

## Book Reviews

of a *Louisiana Swamp Doctor*, and now, more than a hundred years later, the work has been edited and reprinted, together with a life of the author, hitherto unknown.

Very few of the amused readers of the original essays or book knew that the 'old' doctor, relating his adventures as Dr. Tensas, who, when ten years old, ran away from home to work as cabin boy on the river steamers, until, at the age of sixteen he became apprenticed to a doctor, and eventually graduated in medicine, was really Henry Clay Lewis, a young doctor for whom life was certainly no joke, and who, after only four years of strenuous practice, met his death by drowning in 1850 as he and his horse attempted to ford a swollen river on the way to attend a case of cholera. How he saw the amusing aspect of such a career is evidence of his heroism, and it is a story worth recalling. There is a strange antithesis between the real life of Henry Clay Lewis, so skilfully revealed by Professor John Q. Anderson, and the autobiography of Madison Tensas, who practised under such adverse conditions and yet was able to laugh at his own misfortunes.

Professor Anderson tells us that when, ten years ago, he set out to solve the mystery of the Louisiana Swamp Doctor, he imagined that he was on the trail of an elderly physician, so deceptive was the pose maintained by Tensas. Professor Anderson has not only solved the mystery, but has added new information regarding such pioneers as Daniel Drake, one of Tensas's teachers, with much else in the 356 Notes, indicating extensive and painstaking research. In the remainder of the book, Lewis is left to speak for himself, with a phraseology so vivid that it is not surprising to learn that he 'exerted a tremendous influence on Mark Twain'. We warmly commend the work to all who are interested in medical history and folk-lore.

DOUGLAS GUTHRIE

*History of Pharmacy in Britain*, by LESLIE G. MATTHEWS, Edinburgh and London, E. and S. Livingstone, 1962, pp. 427, 45s.

Since Bell and Redwood's book in 1880 on the history of pharmacy in Britain, there has been no serious attempt to deal fully with this large subject. Urdang has a brief account, and Barret, Wall and Thompson have all dealt with some aspects of pharmacy, notably the London Society of Apothecaries. Over the years, however, there has been published in various journals a large number of important articles which do add considerably to our knowledge. Mr. Matthews has now brought all this material together and presents, for the first time, a full and properly balanced assessment. Aided by sound documentation and elegant prose we can follow the evolution of the profession of pharmacy step by step, from apothecary-spicer of the fourteenth century to the chemist-druggist of the eighteenth century and the pharmaceutical chemist of today. Other chapters deal with the great changes in the pharmacopoeias, materia medica and the methods of dispensing. In such a vast field there may be some aspects not treated as fully as some readers would like—for example the present reviewer would have liked more on the evolution of the chemist-druggist and the trade in drugs in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and something on the P.A.T.A. and the growth of professional feeling in the twenties and thirties of this century; but such is the excellence of the book, and its bibliography, that it will stimulate and help others to follow up such specialized topics.

R. S. ROBERTS

*La Historia Clinica. Historia y Teoria del Relato Patografico*, by PEDRO LAIN ENTRALGO, Barcelona, Salvat Editores, S.A., 1961, pp. xvi, 668.

The second edition of this book in a decade is sufficient to emphasize the impact of

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this unique work upon the medical public. The author, Professor of the History of Medicine at the University of Madrid, makes a careful description of the problems that the sick man has offered to the physician, and furthermore, the interpretation that the physician has given to the problem through the ages.

The doctrines described in this volume have been spread mostly through Spanish-speaking countries and influenced greatly medical art in many latitudes, because it deals with the basic problem faced everywhere by the general practitioner.

Professor Lain covers many great moments in the medicine of the past and sharpens his analysis of the pathography described in the *Consilia* or that based on the pathology of Bichat or Laennec up to the present day. However, due to the refinement of his analysis there are moments, for instance when describing Temkin's studies on the Hippocratic clinical cases, where it is not easy to distinguish whether it is the essence of the doctrine or mere Greek semantics which are being discussed.

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