

Book Reviews

the occasional bitter controversies. The modern idea of a classification system which could keep pace with the rapid development of the sciences begins with the scheme devised by H. W. Eppelsheimer in 1929, based on constant elements in literary form (e.g. reference works, textbooks, essays) and treatment (historical periods, geographical factors), and which was applicable to all sciences. Dr. Mann shows how this plan has been developed in compiling subject-catalogues for the institutes of the history of medicine at Frankfurt and at Mainz.

In essence an alphabetically classed catalogue has resulted. The system outlines an initial class on general medicine followed by forty-six classes arranged alphabetically (Anatomie, Augenheilkunde, Bakteriologie, etc.). Each class is subdivided 1 to 100, the first ninety divisions being the same in each class, representing those constant elements in literature, *not* subdivisions of the subject. The remaining ten divisions are for monographs on individual topics in each class, the topics being arranged alphabetically. (This double use of the alphabet permits interpolation of any new class or topic. Further, important topics can be pulled out and made into main classes.) An alphabetical index is provided of all subjects and topics. There is a notation, e.g. Anat. 39, Bakt. 98, which however is quite independent of the order of material on the shelves; a second symbol indicates location. In this way articles from journals and references to works in other libraries can be included. Thus the catalogue becomes a bibliography, facilitating the author's second objective. Both principles and methods deserve careful study and might well be adopted to advantage.

G. F. A. MARMOY

Joseph Lister, the man who made surgery safe, by FREDERICK F. CARTWRIGHT, London, Weidenfeld and Nicolson (Educational) Ltd., Pathfinder Biographies, 1963, pp. 128, 13 illus., 10s. 6d.

This admirable short life of Lister, written 'for young people', may be read with pleasure and profit by any serious person. Dr. Cartwright compresses in a small space the story of Lister's career and discoveries, describing examples of his researches and surgical operations. These descriptions are masterpieces of simple explanation. He also draws an attractive sketch of Lister's personality, not glossing over his slight defects of formality and unpunctuality. The book is well illustrated, but Lister's portrait appears only on the wrapper, which nine out of ten readers will throw away. But what *advocatus diaboli* tempted Dr. Cartwright to say that Lister was 'not a clever man and not a very good surgeon'? His whole story contradicts him.

W. R. LE FANU

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

BROWN, E. G., *Arabian Medicine*, Cambridge, University Press, 1962, illus., pp. 138, 21s. (\$3.95).

This book gives the text of the Fitzpatrick lectures delivered at the Royal College of Physicians in 1919 and 1920. It has been out of print for some time and is now reissued in this centenary year of the author's birth.

JEVONS, F. R., *The Biochemical Approach to Life*, London, George Allen & Unwin, 1963, pp. 184, 28s.

In this book Dr. Jevons presents biochemistry as a fundamental form of biology rather than as a complicated kind of chemistry, with the emphasis on biochemistry as a way of explaining the phenomena of life.