

Book Reviews

RUDOLPH E. SIEGEL, *Galen on the affected parts. Translation from the Greek text with explanatory notes*, Basle, Karger, 1976, 8vo, pp. x, 233, S.Fr.90, \$34.75 (paperback).

The late Dr. Rudolph Siegel (1900–1975) is well known for his previous contributions to Galenic studies. In this, his last, he presents a translation of Galen's influential and important treatise written at the end of the second century A.D. Its six books attempt to base the treatment of internal disease on a topographical diagnosis, and the search for the primary causation of each disease is the central endeavour throughout. At times this engenders a certain amount of inevitable obscurity, due to Galen's elaboration of the humoral theory and his physiology. In the first two books he deals with general pathology and the clinical features of disease. The next four are devoted to accounts of diseases of the various physiological systems of the body and to their differential diagnosis. The translation (pp. 15–197) is a competent one and textual notes are adequate (pp. 198–233). The author's brief introduction, however, contains information that scholars using this work will be already aware of; a more extensive discussion of Galen's concepts of disease, diagnosis and therapy as exemplified by *The affected parts* would have been more appropriate. There is a 'Table of topics' (pp. 6–13) which is useful for locating subjects.

Dr. Siegel has followed faithfully the Kühn edition of Galen's *De locis affectis*, which is notoriously inaccurate. To produce a definitive Galenic text will, admittedly, always be a lengthy process, but, nevertheless, perhaps this should have been the first phase of providing an English version, especially as there is already available an excellent French translation of this work by Daremberg (1856). At a time when we are becoming immune to high book prices, £17 for a paperback cannot go unnoticed.

MICHAEL GELFAND, *A service to the sick. A history of the health services for Africans in Southern Rhodesia (1890–1953)*, Gwelo, Rhodesia, Mambo Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. 187, illus., [no price stated].

Professor Gelfand, the eminent physician and historian of African medicine, has compiled an excellent and scholarly survey of the setting-up of a comprehensive health service for Africans. It begins with the occupation of Rhodesia in 1890 by the British South African Company, but almost immediately a sequence of events elsewhere brought forward a series of problems and set-backs: the Jameson Raid, the Boer War, local rebellions and the First World War.

Despite these, however, attacks on smallpox, leprosy, venereal disease, malnutrition and occupational disorders of miners had begun, and they continue with no little success today. A succession of tireless and inspired men and women made this possible, so that the most appropriate form of service was created and by 1953 firmly in operation.

As a remarkable story of devotion to a cause this book makes fascinating reading, and yet Professor Gelfand has seen to it that his data are fully documented. It is naturally of local interest, but at the same time it deals with problems and situations to be found elsewhere in the world. Thus an account of how these have been surmounted is of universal, as well as of parochial, concern.