

Book Reviews

125 years after its original publication. Written in a leisurely style, it makes fascinating reading with its wide experience, its careful observation, its critical analysis, its objective assessment, and its emphasis on prevention. It is interesting to note the author's advocacy of periodic health examinations, his views on intemperance, 'the great bane of civilized life', and his reactions among others to commercial travellers and to *bons vivants*. The book includes aphorisms from Thackrah's writings and a selected bibliography in which we miss a reference to F. F. Hellier's paper, 'Charles Turner Thackrah and industrial dermatosis', *Trans. St. John's Hosp. Derm. Soc.*, 1956, No. 36, 1-2.

W. R. BETT

A Short History of Public Health. C. FRASER BROCKINGTON, M.A., M.D., D.P.H. London, J. & A. Churchill Ltd., 1956. Pp. vii+235. 15s.

Apart from the first chapter, which deals with the eighteenth century, the period covered by this little book is only from about 1800 to the present day, and, except for a few occasional references by way of comparison, it is confined to the history of English public health.

The first part, about a third of the book, is devoted to a necessarily very brief sketch of the development of the organization of public health in this country from the early attempts to control cholera, poor law reform, factory legislation, and the registration of births and deaths, through the reforms of Chadwick and the growth of local government, to the modern period since the formation of the Ministry of Health. This part is concluded by a forecast of the future.

The second part of the book deals in detail with different aspects of public health in the latter part of the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries. In this way the growth of housing, maternal and child welfare, care for neglected children, mental hygiene, control of tuberculosis and venereal diseases, and care for the aged, are surveyed one after the other. In an attempt to make the book a work of reference for students the author has perhaps crowded into the small space at his disposal more detail than its scope really warrants. The result is not as readable as a broader treatment of the essentials of the subject would have been.

C. C. BARNARD

A History of the Therapy of Tuberculosis and the Case of Frédéric Chopin. (Sixth Series: Logan Clendening Lectures on the History and Philosophy of Medicine.) ESMOND R. LONG, M.D. Lawrence, University of Kansas Press, 1956. Pp. 71. \$2.

Chopin lived his adult life with illness. For fourteen years from 1835 until his death at the age of thirty-nine, cough, sputum and haemorrhage were

Book Reviews

his frequent attendants. It is probable that he had contracted tuberculosis at an even earlier date, for in 1826 he took spa treatment for an unspecified complaint and shortly afterwards one of his sisters died of acute phthisis. Even so, the 'Grand Mower Felt by the Grass of the Field' treated him gently; to live those fourteen years with a disease which claimed quietly one person in every five was not usual. Perhaps Chopin spun out his life by his refusal to accept the harsh dicta of contemporary treatment, and by avoiding advice coming from the teaching of Broussais. He was wise in his submissions for he would not be bled; he was fortunate in his physicians, Louis, Cruveilhier and Clark; and though there might have been other endings to his relationships with Sand, her daughter Solange, and Delphine Potocka, they gave him, together with his music, long periods of excitement and happiness. Proof of the cause of Chopin's illness will never be known for he suffered before the time of Koch; again, the cause of his death is not known with certainty as the *procès-verbal* was lost in the riots of 1871, but the admirable description of the disease and its natural history as given by Dr. Long clearly defines pulmonary tuberculosis.

The section dealing with the History of the Treatment of Tuberculosis is unfortunately sketchy. The major principles and theories of the past are certainly given, but there is little or no mention of the numerous medicaments of the Chemical Age, the observations of Baglivi, the work of Carson, the Chest Hospitals, the French School of Surgery in the nineties, the serums and vaccinations, and the minor operations of this present century. And surely the combination of drug therapy and excisional surgery is not the standard treatment of this day. However, this most entertaining and readable little volume does give an overall outline of the more important practices and cleverly so, considering that it is a vast subject and here occupies only some thirty pages.

THOMAS MARMION

Die anatomischen Namen. Ihre Ableitung und Aussprache. VON H. TRIEPEL. 25te Auflage, völlig neu bearbeitet und entsprechend den neuen anatomischen Namen (Pariser N.A.) ergänzt, von R. Herrlinger. München, J. F. Bergmann. 1957. Pp. 82, DM 6.80.

Amongst other things, those who study Anatomy acquire a large and specialized vocabulary which constitutes much of the *lingua franca* of Medicine. Investigations into the derivation of these special terms and biographical research on the men whose names have been perpetuated eponymously constitute a fascinating bypath in medical history and various books are available providing information on these matters. One such was first published in 1905 by Prof. H. Triepel and it has been reissued frequently.