

## Book Reviews

prefaces, and of these 'second thoughts' only that for *Certain Physiological Essays* is of medical interest. Four of Boyle's books, all written rather late in life, are wholly on medical topics, but Fulton's survey and analysis of the rest of his writings disclose the quantity of medical observation and opinion in the physical and chemical tracts. Elsewhere he drew attention in detail to the basic importance of Boyle's discoveries about compression and decompression towards the physiological conquest of flight.

The medical reader of this *Bibliography* will find such likely topics discussed as respiration, blood transfusion, 'vitiating sight', and 'salubrity of the air'. He ought also to study Boyle on 'The vulgarly receiv'd Notion of Nature', and 'The Usefulness of experimental Philosophy', should mark his thermometers, watch him observing air-bubbles in water, read his description of snow-blindness, consider his atomic explanation of odours, and taste his sea-water sweetened. On all such subjects Boyle's curiosity was insatiable, and his interpretations very seldom at fault.

W. R. LE FANU

*Orthopaedia*. NICHOLAS ANDRY. Facsimile Reproduction of the First Edition in English, London 1743. 2 vols. Philadelphia and Montreal: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1961.

*L'Orthopédie ou L'Art de Prévenir et de Corriger dans les Enfants les Difformités du Corps* was published in Paris in 1741 when its author was eighty-three years old. A further edition in French, often confused with the first, was published in Brussels in 1743, and in this year an English translation was published in London. The volumes under review are a facsimile of this translation, with a brief introduction.

The work gave Orthopaedics its name. Andry—mindful of Scévole de Sainte-Marthe's *Paedotrophia* of 1584 and Claude Quillet's *Callipaedia*, first published under a different name in 1656—compounded the Greek *Orthos* and *Paedion* 'to express in one Term the Design I propose, which is to teach the different Methods of preventing and correcting the Deformities of Children'.

Although in spite of his keen clinical perception Andry's pathology and pharmacy were those of the Middle Ages, he had an entirely fresh outlook upon the prevention and correction of deformities by principles that have since become fully established. In particular he understood active correction, which remains the keystone of physical treatment. He applied to this the remarkable observations of Leonardo da Vinci on equilibrium.

With the main work, was published Andry's thesis on *Whether moderate Exercise is not the best Preserver of Health*, advising such things as walking, riding, handball, football and tennis, and particularly dancing. He ascribed the benefits of taking the water chiefly to exercise. He abhorred corpulence, for which he advised not too much sleep, plenty of tea and coffee, abstention from chocolate and beer, moderation in food and drink, a great deal of walking and finally a most unappetizing concoction. He did not neglect the mind, and his psychological observations are sane, sound and sexless.

In the past, this classic of a prolific writer and contentious old man has been hard to come by. The publishers and prompters of the present facsimile have done a great service in making it available to all.

H. JACKSON BURROWS

*A History of Thoracic Surgery*. R. MEADE. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1961; pp. 933. £11.

Dr. Richard Meade is to be congratulated both on his imagination which stimulated him to write this book, and on the result. Thoracic Surgery, as a complete specialty, is

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still of recent origin, and it is particularly apt that its history should have been undertaken now, when a great deal of the advances which have been made are of recent memory, especially those in cardiac surgery. The tendency in the past has been to omit so much of the interest in the origins of new techniques, until a great deal of time has elapsed since their inception. Dr. Meade has certainly remedied this fault in this instance.

The amount of patience and labour that the compilation of this book has entailed will be appreciated by the thoughtful student, when he reads even the first page, which takes reference back to 3000 years B.C. Dr. Meade has spared no effort to get back to the origins of the subjects under discussion, and there follows, chronologically, the advances in our knowledge of the various pathological lesions and the technique for their treatment. Dr. Meade, by his diligence, has unearthed a great deal of factual knowledge which has been buried in forgotten journals.

The book is conveniently arranged under separate headings conforming to the separate pathological lesions, and at the end of each section is an extensive bibliography. The subject-matter is dealt with in a readable manner, but, as is to be expected, dealing with such a wide subject in the confines of one volume, the text is very compact, and consequently a certain concentration of effort is necessary in following the line of reasoning; the covering of the subject is, however, remarkably complete.

I am certain that those who read this book will not only derive much pleasure, but also a great deal of profit, and the student of this particular branch of surgery will value it also for its comprehensive bibliography.

CLEMENT PRICE THOMAS

*Disease and Destiny, a bibliography of medical references to the famous.* By the late JUDSON BENNETT GILBERT, with additions and an introduction by GORDON E. MESTLER and a preface by EMERSON CROSBY KELLY. Dawsons of Pall Mall, 1962: pp. 535. £6 10s.

This book is the outcome of the collection over a number of years by the late Dr. J. B. Gilbert of references in literature to the diseases of famous persons; it also includes references to descriptions of disease in many famous authors. It is a unique book which should help inquisitive inquirers towards the solution of two questions. First, to what extent does disease influence or control the destiny of an individual, and secondly how do great writers portray disease in their leading characters? There are, for example, ten pages of references (332 in number) under the heading 'Napoleon the First', and in the second category we find twelve pages, with 355 references, devoted to disease as portrayed in the works of Shakespeare. Under the heading 'Goethe' there are ten pages of references, while the literature devoted to Leonardo da Vinci occupies over six pages.

The breadth and depth of literature from which references are drawn is astonishing. Even minor publications are drawn upon and thereby the value of the work is increased. The entries are made chronologically under each heading. It is disappointing that the scope of the work does not permit the inclusion of persons prominent in the field of medicine or the medical sciences, though room has been made for the inclusion of 'medical truants' and for certain others who attended professionally to the needs of very important persons.

After the death of Dr. Gilbert the work was completed and brought up to date by Dr. Gordon Mestler who has also furnished a useful and explanatory introduction.