

Book Reviews

the others being hardly worth recording. In view of the omissions it is odd that so much space is given in a guide to medical biography to such men as Keats, Sir Thomas Browne, and John Locke, whose fame owes little to their medical achievements.

Most of the biographies listed are out of print: what a pity, therefore, that those paperback editions now on the market were not indicated. The compilers could have got this information from the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, 1961, 49, 72–82.

The confused motives behind this compilation—for it attempts to serve the general reader, the librarian, and the student of medical history—are probably responsible for its failings. The price is far too high for what is little more than a reading-list.

E. GASKELL

Purkyně-Symposion, edited by RUDOLPH ZAUNICK, Nova Acta Leopoldina, Bd. 24, No. 151, Leipzig, D. A. Barth, 1960, 230 pp., port., illus.

Johannes Evangelista Purkyně (1787–1869) was among the leading physiologists of the nineteenth century. He was a pioneer histologist, being the first to use a microtome, and is remembered eponymously in a number of anatomical and other terms. After studying medicine at Prague he took the Chair of Physiology at Breslau in 1823 and in 1850 the similar Chair at Prague. He was a naturalist in the widest and best sense of the term as well as poet and Czech patriot. This is the man whose life and work was the subject of the symposium organized by the German Academy of Natural Scientists and the Czechoslovakian Academy of Science and held at Halle in October–November 1959. The proceedings of the symposium have now been edited and published as a special issue of the Nova Acta Leopoldina by Dr. Rudolph Zaunick. Among the distinguished contributors are several who have been responsible for the definitive edition of Purkyně's works (*Opera Omnia*, 7 vols., Prague, 1918–58) to which the present volume is a natural and most valuable supplement. As an example of the authoritative studies of Purkyně's work may be cited the papers on Purkyně as a physiologist (Kruta), as histologist (Frankenberger), and as pharmacologist (Sajner), while Professor Matoušek refers to documents in the Prague and Berlin archives which throw new light on Purkyně and his work, and Professor Kruta prints in an appendix letters to Purkyně from Johannes Müller. This is clearly a volume which no student of the history of physiology or the natural sciences in the nineteenth century can afford to ignore.

F. N. L. P.

The Historical Development of British Psychiatry, vol. 1, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries, by DENNIS LEIGH, M.D., F.R.C.P., London, Pergamon Press, 1961, 277 pp., 70s.

Dr. Leigh has rendered a service by compiling a lively record of British views and achievements in psychiatry during a chequered period of its growth. Compared with what has been written about the corresponding changes during the same time in France and Germany, historical surveys of development in this country are meagre and ill-balanced. Dr. Leigh has set out to redress this, using a biographical and bibliographic method. He brings us in touch with some men of very diverse abilities and character, who have influenced psychiatric thought. It is always open to question whether this approach gives a better understanding of what happened than would a more abstract appraisal of the pressure of social forces and ideas, but Dr. Leigh