

Book Notices

History of urology, by L. J. MURPHY, Springfield, Ill., C. C. Thomas, 1972, pp. xiii, 531, illus., \$32.50.

The history of urology is probably more richly endowed with interest and colourful personalities than any other surgical specialty. Over the years it has been well recorded and documented by able historians. However, two authoritative texts on its early history have been long out of print, namely Ernest Desnos' *Histoire de l'urologie* (1914), and the American Urological Association's *History of urology* (1933).

Part 1 of Murphy's *History of urology* is the first English translation of Desnos' book, edited by a specialist who has expanded the subject matter to fill in omissions in the classical text. This part now covers urology from ancient times to the nineteenth century. The story of the catheter and man's long struggle with urinary stone are graphically unfolded. The history of cystoscopy has received much attention of late, although many histories of the development of the cystoscope are inadequate. The account here is comprehensive and clear.

The second part of the book deals with urology in this century. The reviewer is particularly interested in the history of uretero-intestinal anastomosis, and the thorough and well-illustrated record of this subject is a delight. Precedence in this as in other surgical fields is difficult to establish, but the author has been meticulously fair in his attributions. In the controversial field of surgical innovation for hydronephrosis a full and clear account is given.

The theories of aetiology of urinary stone and its surgical management are excellently reviewed. The thoroughness of presentation represents a lesson in urology from a tutor who has perceptively recorded the leading contributions of the last half-century. Here is a volume to be read with fascination by graduate students in the subject and a work of reference for teachers. It is a work of scholarly precision, colourfully written by a man who conveys the warmest interest in his subject. It is a great contribution to urology.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review.)

BELLA ARONOVITCH, *Give it time: an experience of hospital 1928–1932*, London, Deutsch, 1974, pp. 189, £2.50.

HANS HOLZER, *Beyond medicine. The facts about unorthodox and psychic healing*, London, Abelard-Schuman, 1974, pp. xii, 209, £2.25.

J. M. JIMENEZ MUNOZ, *Historia legislativa del cuerpo de médicos forenses*, Universidad de Valladolid, Seminario de Historia de la Medicina (Acta Historico-Medica Vallisoleitana, no.2), 1974, pp. 68, [no price stated].

W. S. MIDDLETON, *Values in modern medicine*, Madison, University of Wisconsin Press for the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association, 1972, pp. ix, 300, illus., £12.75.

S. NEEL, *Medical support of the U.S. Army in Vietnam 1965–1970*, Washington, D.C., Department of the Army, 1973, pp. xv, 196, illus., [no price stated].

E. TOPSELL, *The fowles of heauen or history of birdes*, ed. by T. P. Harrison and F. D. Hoeniger, Austin, University of Texas, 1972, pp. xxxvi, 332, illus., \$15.00.