

Book Reviews

After the War Maclure continued his career as a surgeon at the Alfred Hospital and became renowned both for his diagnostic judgment and surgical skill as well as for his outstanding qualities as a teacher. From 1929 to 1936 he was Medical Representative on the Dental Board of Victoria and was for a time Chairman of the Dental Post-Graduate Teaching Committee.

Although due for retirement in 1943 he continued on the Alfred Hospital Staff until the end of World War II. He suffered a stroke in 1947 and died in 1956.

M. L. VERSO

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE AUSTRALASIAN MEDICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

On 22 November 1963 the Australasian Medical Publishing Company celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a Ceremony of Commemoration in Sydney. The occasion also marked the fiftieth year of publication of the *Medical Journal of Australia*, a title suggested fifty years ago by Sir Henry Newland, C.B.E., D.S.O. who happily was able to attend the meeting and presented to Sir Cecil Colville of the Australian Medical Association the Gold Key to the Headquarters of the Association. A full report of the celebrations has been published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

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Sir John Simon 1816–1904 and English Social Administration, by ROYSTON LAMBERT, London, MacGibbon and Kee, 1963, pp. 669, frontis., 63s.

Although a legendary figure to most doctors in any field of medicine and to everyone in the field of public health, Sir John Simon had not, until the publication of Royston Lambert's magnificent treatise, been the subject of detailed examination. In one way, this curious deficiency has been disastrously unfortunate, since much that was vital to such a study has been lost or destroyed—some as recently as the Second World War. It is sad to read that the official papers covering Simon's years of office at the Privy Council and Local Government Board as well as his own private papers at St. Thomas's Hospital suffered or were destroyed in the blitz. In another way, however, the delay has been more than usually fortunate, since it has meant that a scholar of outstanding ability has sifted the surviving documents, 'pitifully few' as they have proved to be, with remarkable skill, presenting not only the life of a man spent selflessly in public service, but much more—although the author largely disclaims this—a history of public health from 1848 to 1876.

The objectivity of Lambert's treatment of so much that was controversial in Simon's life is equalled only by the perspicacity with which he has discovered the origins of his greatness and his undoing. In the inexorable syllogism of Lambert's writings John Simon is even greater than legendary accounts have made him out to be; for the reader sees him playing new and hitherto relatively unexplored roles in local government, State medicine and the development of social administration.

With so little to work upon, Lambert paints a most vivid and convincing picture of Simon's personality—his almost maniacal devotion to duty, his versatility, scholarship, love of children and humanity at large, his honesty and openness of mind, and