

Book Reviews

developed midwifery, that the U.S.A. had developed nursing, but that Britain had managed to combine them in the way that was needed. Accordingly, she and her nurses took midwifery training in London. But she was also convinced that the nurse-midwife could and should combine sick nursing and preventive work, something that many Britons, then and now, see as far from ideal. We could do worse than to follow up these themes with systematic, comparative historical work, adding some clarification perhaps, to current debates about the work of the community nurse. Mary Breckenridge herself started by studying the Highlands and Islands Medical and Nursing Service. We could do worse than to follow her example.

Celia Davies
Department of Sociology
University of Warwick

J. MENZIES CAMPBELL, *Dentistry then and now*, 3rd ed. rev. and enl., Glasgow, privately printed, 1981, 8vo, pp. xvi, 394. (Copies available from the British Dental Association, 64 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AL, at £7.50 or £8.50 including postage.)

This collected edition of the more important historical writings of the late John Menzies Campbell, reprinted from many sources, was first issued in 1958 under the title *From a trade to a profession*. This contained twenty-five papers. A revised and enlarged edition containing five additional papers and omitting two appeared in 1963, entitled *Dentistry then and now*. The present edition is a reprint of the latter with five added papers and other material, together with an appendix listing other writings of Menzies Campbell. The most valuable inclusion is, however, a comprehensive index, the work of Dr. Margaret Menzies Campbell, to whom the first edition was dedicated and whose enthusiasm, devotion, and regard for history have made possible the issue of this edition.

These well-documented papers represent a lifetime of diligent and dedicated research by a meticulously accurate dental historian, and most are the fruit of original research and hence embody material not available elsewhere. A number are based on the study of his own remarkable collections, now housed in the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

They cover a wide field, ranging from biography to general dental history, but all bear the stamp of the personality of Menzies Campbell and his regard for accuracy and truth.

It is unfortunate but inevitable that the illustrations which accompanied the original publication of many of the papers could not be reproduced, and it would have been helpful to the serious reader if the place and date of the original publication could have been included in all cases besides the last five papers.

While this reprint is of the greatest interest and value to the dental historian, it may be read with profit by every dental practitioner and indeed by social historians. It is stated in the preface that the Benevolent and Rare Book Funds of the British Dental Association will be the principal beneficiaries from sales of this book.

R. A. Cohen
Leamington Spa

ALVIN E. RODIN, *Oslerian pathology*, Lawrence, Kansas, Coronado Press, 1981, 8vo, pp. xviii, 250, illus., \$25.00.

This book, the latest of a large number on the life and work of the outstanding physician. Sir William Osler, is unusual, concentrating, as it does, on a little-known but important phase of his career when he was virtually a pure morbid anatomist. It was, in fact, a lifelong interest.

At the time of his appointment to Montreal General Hospital in 1875, it was the custom for physicians to perform autopsies on their own cases, but Osler's eagerness to do this for his colleagues led to his appointment as pathologist to that hospital. There, he was to perform over a thousand autopsies in the ensuing ten years.

His zeal for performing post-mortems led to difficulties later. In 1884, having been appointed

Book Reviews

Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, his colleagues found it necessary to pass a rule that "no visiting chief could perform an autopsy except on a case from his own ward". Osler's enthusiasm for autopsies never diminished. Even as Regius Professor at Oxford, Osler could not resist the urge to roll up his sleeves and take part in a post-mortem dissection.

The author of this book, Dr. Rodin, a former Professor of Pathology at the University of Texas, brings out these points well. The book consists of four distinct sections. First, a fair summary of Osler's career, stressing the many aspects related to pathology and describing in some detail his early visits to Europe to study the basic medical sciences with Virchow in Berlin and Burdon Sanderson in University College London, among others. This section also includes the long story ending with the final preservation of the fifty-five specimens which form the display in the Osler Museum at the McGill Pathology Institute, Montreal.

Second, there is an assessment of the significance of these specimens in relation to medical knowledge of the time. Over half of the specimens are of heart disease. Although Osler did not make any new discoveries or conduct experiments in this field, he played a significant part in popularizing and developing current ideas on heart disease. The book refers to his Gulstonian (*sic*) Lectures on Malignant Endocarditis delivered at the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1885. The earlier intestinal specimens date from the time when the typhoid bacillus had just been discovered, so it is not surprising that his description of this disease does not mention this but concentrates on gross pathology.

The third section of the book is a complete series of photographic reproductions of the mounted specimens; and the fourth section consists of Osler's autopsy records of ten of the specimens, taken from his original handwritten reports together with some of the clinical case histories.

The text of this book is easy to read, full of facts and plentiful references. But for a book that calls itself an atlas of museum specimens, the quality of the illustrations is very poor, some of them being hardly recognizable even when accompanied by a detailed description. Most of the illustrations have been obscured by photographing the specimens in glass jars unskillfully illuminated.

The book, though hard-covered, is badly bound. But these defects will not put off a dedicated Osler enthusiast.

W. R. Merrington

Former Curator, University College Hospital Medical School Museum, London

ROGER FINLAY, *Population and metropolis. The demography of London 1580-1650*, Cambridge University Press, 1981, 8vo, pp. xii, 188, £22.50.

This is the first full study of London's population at any time before the industrial revolution, and the first serious monograph in English on the demography of any major pre-industrial city. It will therefore be welcomed by all urban and demographic historians. Scholars had previously been deterred from attempting such a work by the sheer volume of surviving materials, principally parish registers, and by the difficulty of analysing them, given the mobility of urban populations in the past. Dr. Finlay has overcome the first problem by sampling: he has studied in particular detail four parishes in different parts of the city and of different social composition. He overcomes the second problem even more triumphantly, by showing that techniques of family reconstitution can be adapted to apply to urban parish registers, and that the results can be extraordinarily revealing if they are compared with model life tables.

Much of the book is necessarily concerned with these matters of methodology and source-criticism, since they are the foundation on which its important conclusions rest. Among other things, Dr. Finlay demonstrates that mortality rates were high in early modern London, but not as high as in some contemporary continental cities, or in some nineteenth-century towns. Marital fertility rates were also unusually high. But the overall birth rate was reduced by high proportions of unmarried apprentices and servants, and it was never high enough to allow the population to grow naturally. The city depended on continuous and heavy immigration.