

Book Reviews

Medical Department, United States Army. Internal Medicine in World War II. vol. II, *Infectious Diseases*, Editor in Chief, Colonel JOHN BOYD COATES, JR., M.C. Editor for Internal Medicine, W. PAUL HAVENS, JR., Washington, D.C., Office of the Surgeon General, 1963, pp. xxvii + 649, illus., \$6.75.

This volume is the second to be published in the internal medicine group of this comprehensive history. The first volume, published in 1961 and reviewed in *Medical History* [1963, I, 95], dealt with the activities of consultants in this subject in all parts of the world. The second volume treats of some of the infectious diseases encountered. The third and final volume in the group will complete the account of these diseases and will also deal with general medicine. Some of the material in the volume under review inevitably overlaps that in the first volume and in the preventive medicine series, but has the advantage of presenting other points of view.

There was an expansion of knowledge of the aetiology, clinical symptoms, control and treatment of certain diseases about which either little or nothing was known before the war, for example, sandfly fever, Q fever, scrub typhus, Brill's disease and Fort Bragg fever, a specific new disease. Careful studies were made of the acute and chronic respiratory diseases, including primary atypical pneumonia due to a virus. Professor Kneeland, the contributor, is of opinion that the disease was not new, but that atypical pneumonias were seen during the winter of 1917-18 and were also noted in hospital records between 1922 and 1935. In addition to the diseases already mentioned, accounts are given of dengue, neurotropic nervous diseases (including another account of the remarkable outbreak of Japanese B encephalitis in the island of Okinawa in the summer of 1945), the typhus fevers, rheumatic fever, meningococcal infections, cutaneous and other aspects of diphtheria, tuberculosis, diagnosis and treatment of the venereal diseases, while the rest of the volume (127 pages) is devoted to a study of malaria and its treatment.

Dr. Paul Havens, the Editor, states in his preface:

For those who are concerned with military medical history, it is of interest to note that World War II was the first great conflict in which fewer of the troops died of disease than of battle injuries and wounds.

Comparing the two world wars the Surgeon General, Lieutenant-General Leonard D. Heaton, writes:

In World War I, 40,640 deaths, 73 per cent of all deaths from disease, were caused by influenza, lobar pneumonia, broncho-pneumonia, bronchitis and measles. In World War II, in an Army over twice the size of the World War I Army and mobilized over a longer period, there were only 1,285 deaths from these causes.

We were not faced in the Second World War with the disastrous pandemic of influenza which largely contributed to the influenzal and respiratory deaths of the First World War.

This is another important volume in the series, well illustrated and produced, which reflects great credit on the editors and specialist contributors.

ARTHUR S. MACNALTY

One Hundred Years of Psychiatry, by EMIL KRAEPELIN, translated by W. BASKIN, with an epilogue by H. P. LAQUEUR, London, Peter Owen, 1962, pp. 163, illus., 25s. Most psychiatrists who have made substantial contributions to the subject have felt the need to give their work an historical frame and orientation, as much to ascertain

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its roots as to predict likely developments in the future. The first assembly of the German Institute for Psychiatric Research at Munich in 1917 gave Professor Emil Kraepelin, its promoter, the opportunity to read a paper sketching the history of psychiatry in the previous hundred years 'in order to justify the new foundation on the evidence of the advances in our specialty'. In greatly expanded form it appeared in the *Zeitschrift für die gesamte Neurologie und Psychiatrie*, 1918, 38, 161–275 with 35 illustrations and a useful bibliography of 82 items, and was issued at the same time as a separate book with a preface by the author. Its value lies less in the details it contains than in the analysis of the major developments of the nineteenth century seen through the alembic of a master mind. Kraepelin—who it must be remembered was writing in World War I—gave overriding importance to the great humanitarian reforms associated particularly with the names of Pinel and Conolly which had prepared the way for the clinical advances to which he himself contributed so much.

The great expectations aroused by an English translation are unfortunately not realized by this book. The text is cut, sentences abbreviated, their sense distorted in all but the simplest, preface and bibliography omitted, the original illustrations replaced by images of psychiatry's latter-day saints for whom Kraepelin would have had little use, and no mention is made of the circumstances which gave rise to the book when it first appeared. One example will serve to show how bad the whole thing is: 'Gummi', the German for rubber, is presented as the inventor of the stomach tube (p. 144) and as such finds a place in the index of names!

RICHARD HUNTER

St. Thomas's Hospital, by E. M. McINNES, London, George Allen and Unwin, 1963, pp. 230, illus., 30s.

St. Thomas's Hospital was founded at some time early in the twelfth century as the infirmary for the sick inmates of the Priory of St. Mary Overy in Southwark. After the canonization of Archbishop Thomas à Becket, it was given his name. Following a disastrous fire in 1215 the hospital moved to the site opposite to where Guy's Hospital now stands, and remained there until 1862, when it was driven westwards by the Charing Cross Railway Company, which had procured an Act permitting them to carry a new line across the north-west corner of its garden.

Little is known of the hospital's activities throughout the Middle Ages until its suppression, with other monastic foundations, in 1540. For ten years it remained closed, and the plight of the sick inhabitants of London became a matter of grave concern to the authorities, which culminated in the Lord Mayor, Sir Richard Dobbs, being allowed by Edward VI to purchase it on behalf of the Corporation for their use. On 6 October 1552 a salaried staff was appointed for the new lay hospital. Shortly after this the building was reopened with 250 patients, and the hospital's nominal patron was changed to the no less holy, but unpolitical, St. Thomas the Apostle.

During the period of the Civil Wars both St. Thomas's and its sister hospital of St. Bartholomew 'cured at their own charge' and 'relieved with money and other necessities at their departure' large numbers of the sick and wounded soldiers of the Parliamentary forces. This led to technical advances in the craft of surgery, particularly in the fields of amputation and cutting for the stone; the latter being identified particularly with the Molins and Hollyer families, several generations of which served the hospital as surgeon-lithotomists.