

Book Reviews

Miller's papers, and a list of his publications.

Henry Miller was an exceptional man: a brilliant clinician and a talented administrator, but also a hedonist, a wit, a scourge, a gadfly, a *bon viveur*, patron of the arts, raconteur, and humanist. This multi-faceted personality accounts for the varied impressions he made on individuals, which are here revealed. Together they gave Newcastle a man to be proud of and hard to forget.

DESMOND KING-HELE, *Doctor of revolution. The life and genius of Erasmus Darwin*, London, Faber & Faber, 1977, pp. 361, illus., £12.50.

Erasmus, the grandfather of Charles, Darwin was, like Franklin, one of the intellectual giants of the eighteenth century, but hardly the greatest Englishman of the century as the author claims. Erasmus Darwin was a polymath, equally at home in science and technology as in the arts. He was an outstanding physician, biologist, and meteorologist; a founder of the Birmingham Lunar Society; a major poet praised by Coleridge, whom he influenced, together with Wordsworth and Shelley; and a technologist of steam, carriages, windmills, and a rocket motor.

And yet Erasmus is relatively unknown when contrasted with Charles. Being in clinical medicine, he advertised his accomplishments less and, unlike his contemporary, Dr. Johnson, did not have a Boswell. On account of such undeserved neglect, he is, therefore, well worthy of this excellent biography, prepared by a scientist in elegant style and with full documentation. Mr. King-Hele has carried out extensive research, including the use of new material, which together help to rehabilitate a figure who until now has been in declining favour and insufficiently appreciated.

JOHN GINGER, *The notable man. The life and times of Oliver Goldsmith*, London, Hamish Hamilton, 1977, 8vo, pp. xv, 408, illus., £7.95.

One wonders why yet further biographies of outstanding men are produced, when no new material is available. This one, however, is justified by the author's sympathy for Goldsmith, by his searching and shrewd analysis of him, and by the new ideas he puts forward. The account of Goldsmith's medical studies in Edinburgh is fuller than usual; one of his teachers was Alexander Monro (not "Munro" as given here), presumably *secundus*.

Mr. Ginger presents an excellent biography, accurately depicted in its historical setting and eminently readable. It will replace most of the previous books on Goldsmith which have attempted a popular account of him.

A. E. GUNTHER, *The life of William Carmichael M'Intosh, M.D., F.R.S., of St. Andrews (1838-1931). A pioneer in marine biology*, Edinburgh, Scottish Academic Press for the University of St. Andrews, 1977, 4to, pp. 214, illus., [no price stated].

The materials available for a biography of M'Intosh are legion, and the author has made good use of them, not only to depict the long and full life of an outstanding Scottish scientist, but also to contribute to the history of marine biology, of the University of St. Andrews, and of St. Andrews Medical School. The text is well documented, there are ten plates of illustrations, and several appendices containing useful data. On the whole, this is a book to consult rather than to read, and it will be

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of interest to historians of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century biology, and of the evolution of science in Scotland.

JOHN L. WEST, *The Taylors of Lancashire*, Manchester, [the author], 1977, 8vo, pp. 134, illus., £1.50 + postage (paperback). (Obtainable from: 11 Half Edge Lane, Eccles, Manchester).

An excellent account of a remarkable medical family, based on extensive research into manuscript and printed sources. It extended over six or seven generations, from James Taylor (1708/10–1777) of Whitworth to Herbert Coupland Taylor (1855–1891), with, in addition, twenty-five members who practised medicine, although not all in Lancashire. The book is well printed, and its illustrations include several portraits. There is, however, no index.

In view of the family's contributions to bone-setting, it deserves to be better remembered, and the author has provided the means by which this can now be achieved. It is not only a contribution to the history of British orthopaedics, but also to provincial medicine. It is to be hoped that it may inspire others to investigate similar medical dynasties.

OLIVER S. HAYWARD and ELIZABETH H. THOMSON (editors), *The journal of William Tully, medical student at Dartmouth 1808-1809*, New York, Science History Publications, 1977, 8vo, pp. xxiv, 88, front., \$15.00.

William Tully (1785–1859) was a pupil of Nathan Smith and a graduate of Yale and the Dartmouth Medical School. His diary is here reproduced with scholarly documentation, a 'Foreword', and an 'Essay on William Tully'. It is a mine of fascinating information concerning the teaching and practice of medicine in New England at the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries. The book is elegantly produced and represents an important contribution to the history of American medicine. The editors and others associated are to be congratulated on the production of an excellent work.

C. T. ANDREWS, *The dark awakening. A history of St. Lawrence's Hospital*, Bodmin, Cornwall, St. Lawrence's Hospital, 1978, 8vo, pp. xii, 276, illus., £5.50.

Dr. Charles Andrews, senior physician to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary for thirty years, traces the history of the Bodmin Asylum with historical skill and literary talent, from its origins in 1820 to the coming of the National Health Service. He styles it ". . . Cornwall's greatest social experiment of the century . . ." (p. 42), and his account of it is based on a great deal of local material. However, it is far from parochial and Dr. Andrews is able to place the growth of the hospital in its national as well as its county setting. His book can, therefore, be recommended as an important contribution to the history of English provincial medical history.

JUAN ARECHAGA MARTINEZ, *La anatomía española en la primera mitad del siglo XIX*, Granada, University of Granada, 1977, 8vo, pp. [viii], 244, illus., 375 pesetas.

The first part deals in general with publications on anatomy 1800 to 1854, and in