Book Reviews

Edinburgh, has collected in this volume a number of historical, medical and philosophical essays which will appeal to many readers. Scientists will find special interest in the following papers: 'Surgeon Apothecaries and Physick Gardens', which tells of the days when botany was more closely linked with medicine; 'The Way of the Investigator', a dissertation on research; 'The Pursuit of the Infinitely Small', treating of the development of microscopy from Zacharias Janssen and Galileo onwards, and including the other pioneers, Malpighi, Leeuwenhoek, Swammerdam, Hooke and Grew; 'Ancient and Primitive Drugs', another tribute to the botanists, to which may be added for the benefit of pharmacologists, 'A Hundred Years of Chloroform'. The general reader, also, will enjoy the following essays: 'Dr. John Brown, "Rab", and "Marjorie", 'which gives an accurate account of the short life of Marjorie Fleming, 'the youngest immortal in the world of letters'; 'Dr. Francis Adams of Banchory', a profound Greek scholar; 'Coryat's Crudities', a continental tour in 1608; 'In quest of the witch-doctor', based on a visit to Africa; 'Religio Medici; a tercentenary tribute'; and 'Sherlock Holmes and Medicine', which extols the fog, hansom cabs and the furniture of 221B Baker Street with Holmes and Watson awaiting the expected client.

Introductory papers are: 'The Search for a Philosophy of Medicine' and 'On Writing a History of Medicine', experto crede. The other essays are cameos of medical history, and as examples may be mentioned, 'Harvey in Space and Time', and 'John Hunter: Surgeon and Naturalist'. The title of the book is appropriate, for like the two-faced Roman god, Dr. Guthrie looks to the past as well as to the future.

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