

## Book Reviews

of what scholarship at the highest level has been able to do for a text of first importance in the history of anatomy, physiology and indeed of scientific medicine as a whole.

At the same time the text is one of the most difficult documents which we have, and not a few passages still leave room for speculation as to reading and meaning. It is quite impossible to go into any detail within the scope of a book-notice—the reviewer already dealt with some such passages elsewhere ('An Harveyan Prelude to Harvey', *Hist. Sci.*, 1963, 2, 114–25) and hopes to discuss them further at a later date and in a more comprehensive context. Here and there the reader will miss a reference (concerning an allusion made by Harvey) which can be found elsewhere, but such gaps are compensated for by the large number of references which can be found only in the present edition—an exemplar of scholarship, understanding and literary criticism answering a vital *desideratum* of some eighty years' standing.

WALTER PAGEL

*Shakespeare's Son-in-Law: John Hall, Man and Physician*, by HARRIET JOSEPH, with a facsimile of the second edition of Hall's *Select Observations on English Bodies*, Hamden, Connecticut, Archon Books, 1964, pp. 15, 328, illus., 72s.

The commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth gave us many opportunities in 1964 of exploring the background of the great dramatist's life and times. There are still many personal details of his life as writer, husband and father of which we are ignorant and we should like to know much more than we can ever know of his relations with his son-in-law, John Hall. This young man came to Stratford around the year 1600 and settled there as a medical practitioner. He was a Cambridge M.A. but no record can be found of any medical training or qualification. Despite this, he seems to have pleased his patients and in 1607 he married Shakespeare's elder daughter Susanna, then twenty-four. One child, Elizabeth, was born of this marriage, in their first home at Hall Croft. After Shakespeare's death in 1616, they moved to New Place where John Hall died in 1635 and Susanna in 1649. It made little or no difference to Hall's practice of medicine that his life was so uneventful and that it was passed away from the centres of medical teaching. Hall treated his patients in much the same way as a Stratford practitioner would have done two centuries earlier or two centuries later, and in much the same way as his contemporaries were treating their patients in London or Paris or Bologna. Like many of his contemporaries, he kept records of his cases in abbreviated Latin, and one notebook containing 178 case-reports was translated, edited and published by Dr. James Cooke, another Warwickshire practitioner, in 1657, a corrected second edition appearing in 1679. It is this now very rare book which is reproduced in facsimile in this volume (without Cooke's own additional cases which were added to the original).

The text is introduced by Mrs. Joseph who not only recapitulates all that is known of Hall and his place in the Shakespeare family but also provides most useful notes on the patients and on the conditions for which Hall treated them.

F. N. L. P.

*Surgery in World War II: Activities of Surgical Consultants*, vol. II, Editor-in-Chief, Colonel JOHN BOYD COATES, JR.: Editor for Activities of Surgical Consultants, B. NOLAND CARTER, Washington, Office of the Surgeon-General, 1964, pp. 1062, 365 illus.

The first of the two volumes dealing with the activities of the surgical consultants described their work 'in the office of the Surgeon General, the extension of the system

to the Service Commands in the Zone of Interior and its operation in the U.S. field armies overseas. This second volume deals with the activities of the surgical consultants on the theater level overseas.'

The volume is divided into two parts, the first concerned with Europe, the second with the Pacific and Asia. More than half of the first part (356 pages) is occupied with a lively account of the activities of Colonel Elliott C. Cutler, and is based largely upon his personal diary. There are many quotations from the diary, some of which perhaps the writer can scarcely have expected to be quoted, e.g. on 29 January 1943 we read 'I am getting worse at this (keeping up the diary) just when it is getting interesting'; and again on 19 April when the journey to Russia is mentioned: 'This is something I have been working for for four weeks and indeed feel partly responsible for. . . . Now I am getting somewhere! We're to go in about three weeks in May. . . . I'm happy for a moment!'

The account given by Colonel Cutler enables one to understand the many difficulties he had to contend with, what patience he had to show in endeavouring to obtain necessities, and how often his best efforts were frustrated. He co-operated with the surgical consultants in the British Army in a very friendly and helpful way, and was delighted to be made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

The Senior Consultant in Surgery (Colonel Zollinger) mentions some of the difficulties experienced by consultants. 'There was no tangible table of organization and no precedent as to authority and responsibility. . . . Under ordinary circumstances they (the consultants) were a necessary nuisance, especially when they justifiably sought promotion to the rank of colonel; but they were absolutely essential when casualties were high, when morale of the soldier was low, and when morbidity and mortality were unsatisfactory.' We are given no explanation for the curious fact that '50 per cent of the senior consultants had developed poor health as a result of their service and had been sent back to the Zone of Interior'.

