

Book Reviews

These collected papers—whose publication was made possible by his admirers and those near and dear to Dandy—bear witness to the truth of an editorial on his death in the *Baltimore Sun*: 'He had the imaginative genius to conceive new and startling techniques, courage to try them, and skill—the superb skill—to make them successful.'

Dandy's work inspired many during his lifetime and afterwards. This work, published a decade after his death, will inspire and re-inspire many more. It will also ensure that his stature in the field of medicine, great though it is, will grow greater in the perspective of time, and for posterity it will remain a beautiful and lasting memorial to a surgical genius.

ILLTYD JAMES

Florence Nightingale and the Doctors. ZACHARY COPE. London: Museum Press Ltd., 1958; pp. 163. Illustrated. 21s.

Florence Nightingale once said that she could talk better to a medical man than to anyone else. Because of this Sir Zachary felt that, by a study of her relations with doctors, it may be possible to obtain a truer picture of her character than by other lines of investigation. It was a wise thought admirably worked out and makes good reading.

At nearly every stage of her public life she came into contact with doctors, and among them were many of her best friends. Her life work had much in common with the work of medical men, and she herself had an important influence on certain aspects of medicine, particularly preventive medicine. She was a great sanitarian, an earnest advocate of fresh air, pure water and good drainage. She took a great interest in the construction of hospitals, and for half a century her advice was sought by most of those who were planning large hospitals in all parts of the English-speaking world. Mainly by her efforts the Army Medical College was founded, and her work in connexion with the Sanitary Commission of 1857 led to a great improvement in the general health and conditions in the Army. With the help of Dr. Farr she made a brave attempt to put the classification of diseases on a surer foundation and to institute a uniform system of hospital statistics.

During her long life Miss Nightingale necessarily corresponded or came in contact with many leaders of the medical profession. This lively study of the voluminous material now available and hitherto unpublished shows how great her influence was, and how much she was helped by the doctors with whom she collaborated. It goes a long way towards helping to elucidate the complex character of this most distinguished woman of the Victorian era.

Readers who enjoyed the splendid biography by Cecil Woodham Smith must have wondered why the apparently healthy Miss Nightingale took to her bed for the last forty years of her life. Sir Zachary in the final chapter suggests a convincing solution to this curious problem.

WILLIAM BROCKBANK

The Royal Eye Hospital, 1857-1957. ARNOLD SORSBY. London: Royal Eye Hospital, St. George's Circus, S.E.1, 1957; pp. 24. Illustrated. 1s. 6d.

The influence of specialized eye hospitals on ophthalmic education is without doubt, and the short history of the Royal Eye Hospital, one of the four still existing, makes interesting reading.

Professor Sorsby is an historian and under the five headings (1) The Rise of Eye