

Book Reviews

Gynecology and Obstetrics, by E. M. JAMESON, New York and London, Hafner Publ. Co., 1962, pp. 170, 5 illus., 18s. 6d.

The Clio Medica series of Primers on the History of Medicine, first published in 1936, are now being reprinted. In this volume, the author has compressed into 170 pages, the history of obstetrics and gynaecology from early Egyptian times to the present day. Under such circumstances it is inevitable that padding and explanations have been reduced to a minimum, with the result that without some previous knowledge of the speciality, and the technical terms employed, the 'going' would not be easy even to the 'intelligent' layman to whom the editor makes reference in his preface. From the point of view of those particularly interested in obstetrics and gynaecology, however, whether consultant or general practitioner, the wealth of information is impressive and absorbing. The author is to be sincerely congratulated both on his selection of facts for publication, and on his method of presenting them.

H. J. MALKIN

K. W. Monsarrat, A Tribute on the Occasion of his goth Birthday, privately printed, 1962, pp. 78, 2 illus.

For many years Mr. Monsarrat was one of the best-known and distinguished surgeons in Liverpool, and it was a happy thought which led his friends and former colleagues to compile and publish this choice tribute of affection and esteem. It is pleasing to note that the academies of learning at which he was trained have also been anxious to do honour to their distinguished son.

The little volume contains a short biography, extracts from Mr. Monsarrat's surgical, philosophical and poetical writings and a full bibliography of his numerous publications. We note that the latest publication, *Cosmological Theories*, was published this year, surely a record for a nonagenarian.

All who have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Monsarrat will be delighted to possess this book and will join in the good wishes and congratulations it is meant to convey. May we all join the contentment implied in his verse:

See the procession of the striving year
Making no plaint of failure or of fear
Praising the day and holding moments dear.

ZACHARY COPE

Some Human Oddities: Studies in the Queer, the Uncanny and the Fanatical, pp. 198; and *Very Peculiar People: Portrait Studies in the Queer, the Abnormal and the Uncanny*, pp. 223, by E. J. DINGWALL, New York, University Books, 1962, \$6 each.

One of the most peculiar features of these books is the failure of the publishers to indicate that they originally appeared in London, under a different imprint, more than a decade ago. The author, according to the blurb, is 'one of the world's greatest and most renowned psychical researchers'. He has set out to throw new light on eleven strange personalities—mediums, saints, pornographer, religious innovator—by analysing their actions rationally and evoking sufficient parallels in human experience to give credence to his explanations. What in fact the reader encounters is long meandering biographical accounts couched in an uncomfortably chatty style. The bibliographies, on the other hand, are first class and prove the author's intimate acquaintance with the literature.

E. GASKELL.