

### Book Reviews

medicine to the present day, and in the first volume these deal mostly with periods, individuals or groups: primitive magical medicine; archaic (pre-Hippocratic) medicine; Hellenistic medicine; Galen; Byzantine medicine; Arabic medicine; etc. Lectures 17 to 19 cover modern medicine, 1800+, including a brief consideration of the future (pp. 612, 643), and the twentieth lecture is on history itself and the writing of it, with reference to medical history. At the beginning, the first two lessons discuss why medical history? and which medical history? where the author brings forward cogent reasons for the student knowing something of the historical background to the medicine he is learning.

Throughout, Professor Lichtenthaeler writes in a lively style and his material is well systematized. Moreover, there is ample reference to ideas, events, influences, pressures, advances, and such like that were external to medicine, so that a balanced picture of medical advancement, in the context of its time, is achieved. Some of the illustrations follow this tendency and many are not to be found in other books on the history of medicine. Thus both the text and its supporting illustrative material are mostly new products, for the author has happily avoided copying extensively from his predecessors, a defect exceeding common in this type of book. In the text there are references occasionally to authors; the titles of their books and journal articles are listed on seven pages at the end of the second volume. Naturally most of the material is in German, but other languages are represented.

The German-reading student is, therefore, presented with a most attractive and useful textbook and sourcebook. However, although it may be suitable for German medical students, if it were in English it would be too long, except for those few with a special interest in medical history. The others would prefer a short history, and of these Professor Ackerknecht's is by far the most popular. Nevertheless, Professor Lichtenthaeler's volumes would be of great value to those participating in credit courses, in background reading for higher degrees, and to all those whose research leads them to seek a brief survey of a period in the history of medicine. For all these the book can be highly recommended, and the benefits for the English reader will be twofold: an increased knowledge of both medical history and German. A supplementary volume containing a full bibliography, notes and a postscript will follow, if demand for it is sufficient.

K. BRYN THOMAS, *The development of anaesthetic apparatus. A history based on the Charles King Collection of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland*, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications for the Association, 1975, 4to, pp. x, 268, illus., £12.00.

It is not always clear why certain medical specialists are more interested in the history of their subject than others, but it is well known that several outstanding anaesthetists have made important contributions to the history of their speciality and to medical history in general. Dr. Bryn Thomas, Consultant Anaesthetist to the Royal Berkshire Hospital Reading is a typical example of this kind of person, and he presents here an excellent survey of the evolution of the technical and instrumental aspects of anaesthesia.

The Collection of A. Charles King (1888–1966) is now housed in the Royal College

### Book Reviews

of Surgeons of England, and Dr. Thomas's catalogue of it was published in 1970. The present work, however, is much more than an expanded and more detailed list of the holdings. It is a history of anaesthetics from the point of view of the pieces of apparatus used and the pioneers who devised them. There are sections on ether, chloroform, and nitrous oxide anaesthesia, on insufflation and endotracheal apparatus, on mixed vapours, analgesia, and on face-masks and drop methods. Each has a historical introduction and is beautifully illustrated (there are more than 230 illustrations altogether), and the well-written text is supported by many references to the literature. Although the author is dealing primarily with individual examples in the Collection he does compare them with contemporary pieces elsewhere which adds a useful comparative dimension. In view of the fact that most anaesthetic apparatus carries the name of its inventor this book will allow those interested to read a description of the original and an account of the man whose eponymous name may be in everyday use. When convenient he will then be able to examine the piece in the Collection.

There is no other catalogue in the history of medicine akin to this one for it acts as a history of anaesthesia and of instrumental ingenuity, and at the same time is a scholarly guide to the artefacts themselves. It will be received enthusiastically by all those interested in the history of anaesthetics and by historians of medicine in general. Curators of museum collections, medical and non-medical, can take it as a prototype for the production of similar guides. The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland are to be congratulated on their wish to have an inventory in this enlightened form, and also for selecting Dr. Bryn Thomas to produce it. He has produced a new kind of book and set high standards of excellence. The Collection, and therefore the book, does not proceed beyond World War II, but recent acquisitions will, it is hoped, make a further survey necessary. This will be received with equal indebtedness.

LLOYD C. TAYLOR, jr., *The medical profession and social reform, 1885–1945*, New York, St. Martin's Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. [vii], 168, \$12.95.

The title of this book should be *The American medical profession . . .*, because no other country is mentioned. It deals with the physician as a social reformer as characterized by the early professors at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, by Richard C. Cabot at the Massachusetts General Hospital, by campaigns for social medicine ranging from those against tuberculosis to those in support of better medical education, by Alice Hamilton and industrial reform, by Frances Bradley and child care and rural reform, by World War I and public health, by the 1920s and the fate of social medicine, by the new deal for American medicine in the 1930s, and finally by World War II which produced further social medical reform.

Although much of the material presented is already known, the author writes well and documents his data carefully. His theme is echoed in the last sentence: the quest for social justice by a “. . . band of men and women who through their training, practice, and research in medicine discovered new ideals to enrich the spirit of American democracy.” As a survey of the social aspects of American medicine in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries it will serve as a useful summary.