

Book Reviews

The intervals of time between the five selected 'landmarks' are approximately the same—two centuries—apart from that between the first and second, which is nearer twelve, but the tempo of change gets progressively quicker. Galen's *Hygiene* is an aristocratic work, telling the leisured classes of the second century of our era, who had the time to follow its precepts, how they could enjoy the most health, suffer the least sickness, and grow old most comfortably. The *Regimen Sanitatis Salernitanum*, on the other hand, is a popular work of the Middle Ages, written in verse, but also concerned exclusively with personal hygiene. Cornaro's *Discorsi della Vita Sobria* are a product of the Renaissance, when men were much occupied with the quest for long life. This, according to Cornaro, could be achieved simply by moderation and sobriety. With the eighteenth century came a change from this purely personal, to a broader, social idea of hygiene, typified above all in Johann Peter Frank. His grandiose conception of a complete 'Medizinische Polizey' foreshadowed the Welfare State, but the methods he visualized, those of a despotic paternalism, presupposed conditions that, even by the time of his death, had largely ceased to exist. The Industrial Revolution has brought about a completely different kind of society in which the pattern of medical care is undergoing the changes described in the final lecture. Medicine has become less the healing art and more the means of promoting health.

Dr. Sigerist tells this fascinating story in an interesting way and with an emphasis on its social and cultural aspects, which is surely exactly the kind of thing in the mind of Charles Heath Clark when he founded this lectureship.

C. C. BARNARD

The Royal Northern Hospital, 1856–1956. The Story of a Hundred Years' Work in North London. ERIC C. O. JEWESBURY, M.A., D.M.(OXON.), M.R.C.P. With a Foreword by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, K.G. London, H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd., 1956. Pp. xi+ 157. Illustrated. 17s. 6d.

In May 1856 Mr. Sherard Freeman Statham, Junior Assistant Surgeon at University College Hospital, was removed from his office following a charge of unbecoming language and conduct brought against him by his senior colleague John Erichsen. The charge, which was not denied, was that he had exhorted a patient to whom chloroform was being administered to fill his 'bloody chest', and that he slapped the bare buttocks of another man who was about to be operated upon for anal fistula. It is questionable whether such conduct would be punished so severely today, but however that may be, Statham's expulsion from a teaching post proved to be a

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blessing for the poor of North London. In 1856 the parts around King's Cross were very badly provided with hospital accommodation, and to remedy this Statham set up at his own expense an independent institution which was opened on 30 June 1856 under the name of The Great Northern Hospital.

The founder died two years later, having contributed more than £1,400 to the early expenses of the hospital, and seen it fully established with a lay committee and a medical staff, which in 1857 already included such well-known men as J. Copland, F. C. Skey, C. Handfield Jones, John Gay and W. S. Savory. The work of the hospital increased at such a rate that additional accommodation had to be provided as early as February 1857, and after that the story is one of continuous progress and achievement. This story of ever-increasing demands and services, successive moves and rebuildings, recurrent financial crises, benefactions and new departments has much in common with the histories of most hospitals, but Dr. Jewesbury also tells of developments which were peculiar to the Royal Northern and which give his book a special interest. The hospital was a pioneer in the provision of modern out-patient departments and of pay beds and wards. The latter development led to a storm of protest from the local general practitioners and had wide repercussions.

The hospital has had a very distinguished staff. Prominent among its physicians were Dr. Robert Bridges, later to become Poet Laureate, Sir Andrew Clark, Sir Samuel Wilks, Lord Horder and Sir William Willcox; and on the surgical side it had William Adams, Sir William Savory, the two Allinghams, C. B. Lockwood, Sir George Makins and Sir Lancelot Barrington-Ward.

Dr. Jewesbury has handled his material with great skill, and the result is that a book which might have been of very circumscribed interest is in fact one which may be read with profit by everyone interested in the development of the British voluntary hospital system. A special word of praise is due to the illustrations, which are admirably chosen, and to the excellent index.

W. J. BISHOP

Samuel Smiles and his Surroundings. AILEEN SMILES. London, Robert Hale Ltd., 1956. Pp. 206 Illustrated. 18s.

Samuel ('Self Help') Smiles was a medical graduate of Edinburgh and Leyden who, after some years of practice in his native place, Haddington, East Lothian, 'among 3,000 healthy Scotsmen and in competition with seven other doctors', abandoned medicine for literature, and became the author of best-sellers which exerted an almost incredible influence on the people of his age. Like his contemporary, Trollope, he managed to combine authorship with a great deal of routine business, acting for many years as