

Book Reviews

which arose from that situation are handled with skill. These are interspersed with papers on the conduct expected of the graduate pharmacist. The legal aspect of practice, in addition to more controversial subjects such as substitution and restrictive sales, is well covered. The reader outside North America will want to learn more than is already given in the papers depicting pharmacy in the United States at the end of the last century and his appetite will be stimulated by 'The Early Days of Pharmacy in the West' and in 'Chuck Wagon Therapy', in which the trailing of beef cattle in Texas and the South-West is vividly portrayed. Had the index to the book been extended the reader would have had his task made more easy.

To each group of essays or extracts under a collective heading, Dr. Doyle has added, for good measure, some fifty or more titles of books and articles as 'Additional Reading', proving that there is no shortage of material for those with the inclination and the backing of a well-stocked library to supplement their studies. In short, he has provided for all tastes and moods, and the pharmaceutical community can be expected to give the book a ready welcome.

LESLIE G. MATTHEWS

Medicine and The Navy, 1200-1900, volume IV, 1815-1900, by CHRISTOPHER LLOYD and JACK L. S. COULTER, London, E. & S. Livingstone, 1963, pp. 300, 13 illus., 50s.

Professor Lloyd and Mr. Jack Coulter have completed the fourth and last volume of *Medicine and the Navy* with commendable speed and have produced another collection of interesting, informative and in some cases remarkable essays. In support of this way of writing history they quote Gibbon to the effect that 'the seeming neglect of chronological order is compensated by the superior advantage of interest and perspicuity'. Certainly it works well in this instance.

The book opens with a rather brief account of the administrative chiefs during the period considered. Harness and Weir were followed by Burnett, Liddell, Bryson, Armstrong, Watt Reid and Dick, of whom Burnett made the greatest impression. The next chapter deals with the naval surgeon and the gradual raising of his status. The life of a naval surgeon in the early days of last century was a hard and often disagreeable experience, and it was no wonder that the quality of the candidates, particularly for the post of assistant surgeon, was very poor. It took many years for the status of the naval surgeon to be raised, whereupon the standard of qualification was at once improved. In 1872 naval surgeons were sent to the Army Medical School at Netley for further instruction, and it was not till 1881 that the naval school at Haslar was opened.

The problems of hygiene, ventilation, and the preservation of food in ships on long voyages were difficult to solve a hundred years ago, and the chapters devoted to those subjects make instructive reading. Not every reader will know that the origin of the term 'bully beef' is from the word *bouilli* which was stamped on the early tins because the patent for the process was taken out by a Frenchman.

The story of the convict ships deals with an unsavoury subject and gives one some idea of the terrible conditions which prevailed on some of the ships. On the other hand our admiration is called forth by the surgeon naturalists who did splendid scientific work under difficult conditions, and by the naval surgeons who took part in the arctic expeditions and did their sometimes unavailing best to prevent the scourges of scurvy. Not till the beginning of this century was the essential cause of scurvy finally revealed.

The terrible losses of our Army during the first winter of the Crimean War have often been related; it is good to read in Chapter Ten of this book that the naval forces in that war were better cared for and had a comparatively good health record.

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Interesting chapters are devoted to the Naval Nursing Services, Fevers, and 'Other Diseases', the Royal Naval Hospitals, and the Health of the Navy. We are also given an account of the men who won the Gilbert Blane Medal, the highest honour which can be bestowed on a naval surgeon; readers will be pleased to note the name of one of the authors among the medallists.

The saddest chapter in the book is that concerned with the West African Squadron, for that squadron for a long time fought a losing battle against the slave-traders, and while doing it lost a really terrifying proportion of the sailors. As they used to say:

'Beware and take care of the Bight of Benin
There's one comes out for forty goes in.'

When a naval hospital was built to look after the sick, the mortality 'continued to be higher than anywhere else in the world. It was a joke among the sailors that the standing orders were "Gang No. 1 to be employed digging graves as usual. Gang No. 2 making coffins until further orders".'

Even more tragic was the story of the ship *Rodeur* whose crew and slave-cargo were nearly all blind from ophthalmia and were hailed by a Spanish ship whose crew were also all blinded with the same disease. 'The *Rodeur* reached Guadaloupe with the surgeon and 11 men irrevocably blind, the captain and 4 others blind in one eye'. It is good to know that that by modern methods and remedies that deadly region has been rendered comparatively healthy.

The fourth volume completes naval medical history up to the beginning of this century and must be accounted a splendid undertaking competently, and in parts brilliantly, performed.

ZACHARY COPE

Paracelsus-Bibliographie, 1932-1960. Mit einem Verzeichnis neu entdeckter Paracelsus-Handschriften (1900-1960), by KARL-HEINZ WEIMANN, Wiesbaden, Franz Steiner, 1963, pp. xii, 100, DM. 18.

With the book under notice Sudhoff's bibliography of publications on Paracelsus (*Nachweise zur Paracelsus-Literatur. Acta Paracelsica, Supplement*, München 1932, 68 pp.) has been continued and taken up for a further thirty years to 1960. The result is a fully documented list, running to 1180 items—a figure which in itself provides its justification and indeed the proof of its necessity. The reviewer has found nothing of any importance missing (for the sake of completeness Lluésma-Uranga, E., *Paracelso. Obras Completas. Primera Traducción Castellana*. Buenos Aires. Editorial Schapire 1945; a selection from the *Paramiric* works in 435 pp.; and perhaps the detailed review of Sudhoff, *Bibliografía Paracelsica*, Reprint, Graz, 1958 in *Bull. Hist. Med.*, 1959, 33, 480-2 may be mentioned, however). The list is followed by a census of Paracelsus-Manuscripts which have come to light since 1900. This includes only one of those extant in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library (No. 593 in Moorat's *Catalogue of Western Manuscripts* which should be consulted for the description of those not included). There is also a survey of the Paracelsus-Societies. Particular praise must be accorded to the extensive cross references and the four indices on twelve pages covering all possible fields and aspects of Paracelsus-Research. This is an excellent work of reference which must be made available for scholars in the many fields in which Paracelsus forms a landmark. The author, himself a philologist and Paracelsian scholar and editor of note, as well as Professor Kurt Goldammer, the editor of the *Kosmosophie* series of which this book forms the second instalment, must be congratulated on its publication. It is beautifully produced.

WALTER PAGEL