

News, Notes and Queries

i codici Marciani con note autografe di Hieronymus Fabricius ab Aquapendente', *Anat. Anz.*, Jena, 1909, xxxv, 338-48). A renewed interest in them has now been awakened by Dr. Ugo Stefanutti, of Venice, who has reproduced eighteen hitherto unpublished specimens in the current *Rassegna Medica*. There they are reproduced in full colour from the originals, which are oil paintings done by some of the finest Venetian painters of the day under the direction of Fabricius and from his own dissections. They total 167 and are bound in nine folio volumes and Dr. Stefanutti intends to publish the complete series.

THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF SURGERY, 1937-52

The American Board of Surgery has played an important part in raising the status and qualification of the surgeon-specialist in the United States, and its history is a part of the history of surgery in that country. An interesting account of the first fifteen years of its existence, written by Dr. J. Stewart Redman, the Secretary-treasurer, has just been published by Lippincott.

MEDICAL WRITING

The International Record of Medicine, published by MD Publications Inc. and edited by Professor Félix Martí-Ibáñez, has for some time been publishing occasional symposia on special topics, and two of the more recent are on medical writing. The first of these (1955, CLXVIII, 609-75) had as contributors Henry Sigerist, Hans Selye, Hugh Clegg, Walter C. Alvarez and the editor himself, and in the second, published in November 1956, the editor was joined by Russell L. Cecil, Morris Fishbein, John F. Fulton, Joseph Garland and Douglas Guthrie. Some of these distinguished men have kept strictly to the technical points to be observed in preparing and presenting papers on medical topics. Others offer us wise comments on clear thinking, literature and the arts. Very occasionally the discussion is marred by the implied assumption—too often met with—that the doctor is a kind of mechanical marvel which has to be humanized by adding as 'artificial trimmings' the attributes which are assumed to be natural in other educated persons. Sigerist, who was a 'whole man' if ever there was one, hit the nail on the head when he began his very illuminating essay (which deserves a place in any anthology), 'I am not quite sure that there is such a thing as medical, chemical, physical or agricultural writing. There is good writing and bad writing, no matter what you write about. . . .' For the reader who is groping towards this undoubted truth and for the 'medical writer' who is properly concerned with the technicalities of his task these essays will be stimulating and rewarding in many ways.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

The first volume of the proceedings of the 14th Congress of the History of Medicine, which was held at Rome and Salerno in September 1954 under the presidency of Professor A. Pazzini, has now been published. The number of papers included in the 534 pages of this first volume are too numerous to mention in detail, but the three main themes of the congress, which was one of the best attended since the war, were (i) Medicine as a means of international understanding; (ii) The contribution of medicine towards the advance of civilization; (iii) The School of Salerno.