Colonel Loyal Davis Davis had great difficulty in persuading the High Command of the importance of special experts in neurological surgery, but he persisted till he had improved the service. At Oxford he found that the majority of cranio-cerebral injuries among the United States soldiers in the United Kingdom were 'due to accidents met with while driving jeeps at night under circumstances which were not strictly military missions'. This was soon put right. He also made a trip to Russia and reports that 'without oxygen and at 13,000 feet one of the mission became cyanotic, another had periods of apnoea, and a third developed scintillating scotoma, could not remember names, and had a homonymous hemianopsia'. Fortunately they all recovered before they reached Teheran. One gathers that they were almost overwhelmed by the hospitality of the Russians.

Other contributors deal with the consulting work in ophthalmology, orthopaedic surgery, otolaryngology, plastic surgery, urology, and anaesthesia.

The second part of the volume (pp. 625-1000) concerns the varied experiences of the consultants in the Eastern Zones where the problems were exceedingly difficult on account of the tremendous distances involved and consequent complications of supply and transport. Here Dr. Eaton was in no doubt as to the value of the consultant: 'The consultant system, begun in World War I, and enlarged in World War II, is the key to improving the quality of medical service rendered to patients. Particularly in the more forward area, the average young surgeon is loaded with more responsibility than he had been trained to assume . . . only by the visiting consultants can he learn of his errors and of new methods and procedures.'

There was more need for initiative and improvisation in the Eastern Zone where

## Book Reviews

conditions were often primitive. Dr. Ridgway Trimble put stress on the fact that 'the mortality and morbidity of combat casualties can be reduced to a minimum only when mature, highly trained surgeons are available in forward areas of combat'.

This volume contains many good things but is much too long. It can only be a reference book, but from it might be distilled a very much shorter and readable account that would be permanently useful.

There are 365 illustrations, but many of them are not of good quality.

ZACHARY COPE

*St. Mary's Hospitals Manchester 1790-1963*, by J. H. YOUNG, Edinburgh and London, E. and S. Livingstone, 1964, pp. viii + 124, 31 pl., 30s.

The author deals with his subject from the point of view of bricks and mortar and the minute books of the Board of Management. He has made a mighty good job of it. The doctors merely flit through the pages, though Daniel Dougal, one of the best of them all, is sadly missing. There are no biographical notes and except in the last chapter the author does not take us into the operating theatre or on a ward round. Child-bed fever rarely comes into the story except for a midwife who in 1830 lost sixteen cases out of thirty deliveries at a time when the remaining midwives delivered three hundred and fifty without a single case of infection. The background is most interesting. Starting as a breakaway from the local Infirmary the hospital soon went into action. Its midwives were paid three shillings a case. They were forbidden to accept any fee or gratuity from any patient upon pain of expulsion. Financially the hospital barely existed for very many years and when in 1847 there was a disastrous fire the bill was as follows:

34 firemen at 3s.	.	.	.	.	.	£5	2	0	
4 firemen at 4s. 6d.	.	.	.	.	.		18	0	
11 firemen at 6s.	.	.	.	.	.	3	6	0	
20 assistant firemen at 3s.	.	.	.	.	.	3	0	0	
109 assistant firemen at 1s. 6d.	.	.	.	.	.	8	3	6	
4 horses at 3s.	.	.	.	.	.		12	0	
Use of Engines	.	.	.	.	.	10	0	0	
							£31	1	6

A note was added to the effect that a youth, William Singleton, had his arm broken while working one of the machines—for which he was allowed 18s. as compensation. The story is full of difficulties and quarrels, but almost always there was progress in the right direction and a large new maternity block is due to be built this year. The last chapter describes the work of Charles Clay the father of ovariectomy in Europe, C. J. Cullingworth's pioneer operations on inflamed Fallopian tubes, and the classical Manchester operation for prolapse devised by Donald and improved by Fothergill.

W. BROCKBANK

*James Douglas of the Pouch and His Pupil William Hunter*, by K. BRYN THOMAS, London, Pitman Medical Publishing Co., 1964, pp. 229 + xvii, illus., 35s.

Dr. Bryn Thomas's book is a notable landmark in medical biography. Hitherto, the details of James Douglas's life have been scanty. Munk, in *Munk's Roll* (vol. II, p. 77),