

Book Reviews

narrative of medical events in his native area. The result is a lively account of early colonial practice, the epidemics affecting South Carolina, the controversies and achievements of inoculation for smallpox, the role of local physicians in the American Revolution and the contributions made by the South Carolina Medical Society. Waring had the unique advantage of a thorough knowledge of every stone, name, document and event of his native State. It is not surprising, therefore, that he has unearthed considerable new material, from an unrecorded Bill of Charleston mortality for 1755-6, to the account of the French physicians exiled from San Domingo, who settled in Charleston at the end of the eighteenth century. All this and the rich biographical section of over 150 pages will be very useful to the historian.

It could be suggested that the material might have been arranged in a more systematic way. Some historical analysis of South Carolina social conditions, particularly the effects of economics on plantation medicine, would have enhanced the value of the book. Despite this, the provincial flavour, crowded style and unadorned character of the work give to Waring's medical history of South Carolina freshness, interest and honest historical value.

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