

Book Reviews

Sir George Buckston Browne. JESSIE DOBSON, B.A., M.Sc., and SIR CECIL WAKELEY, B.T., K.B.E., C.B. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1957; pp. viii+143. Illustrated. 25s.

This book is more than the biography of a pioneer in urology and of a princely benefactor of medicine and science. It is the story also of a fascinating and eventful chapter in the history of surgery, and of many famous (and a few infamous) patients. His close friend for more than fifteen years, Sir Cecil Wakeley, and his co-author Miss Jessie Dobson, have skilfully enlivened and authenticated their narrative with extracts from Buckston Browne's autobiography, begun when he was over ninety; they were fortunate also in having had access to his case-histories. And what good reading their book makes! Its pages are replete with such illustrious names as T. H. Huxley, Charles Darwin, Erichsen, Sir James Paget, Sir Henry Thompson (versatile, close-fisted, impatient), Leander Starr Jameson, Thomas Woolner, Sir Henry Irving, Sir Andrew Clark, Sir Jonathan Hutchinson. There are also vividly intimate sketches of 'B.B.'s distinguished patients: Manuel Garcia, George Meredith, Robert Louis Stevenson, Ford Madox Brown, Theodore Watts-Dunton, Horatio Bottomley. Many good stories are told, and the numerous excellent illustrations are carefully selected.

The reader is left with astonishment that Buckston Browne succeeded in rising to the top of his profession and in acquiring a fashionable and lucrative practice, handicapped though he was by the lack of a higher surgical qualification and of a hospital appointment. Sir Harry Platt contributes a foreword, and Sir Hugh Lett writes a post script entitled 'Sir Buckston Browne as a surgeon—an appreciation'. The volume concludes with a list of Buckston Browne's publications and with an index. The index is not worthy of this scholarly, delightfully written, and historically important book: it is incomplete and not always accurate. 'Walsh' (also on p. 74) should be 'Walshe'; 'Leander Star Jameson' should be 'Starr'; one wonders also why he and Erichsen, Hutchinson and Alma-Tadema have been deprived of their titles?

W. R. BETT

The Evolution of Medical Education in the Nineteenth Century. CHARLES NEWMAN, M.D., F.R.C.P., Dean of the Postgraduate Medical School of London. London: Oxford University Press, 1957; pp. x+340. 30s.

This timely and truly excellent book is based on the Fitzpatrick Lectures delivered at the Royal College of Physicians in 1954 and 1955. It traces the evolution of medical education in Great Britain from 1800 against the background of developing medical science in Britain and in other countries. The book may be roughly divided into three parts. The first covers the ground from 1800 to the Apothecaries' Act; the second covers the period 1815 to 1858, and the last goes from the Medical Act to the end of the century.

The book opens with the picture of the medical profession in the early years of the nineteenth century and the way the student prepared himself for his chosen career. The irrelevant English way of teaching and examination is contrasted with the sounder Scottish system. The lag between medical progress and teaching which existed then as it does today is clearly illustrated.

Dr. Newman goes on to describe in great detail the various attempts at reform