

Book Reviews

Anatomical Eponyms. Being a Biographical Dictionary of those Anatomists whose Names have become Incorporated into Anatomical Nomenclature, with Definitions of the Structures to which their Names have been Attached and References to the Works in which they are Described, Second ed., by JESSIE DOBSON, Edinburgh and London, E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd., 1962, pp. 235, frontis., 30s.

When Miss Dobson first compiled this book she had two objectives in view: (1) a biographical dictionary of anatomists associated with eponymously named structures in the human body, with descriptions of the structures named after them, and (2) the preservation of a terminology which, despite its historical associations, is threatened with extinction by attempts at standardization. In the period that has elapsed since the publication of the first edition in 1945 there has been little change in the official attitude. Authorities continue to recommend the suppression of eponymous nomenclature and as recently as 1955 the International Anatomical Nomenclature Committee's report stated that eponyms should not be used in the official nomenclature of anatomy. Such terms are still in use in clinical medicine and in surgery.

The scope of Miss Dobson's book is explicitly described in its title. It is a valuable and reliable reference work which may be regarded as the definitive authority on the subject, since no new anatomical eponyms are now likely to be introduced. The second edition includes a prologue setting out the case for eponymous nomenclature.

L. T. MORTON

Die Vorgeschichte der Berufung von Edmund Lesser an die Charité, by M. STÜRZBECHER and G. WAGNER, Kiel, Lipsius & Tischer, 1962, pp. 87, 6 plates.

This book appears as volume VII of a new collection of monographs sponsored by the North West German Dermatological Society and devoted to the history of dermatology. Of these the fifth and sixth volumes may be particularly mentioned: the former by Gustav Wagner, professor of dermatology at Kiel University, on the contribution of the Hanover court physicians to dermatology in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; and the latter a translation of Fracastor's poem on *Syphilis* in well-composed blank verse by E. Seckendorf with an introduction by W. Schönfeld and biographical notes on Seckendorf and his substantial work in the history of medicine, with an account of his terrible fate under the Nazi regime. The present volume makes available documentary material concerning the establishment of a model university clinic for skin and venereal diseases towards the end of the nineteenth century—material that is of general interest, particularly to the historian of medical education. It pivots around the remarkable figure of the first full professor of dermatology in Berlin, Edmund Lesser (1852–1918).

WALTER PAGEL

Ophthalmology, by BURTON CHANCE (Clio Medica series, vol. xx), New York, Hafner Publishing Co., 1962, pp. 240, 6 illus., 18s. 6d.

This is a reprint of a little volume that first appeared in 1939 when it was published by Hoeber of New York. It is in no sense a history of ophthalmology, for of the 219 pages more than 150 are devoted almost exclusively to the developments that began with the nineteenth century, and much of this is given to relatively contemporary events, particularly in the United States. It is, however, an interesting and useful introduction to a specialty which still lacks an adequate large-scale history in English.

ARNOLD SORSBY