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described the changes wrought by disease in organs as 'the fruit of diseases' rather than their cause. This fruit he saw as 'the effect of a first cacochymia' . . . a depraved state of the humours, or altered chemistry.

Thus the author brings us to a final glimpse of modern molecular medicine in the genetics underlying the production of abnormal haemoglobins. And lest we should, for one rash moment, feel complacent about twentieth-century achievements in medicine he leaves us with the warning; 'All theories have a life-history. They start tentatively, grow piecemeal, and slowly became mature. Then they successfully handle new facts and also have considerable predictive value. But sooner or later a discrepancy appears between facts and theory. Then the theory will become modified, perhaps will entirely disintegrate, to be succeeded by something new.' *Sic transit gloria mundi!*

KENNETH D. KEELE

*Science and the Renaissance: An Introduction to the Study of the Emergence of the Sciences in the Sixteenth Century*, by W. P. D. WIGHTMAN (Aberdeen University Studies No. 143-4), Edinburgh and London, Oliver & Boyd, 1962, 2 vols., pp. xvi, 327; xix, 293, illus., 42s. each volume.

This is a work which will please everybody who has any concern for the history of science and medicine. The author, who is responsible for teaching the history and philosophy of science in the university of Aberdeen, has obviously rejoiced in the wealth of early scientific literature preserved in the libraries of the university. He has read in it both widely and deeply and has presented us with the results of his researches in a manner which shows that he has brought to his reading a learning and judgement, a nice discrimination and imaginative insight which is by no means common in works of this kind. The first volume contains the discussion of the subject; the second is a *catalogue raisonné* of the early printed books in the Aberdeen library, with informative and penetrating annotations on the individual works. Each volume may be read (and purchased) independently of the other, but the reader who denied himself either volume would be missing a great deal.

At least one-half of the first volume is occupied with the medical and biological sciences, the cultural and general scientific background having already been laid in the earlier chapters. The presentation, which has nothing didactic about it, owes little to other modern histories but is closely linked to the original documents (the printed books) in which the emergence of these sciences is traced. The contributions of Vesalius and Paracelsus are discussed most judiciously, but the many lesser figures who worked at similar problems before them are not ignored and the significance of their work is brought out in a way which provides a refreshing example of how the history of medicine and science should be written, not as mere chronology, with a mass of names and dates, but as a thoughtful appraisal of the ideas and influences which contribute to the mainstream of advance.

This book is in every way a worthy tribute to the memory of the scholar-physician, Dr. Duncan Liddel, whose own magnificent library of sixteenth-century medical and scientific books was bequeathed to the university when he died in 1613. It is the nucleus of the collections described in the second volume and is especially rich in the books of Paracelsus. To it have been added other special collections, notably those of John Gregory, Alexander Read, Sir John Forbes, and others, including a special donation from the Luton Hoo Library of the Earl of Bute. The result is a library of which any

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university might be proud and which, as Dr. Wightman says in his 'Guide to the Bibliography', builds up a background to the science of the Renaissance. Those who read these volumes would wish to have more of them and will envy the students who are so fortunate as to have Dr. Wightman as their guide.

F.N.L.P.

*The General Infirmary at Leeds*, vol. 1, *The First Hundred Years, 1767-1869*, by S. T. ANNING, Edinburgh and London, E. & S. Livingstone, 1963, pp. xii + 107, 46 illustrations, 30s.

The General Infirmary at Leeds was founded in 1767, and what is now referred to as the Old Infirmary served, with additions and alterations, until 1869, when the New Infirmary on the present site came into use. This volume thus covers almost exactly the first hundred years of the Institution's history, and it is hoped that the second volume will appear in time for the bicentenary.

The story is attractively told. It is not presented entirely chronologically, but rather as a series of semi-independent essays. Thus the first chapter deals with the early beginnings, and stresses that what was visualized from the outset was no mere parochial institution but a true General Infirmary, drawing patients from an extensive area. Later chapters describe the buildings, the consultants, early medical education in Leeds, the nurses, the patients, and so on; and clear pictures are presented of a century's development in each of these spheres. Yet somehow the pictures are so skilfully blended that one never loses sight of the fact that what is essentially being unfolded is the history of an institution as a whole. This is not interrupted by biographical details, the intention being to furnish these in an appendix to Volume II. Most of the other detail is so well chosen and so skilfully presented as to enhance the feeling that one 'was there' at the time. Such, for instance, is the description of the difficulties in airing the water-closets, or the report to the Board that 'A very acceptable present of eighteen coloured views in the Holy Land, for suspension in the wards, was received from Mr. S. Clapham'.

Of the figures encountered in the book the one that emerges most clearly is that of William Hey (the First). We encounter him at one of the meetings of 1767 that led to the establishment of the General Infirmary, and later as one of the originally appointed surgeons, as the only medical member of the first Building Committee, as directing the fixing of lightning conductors on the first extensions to the Old Infirmary, as (in 1774) supervising the fixing of an oil lamp (to replace candles) on the staircase, as one of the founders of a medical society and medical library, as a regular attender at weekly Board meetings, as a surgeon in busy private practice and yet always with time for his hospital patients, as the author of *Practical Observations on Surgery* (1803), as the inventor of the well-known saw for skull operations, as one of the early lecturers on anatomy in Leeds, and ultimately as one of the founders of the Medical School there. It is ironical now to reflect that William Hey possessed no qualification by examination.

Altogether this is a most interesting and readable book. It appears accurately documented, though surely it is a slip to say that the Park Street building (1865) was 'the first in this country to be erected expressly as a Medical School'. The Old (Surrey Street) Medical School in Sheffield, designed and built as such, was opened in 1829.

J. G. MCGRIE