

Book Reviews

conditions were often primitive. Dr. Ridgway Trimble put stress on the fact that 'the mortality and morbidity of combat casualties can be reduced to a minimum only when mature, highly trained surgeons are available in forward areas of combat'.

This volume contains many good things but is much too long. It can only be a reference book, but from it might be distilled a very much shorter and readable account that would be permanently useful.

There are 365 illustrations, but many of them are not of good quality.

ZACHARY COPE

St. Mary's Hospitals Manchester 1790-1963, by J. H. YOUNG, Edinburgh and London, E. and S. Livingstone, 1964, pp. viii + 124, 31 pl., 30s.

The author deals with his subject from the point of view of bricks and mortar and the minute books of the Board of Management. He has made a mighty good job of it. The doctors merely flit through the pages, though Daniel Dougal, one of the best of them all, is sadly missing. There are no biographical notes and except in the last chapter the author does not take us into the operating theatre or on a ward round. Child-bed fever rarely comes into the story except for a midwife who in 1830 lost sixteen cases out of thirty deliveries at a time when the remaining midwives delivered three hundred and fifty without a single case of infection. The background is most interesting. Starting as a breakaway from the local Infirmary the hospital soon went into action. Its midwives were paid three shillings a case. They were forbidden to accept any fee or gratuity from any patient upon pain of expulsion. Financially the hospital barely existed for very many years and when in 1847 there was a disastrous fire the bill was as follows:

34 firemen at 3s.	.	.	.	.	.	£5	2	0
4 firemen at 4s. 6d.	.	.	.	.	.		18	0
11 firemen at 6s.	.	.	.	.	.		3	6
20 assistant firemen at 3s.	.	.	.	.	.		3	0
109 assistant firemen at 1s. 6d.	.	.	.	.	.		8	3
4 horses at 3s.	.	.	.	.	.		12	0
Use of Engines	.	.	.	.	.		10	0
							£31	1	6

A note was added to the effect that a youth, William Singleton, had his arm broken while working one of the machines—for which he was allowed 18s. as compensation. The story is full of difficulties and quarrels, but almost always there was progress in the right direction and a large new maternity block is due to be built this year. The last chapter describes the work of Charles Clay the father of ovariectomy in Europe, C. J. Cullingworth's pioneer operations on inflamed Fallopian tubes, and the classical Manchester operation for prolapse devised by Donald and improved by Fothergill.

W. BROCKBANK

James Douglas of the Pouch and His Pupil William Hunter, by K. BRYN THOMAS, London, Pitman Medical Publishing Co., 1964, pp. 229 + xvii, illus., 35s.

Dr. Bryn Thomas's book is a notable landmark in medical biography. Hitherto, the details of James Douglas's life have been scanty. Munk, in *Munk's Roll* (vol. II, p. 77),

Book Reviews

gave a good but brief account, but says little of his subject's antecedents. James was the second son of the twelve children of William and Joan Douglas of Baads in West Calder, twelve miles distant from Edinburgh. They were a talented family, four of the sons being elected Fellows of the Royal Society, and three of these—James, John and George—qualifying in medicine.

James Douglas was born in 1675. He may have received his medical education at Edinburgh University, but he took the degree of M.D. of Rheims in 1699. He settled in London and soon won high repute as an anatomist and obstetrician. He was elected F.R.S. in 1706 and an Honorary F.R.C.P. in 1721. A cultured physician, being a good botanist and zoologist, a philologist and an authority on Horace, his literary tastes made him acquainted with authors and poets, and Pope mentions him favourably in the *Dunciad*. Equally, Cheselden, Mead, William Cowper and Sir Hans Sloane spoke highly of Douglas's professional attainments. In 1727 Douglas, with Sir Richard Manningham, was asked to investigate the imposture of Mary Toft, 'the rabbit-breeding woman'. How they unmasked the fraud is related in Chapter 6. Douglas attended members of the Royal family, and George II granted him a pension of £500 in 1735 for attendance on his daughter, the Princess of Orange.

Douglas advocated supra-pubic lithotomy and described the operation in 1726. In 1730 he published his most important work: *A Description of the Peritonaeum*. This includes an account of the structure, 'the pouch of Douglas', which has brought him eponymous fame. He was, also, a great teacher and contributed many papers on anatomy and physiology to the Royal Society. Dr. Thomas gives a full bibliography of his publications. Douglas died in 1742.

William Hunter was Douglas's resident pupil for a few months. At his master's death he was given his unpublished manuscripts and drawings now preserved in the Hunterian Collection in the University of Glasgow. Dr. Thomas has carefully studied this collection of papers and has made an annotated catalogue of it which is included in this excellent biography.

A. S. MAGNALTY

A History of Electrocardiography, by GEORGE E. BURCH and NICHOLAS P. DE-PASQUALE, Chicago, Year Book Medical Publishers, 1964, pp. 309, illus., 75s.

The stimulus to the production of this history of electrocardiography was the centenary in 1960 of the birth of Einthoven. It might also be seen as a review of the first fifty years of electrocardiography, for it was about 1910 that the new instrument came into clinical use. The history also coincides, therefore, with the life-spans of many cardiologists who are still living, and personal memory will add zest to their interest in the stories here told.

The book is divided according to different aspects of the subject; commencing with a brief general review of the story of electrocardiography it proceeds to a series of short biographies of the 'great men' of its past. It then passes on to the various 'periods' of development and application of the technique, ending with vector-cardiography. This account is supplemented by a chronological summary of main events, and a full chronologically arranged bibliography.

The introduction of letters from those responsible for new techniques, such as that from Dr. F. Wood describing his part in discovering the value of chest leads, is a happy touch. And such sorry tales of confusion as that caused by the appearances of left and right bundle branch block carry a lesson beautifully demonstrated in the