

Book Reviews

Bernard's immortal classic has been translated into German in full. As he says, Bernard analysed as no one else before him the role of thought, ideas, and hypotheses in experimental medicine—hence the relevance and timeliness of this book to the problem of research today.

The translation is by Paul Szendrő with further biographical details and a commentary on the text by Roths Schuh. This commentary, although valuable, could be improved if in addition to the numerical sequence of the notes, the page on which they appear could be given as well for back reference. A complete bibliography by Rudolph Zaunick of all Bernard's works, as well as the references of other workers to him, whether biographical or otherwise, completes an excellent translation. The book is a handy size for the pocket, and the quality sturdy enough to resist the ravages of time. It is the thirty-fifth volume in the series Sudhoff's Medical Classics published by Barth of Leipzig under the aegis of Johannes Steudel and Rudolph Zaunick of the Deutschen Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina. It proves that even in East Germany genius does not go unrecognized, although it is somewhat surprising that the more enlightened West Germany did not think of it first!

I. M. LIBRACH

Préface d'André Vésale à ses Livres sur l'Anatomie, suivie d'une Lettre à Jean Oporinus, son Imprimeur, texte introduit, établi, et annoté par LOUIS BAKELANTS, Brussels, Editions Arscia S.A., 1961, 87 pp., frontis.

As the translator and editor points out, although the text of the classic work of Vesalius is now mainly of interest to the historians of anatomy, the preface to the book is a document of permanent value in the history of culture. In it Vesalius speaks as a man of the Renaissance, not provoking authority but putting it to the test of reason and experience. The original Latin is printed facing the excellent French version and there are ample notes and an index. This beautifully produced little book is in every way worthy of its subject.

F. N. L. P.

David Edwardes Introduction to Anatomy 1532. A facsimile reproduction with English translation and an Introductory Essay on Anatomical Studies in Tudor England by C. D. O'MALLEY and K. F. RUSSELL, London, Oxford University Press, 1961, 64 pp., 15s.

The first English Anatomy here beautifully reproduced and most competently and lucidly interpreted and translated, is still 'medieval' (Mundinian) in type, although antedating Vesalius' *Fabrica* by not much more than a decade. Yet the little tract is in its own way a product of the Renaissance and so is its author. For he belonged to the younger generation of physicians who were trained in Greek and 'if the pattern were followed, would turn to the Galenic writings on anatomy in the original language as well as to those of Hippocrates'. Indeed it was the author of the present tract, David Edwardes (c. 1502–42) who, having held the Chair of Greek at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, turned to medicine—interpreting Galen at Cambridge—practised at Oxford, Bristol, and in and around Cambridge. He was responsible for at least one dissection—and the present treatise. This, however modestly, established the tradition of anatomical studies in England, although 'its very brevity (it fills no more than fifteen small pages) must have made it virtually useless'. Yet it contains

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the first reference to human dissection in England and at least one personal observation (concerning a variation from the Galenic description of the emulgent veins). However, only one copy of the treatise is extant—that preserved in the British Museum—not because it was used up to the point of annihilation (like Vesalius' *Tabulae*); but probably because of a small edition and the appearance of the continental masterpieces of anatomy. These encouraged translation rather than the production of indigenous bigger and better books continuing the tradition started by Edwardes who died early and was not mentioned by any contemporary. All this goes far to show the importance of the publication under review for the study of the history of medicine, particularly the history of anatomy and medical education in England. The latter two topics are the theme of the scholarly introduction. To this we owe the refutation of the traditional statement that the first English anatomical book was Thomas Vicary's *A Profitable Treatise of the Anatomie of Man's Body* (1548) no copy of which has survived but which was republished in 1577. In spite of Vicary's merits, his book is but a copy of a medieval manuscript chiefly compiled from Henri de Mondeville (1304; first edition by Julius Pagel 1889)—a text that was also used for the pirated edition of Vesalius' plates by Geminus in 1553 and is preserved in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library. The reviewer feels that we owe a special debt of gratitude to the learned editors for having acquainted us with Edwardes as a figure of the Renaissance and the author of a treatise which on closer inspection may still reveal more points of interest than we have been able to mention.

WALTER PAGEL

Great Moments in Medicine, a collection of the first thirty stories and paintings in the continuing series *A History of Medicine in Pictures*, GEORGE A. BENDER; paintings by ROBERT A. THOM, Detroit, Parke-Davis, 1961, 275 pp., 30 col. plates.

This is a presentation in volume form of the well-known series of paintings with explanatory text distributed by Parke-Davis. Great care had gone into ensuring the accuracy of the facts presented and the text is most readable. Among the most successful 'great moments' treated is the first use of general anaesthetics. It is not for sale, but may be obtained on request from Parke, Davis & Company, Detroit 32, Michigan, U.S.A. (Att. Mr. Geo. Bender).

F. N. L. P.

A Select Bibliography of Medical Biography, compiled by JOHN L. THORNTON, AUDREY J. MONK, and ELAINE S. BROOKE, London (Library Association bibliographies, No. 3.), 1961, 112 pp., 27s. 6d. (20s. 6d. to Members of the Library Association).

This collection of fifty-seven collective and over seven hundred individual biographies covers the lives of between three and four hundred medical men. The two sections are arranged alphabetically, by author in the first case and by biographee in the second.

The selection is limited to works in English, an unusually insular approach to a subject bibliography and one which results in the exclusion of admirable biographies of such important pioneers as Thomas Bartholin and Robert Koch. As there is a further limitation to monographic works no indication can be given of the published biographies (in English) of many other famous medical men which have appeared only as long articles in learned journals. The result is a list which has little usefulness for the medical historian, the biographies of the famous already being well known and