

Book Reviews

Die Klumpfußlehre der Hippokratiker, translated and edited by MARKWART MICHLER (*Sudhoffs Archiv*, Suppl. 2), Wiesbaden, Steiner Verlag, 1963, pp. 64, illus., D.M. 10.

Clubfoot has been recognized from the earliest times in literature, art, and medicine. A rational approach to its management, however, has had to await the advent of such technical aids as radiography. Nevertheless, clinical descriptions by our medical forebears have a strikingly modern ring about them. This paperback in the *Sudhoffs Archiv* series bears eloquent testimony to this.

The author, Markwart Michler, has made a new translation into German of the original Greek text of Hippocrates on the subject—*de articulis*, cap. 62. This is followed by an equally erudite translation of Galen's commentary (Book 4, chapters 1–14, Kühn's edition). There are thirteen illustrations.

Both the theoretical and practical aspects are then discussed, stress being laid on the relatively good results achieved by conservative methods using a bandage or crepis (*χηρπις*).

The interesting point is made that long-continued compression from swathing the infant's limbs, or constant lying in a bad position in its cot, may be an aetiological factor in the development of clubfoot—antedating Sir Denis Browne's views on this important aspect by some two thousand years!

There is a table of contents, a glossary of Greek technological terms both Hippocratic and Galenic, and a list of sources from Aristophanes to Xenophon. There is no index—an unfortunate omission, but the text is liberally, almost lavishly, bestrewn with footnotes, and references, virtually without exception German in origin—a tribute to the author's patience and scholarship.

For the Greek scholar and the orthopaedist this small book will provide much interesting reading.

I. M. LIBRACH

A History of Scientific and Technical Periodicals: the Origins and Development of the Scientific and Technological Press, 1665–1790, by DAVID A. KRONICK, New York, Scarecrow Press, 1962, pp. 274, \$6.50, 65s.

This study was originally presented as a doctoral dissertation at Chicago University Graduate Library School. The author sifted 300 titles from four well-known lists of periodicals (including that by Garrison published in 1934), and categorizes them under headings such as 'Substantive', 'Society proceedings', 'Abstract journals', 'Review journals', 'Collections' and 'Almanacs'. There is also a chapter on bibliographies. The overlapping nature of the journals fitted into these categories makes the author's task difficult: which he admits (p. 135), without recognizing that this is a condemnation of the book's arrangement. It is hard to discern a clear purpose behind this book, and certainly there is nothing which could not have been accomplished in tabular form and with far less commentary. Many tables are provided but they seem to concentrate on proving already well-attested facts, e.g. Germany's predominance in periodical publishing. Tables 5 and 10 (pp. 91 and 114) are incorrectly numbered. The index is deficient. There are numerous inconsistencies in the rendering of titles which, coupled with the above faults, lead one to suspect poor proof-reading. The style is very unhappy.

E. GASKELL