

Book Reviews

E. J. R. BURROUGH, *Unity in diversity. The short life of the United Oxford Hospitals*, Abingdon, [privately printed for the author by Burgess], 1978, 8vo, pp. x, 282, £4.95.

The Radcliffe Infirmary was opened in 1770, but this book deals only with the period from 1948 when the United Oxford Hospitals group was created. Mr. Burrough was formerly Administrator to the Hospitals (1951–1969), and he has divided his account mainly according to professional activities in them. He writes well and his book provides an attractive yet detailed story, with accounts of all the more important individuals who have helped to further the reputation of an already famous hospital. The problems have been the same as those encountered by other teaching hospitals in Britain, and the inclusion of more comparative material would have added depth to the book and diluted its parochialism, even if some of the detail would have had to be omitted. The author's intimate knowledge of events and of the people involved in them has allowed him extra insight into situations that were at times complex, and his book is, therefore, the more authoritative. As a contribution to the history of the British hospital service, of the National Health Service, of medical education, and of provincial medicine, it is to be warmly welcomed.

JUDITH WALZER LEAVITT and RONALD L. NUMBERS (editors), *Sickness and health in America. Readings in the history of medicine and public health*, Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 1978, 4to, pp. ix, 454, £6.30 (paperback).

Thirty reprinted papers are collected together in two main groups: 'Medical practice and institutions', including theory, practice, therapeutics, education, image and income, institutions, and allied professions; 'Public health and personal hygiene', including epidemics, sanitation, hygiene, reform, and politics. Each of these twelve parts has a brief editorial introduction. There is also a fascinating pictorial essay on sickness and health in America covering eleven pages, a 'Guide to further reading', and an index.

An anthology of this kind is always useful as a convenient reference book and as an aid to teaching.

GORDON HARRISON, *Mosquitoes, malaria and man: a history of the hostilities since 1880*, London, John Murray, 1978, 8vo, pp. ix, 314, illus., £8.50.

The malarial parasites were first discovered in human blood in 1880 by Lavanan, but it was not until 1897 that Ross observed them maturing in mosquitoes. A year later he was able to trace the life cycle. The author here describes the successive eras of mosquito control and presents details previously little known; he can however, hardly be said to be the first to tell the story. He gives a very fair survey and is not reticent in pointing out failures and errors, nor does he avoid the problem of recent increases in malaria in Asia. The political, economic, social, military, national, and other background factors are all considered, and altogether Dr. Harrison has written an accurate, fully documented, and most readable account of a crusade that is by no means over. However, the achievements of the chemotherapy of malaria, both prophylactic and active, are omitted, and the book concentrates on the war waged against the vector.