

Book Reviews

early age—he was thirty-one—on the basis of wide reading, clear thinking, and enlightened liberalism, before he had had anything but casual experience of the mentally ill. To this small band belong Alexander Crichton whose double-decker *Inquiry into the nature and origin of mental derangement*, 1798 appeared when he was twenty-five, and John Conolly whose *Inquiry concerning the indications of insanity*, 1830, published when he was thirty-six, was highly praised and much quoted by Ray. It is a pertinent reflection also for the modern practitioner, and one which illustrates how widely based psychiatry is not only in the biological sciences but also in the humanities and the social sciences, that Ray was able to contribute a book of 480 pages to its forensic aspects while J. C. Prichard's standard contemporary medical *Treatise on insanity*, 1835 ran to no more than 483 pages.

Dr. Overholser, an authority on the subject, has written a graceful introduction and supplied admirable editorial notes in the text. He has reprinted also two sections from the fifth and last edition of Ray's book of 1871, dealing with the McNaughton Rules and the duties of medical witnesses. There are a few minor errors, for instance: Falret appears as 'Fabret', Conolly has two n's in the index and George Dale Collinson is missing from it although frequently cited in the text. For the sake of clarity Ray's 'Pritchard' might have been uniformly rendered 'Prichard' and his reference to Haslam's tract on *Medical Jurisprudence, as it relates to insanity* dated correctly 1817. In addition to the English edition published at London 1839 which Dr. Overholser mentions, there was also a Scottish one published in the same year by Thomas Clark, 'Law Bookseller' of Edinburgh, which is further evidence of the importance and influence of Ray's *Treatise* on both sides of the Atlantic.

RICHARD HUNTER

Histoire de la Médecine et du Livre Médical à la Lumière des Collections de la Bibliothèque de la Faculté de Médecine de Paris, by ANDRÉ HAHN, PAULE DUMAÎTRE, and JANINE SAMION-CONTET, Paris, Editions Olivier Perrin, 1962, pp. 433, 263 illus. (8 col.), 102 NF.

With a presentation which is modelled on that of Laignel-Lavastine's *Histoire de la Médecine*—certainly the most lavishly illustrated and superbly produced history of medicine ever published—this original work traces the history of medicine and of medical literature from the beginning of printing to the middle of the nineteenth century. It is based entirely on the rich collections of the library of the Paris Faculté de Médecine, of which Dr. André Hahn (who is also President of the Société Française de l'Histoire de la Médecine) is Chief Librarian.

With the exception of a few specialized articles written mostly by medical men, no comprehensive work on the illustrated medical book has ever been published, although Dr. Geoffrey Lapage's recent study of *Art and the Scientist* does give some attention to medical illustration. Dr. Hahn's work is certainly of a different order and will be as valuable to the scholar and the bibliophile as it will be attractive to the amateur for its wealth of illustration from original sources. The quality of these (and their documentation) will show up some of the less scholarly illustrated histories of medicine at their true worth. Among more than 250 illustrations are to be found anatomical and surgical plates, engraved frontispieces, title-pages, portraits, and charming vignettes, some of them in colour and many never before reproduced.

Written in a clear and lively style, the text is equally valuable. The subject is treated by centuries, the survey of the history of medicine in each century being followed by that of the development of the printed book as exemplified in the most important medical books of the period. It is clear that great care has been taken to

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ensure the accuracy of the bibliographical references, which includes the library's press-marks for all the books cited. The important bibliography at the end of the book will be much used by those who wish to pursue this subject further.

A special word of praise should be given to the publishers (Olivier Perrin) for the flawless production where the beauty of the printing types matches that of the magnificent illustrations. This is a book which should be available in every library, but even more it is a book to own and to browse in as sheer indulgence and with no thought of self-instruction.

F. N. L. P.

Charles V. Chapin and the Public Health Movement, by JAMES H. CASSEY, Harvard Univ. Press, and London, Oxford Univ. Press, 1962, pp. 310, frontis., 46s.

This book gives a vivid picture of a man whose devotion to duty as a health officer altered the whole concept of public health in the United States. Charles Chapin's open mind and strong critical sense led him in forty years through every advance in municipal sanitation from garbage collection to healthy dirt, and from the vague filth ideas on communicable diseases to their real causes through laboratory investigation.

He started his work in Providence City in 1885 with no background education for his self-imposed duties; none was available. He saw he must build his own structure on the scaffolding suggested by the Public Health movement in Great Britain and by his own experience, and for which he had seen the urgent need when he sensed as a student and an interne the scepticism and the plea for observation that lay behind the new teachings of W. H. Welch and W. C. Gorgas on laboratory research. His task was not made any easier by the conservatism of his fellow citizens and of the local practitioners, many of whom had little basic knowledge and poor ethical standards. But Chapin overcame resistance by gentle persuasion and personal example.

His first objective in a city with poor and dangerous sanitary arrangements was pure air, pure water and pure soil, but with developing ideas on the value of isolation and fumigation in the control of such diseases as scarlet fever and diphtheria he was not afraid to publicize his changing beliefs. He could then say that the true public health official was not the head of a cleansing department, that there was a difference between measures for comfort and measures for health, and that personal hygiene would do far more than 'the expiatory sacrifice of disinfection'.

The mention of a few of his accomplishments will show his wide interests and unbounded energy. He set public health administration and legislation on the sure foundation of hard-won experience; he set up the first City Bacteriological Laboratory in the United States; he collected vital statistics in the interests of the new epidemiology, instituted medical inspection of school children, and proposed the first governmental programme of care for the sick poor, which he urged should be combined with preventive medicine. By 1916 he could report on the public health conditions of the country, and so was able to advise, when America entered the First World War, on healthy food for the civilian population, and on the measures for possible control of tuberculosis, venereal disease, pneumonia and meningitis in the military camps.

Showers of honorary degrees and medals made no difference to him; the man who had become a benefactor to his city, his country and to mankind remained the old-world gentleman of quiet charm. Charles V. Chapin was indeed a great man.

R. R. TRAIL