taste for the exotic this little German tribute can be warmly recommended.

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