

### Book Reviews

and duodenal ulcers was scarcely recognized, and perforation of the stomach was a rare curiosity. Moreover, we also see that even when enlightened individuals pointed out the way, far too often regrettable delays took place before putting the lessons into practice. The author wisely deals with the mis-application, as well as with the application of methods.

Could anyone but Sir Zachary make the Lembert suture live, or bring to the modern reader the full force of Goldbeck's M.D. thesis of 1830? There is something for everyone in this *History of the Acute Abdomen*. The general practitioner can take heart from the apt extracts from Francis Adams' translations, from Dr. Hallwright's commendable place in the drama of ectopic gestations, and from the remarkable contributions of Edwards Crisp. Physicians will welcome the sound advice of Pemberton, Fenwick and Thudichum, and take pride in the fact that the first textbook to give a description of the symptoms which accompany inflammation and perforation of the appendix was that written by Bright and Addison. Throughout this little book the surgeon will find much encouragement; those who reside in small centres will note with pleasure the references to Heusner, Hastings Gilford, Morse and Martland. Today it seems incredible that Wieffenbach's memorable operation commenced 'with the aid of my able assistant Hildebrandt and the landlord of the house'. The enormous part played by autopsies in elucidating surgical problems is rightly stressed, and it is good to see some prominence given to the pioneer experimental methods of Herlin, a naval surgeon.

There seems to be no limit to John Hunter's activities or, for that matter, to Sir Zachary Cope's. He brings to light an account which Hunter never published, but which provided the first observation of intestinal paralysis due to peritonitis and leading to true obstruction—an ileus.

An enormous amount of penetrating thought has gone into the preparation of this small volume. Essentials (and only essentials) of technical procedures are described with a clarity of style which makes for delightfully easy reading. This is because the exceptional clinical and operative experience, the true scholarship and the deep understanding of the author make themselves felt in every chapter.

This work can be wholeheartedly recommended to all with an interest in the many facets of medicine. It is a book which makes one think, a book to buy and keep at hand.

N. M. MATHESON

*Sir Thomas Barlow, Bt., K.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. (1845–1945). Three Selected Lectures and a Biographical Sketch*, London, Dawsons of Pall Mall, 1965, pp. viii, 111, illus., 21s.

Sir Thomas Barlow was a great physician of the late Victorian and Edwardian periods. He was Physician Extraordinary to Queen Victoria, whom he attended in her last illness, to King Edward VII and to King George V. It was Sir Thomas who told King Edward in June 1902 that he must postpone his coronation, as he was gravely ill, and called in Sir Frederick Treves to operate on the King.

'Barlow's success as a physician was due to his vast knowledge and to his kindness

### Book Reviews

of heart and genuine sympathy which he showed towards his patients' (*Munk's Roll*, Vol. IV). These qualities were appreciated by the poorest as well as by the highest in the land. He was an excellent teacher of clinical medicine; and students at four hospitals—Charing Cross, the London, University College and Great Ormond Street Hospitals—valued and owed much to his instruction. Early in his career he contributed to medical knowledge in papers on the differentiation of basic from tuberculous meningitis and the serious significance of rheumatic nodules. His most important work was on infantile scurvy and its relation to rickets. The first paper in which he showed that 'Scurvy Rickets' was a definite disease and due to antiscorbutic deficiency in the diet appeared in 1883; and he made his further researches on the malady the subject of his Bradshaw Lecture to the Royal College of Physicians in 1894.

Sir Thomas had a good knowledge of botany, geology and archaeology, while the Harveian Oration which he gave in 1916, and the Murtle Lecture on 'Fra Paolo Sarpi and His Time', show that he was also a man of letters and versed in medical history. He was President of the Royal College of Physicians from 1910 to 1915. Here he found scope for his administrative talents and maintained the dignity and prestige of the College. Always interested in the prevention of disease, he served on several Royal Commissions relating to public health. He helped many good causes and notably the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund. He was a total abstainer, and a non-smoker and died in his hundredth year.

This interesting volume is a filial tribute by Miss Helen Barlow to her father's memory. It includes a foreword by her; a biographical sketch of Sir Thomas Barlow by his grandson, Andrew Barlow; Sir Thomas's Harveian Oration on 'Harvey, the Man and the Physician', the Murtle Lecture, the Bradshaw Lecture and a bibliography of his writings. This account of a great and good man will be welcomed by all readers and especially by those who knew him.

ARTHUR S. MACNALTY

*The History of Cell Respiration and Cytochrome*, by DAVID KEILIN, Cambridge University Press, 1966, pp. xix, 416, plates, 90s.

The development of ideas which led to the current views on the mechanism of cell respiration spans little more than the working life of one man. In this important book Professor Keilin, who contributed so much of the experimental evidence and original thinking which shaped biochemical thought on this subject, reviews the whole field in two epochs: the first covering the time from antiquity to 1925 and the second, which begins with the rediscovery of MacMunn's haematin and ends with the elucidation of the structure of cytochrome c, covers the period during which he was himself active in this field of research.

In the first section the theories of respiration, beginning with that of Galen, are reviewed. Particularly impressive in this part is the careful précis and documentation of evidence for each new theory. The few illustrations showing the title-pages of historical papers are especially pleasing. The account of MacMunn's discovery of myohaematin and histohaematin and the response that these discoveries received from his contemporaries receives a sympathetic treatment and the summary of reasons for the neglect of this work is a fairly and finely balanced judgment.