

## Book Reviews

logue, the work is one which should be possessed by all those interested in the great Belgian anatomist. It contains far more fact than fancy, and the list of Vesaliana is an important one. Perhaps in 1964, which will mark the four hundredth anniversary of the death of Vesalius, a more extended and carefully prepared version of the present catalogue could be issued. It may be recalled that plans for a great celebration in 1914 were never realized due to the outbreak of the First World War, and similar hopes for the year 1943 were likewise frustrated.

C. D. O'MALLEY

*National Tuberculosis Association, 1904-1954.* RICHARD HARRISON SHRYOCK, William H. Welch, Professor of the History of Medicine and Director of the Institute of History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, New York: National Tuberculosis Association, 1957; pp. 342. \$3.50.

This book is sub-titled as a study of the Voluntary Health Movement in the United States, but it contains more than the titles imply that are of interest to the medical historian. Its early chapters detail the history of tuberculosis in pre-twentieth-century Europe and America. This part of the book is outstanding. Too many short histories of tuberculosis are written with a sad Victorian romanticism giving poetical personalities and bizarre medicaments an unwanted dingy notability. This aspect of medicine is an historian's delight and one experienced too often. Here instead is an outline of the thought determining treatment in the time before Koch's discovery, related of course, to the main advances in the pathology of chest disease.

Of particular interest is the account of tuberculosis, and its social background, in the America of some sixty years ago. In 1904 the National Tuberculosis Association was formed and soon became mainly responsible for the broad principles governing the treatment and the prevention of the disease. There also followed the Sanatorium Society (Trudeau being the first President of the Association), State Societies, close relationship with the Red Cross, and the growth, common to most successful organizations, to international height with attendant conferences and authority. Regard was given to non-medical help for the raising of funds, administration and welfare. Popular then as now was the Christmas Seal; an idea of a Danish Postmaster in 1903, it spread rapidly throughout Europe and later became established as a source of income in America. Similar, but smaller, designs like the "Easter Stickers" were also rewarding.

The latter part of the book is concerned with the policies, plans, theory and practice of the Association. The age of marvel in chemotherapy has put much of this work, some of it only a few decades old, into history; the eradication of the stigma of consumption, tuberculin, collapse measures, isolation of sputum positive patients, preventoria, B.C.G. The great work this organization has done in settling many of these problems does not mark its passing, for new difficulties are upon it, those of bacterial resistance and of changing epidemiology. It is also serving as an example for other voluntary bodies and showing how voluntary, local, and State aid can co-exist in harmony, and more important, when they should act together.

A goodish bibliography and many photographs of the heroes of phthisiology complete Professor Shryock's work. Perhaps a better title for it might have been "An History of Tuberculosis in America" for such it is, and an excellent one at that.

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