

### *Book Reviews*

available. None the less there were problems of principle, such as the different varieties of type to be used for the blind—a problem that dominated the whole of the latter half of the nineteenth century, just as the first half was dominated by attempts to determine finally whether the blind should receive the same type of teaching as that given to the sighted. In creating special methods of education for the blind, segregation of necessity also developed, creating psychological problems in the integration of the blind in a general community. It is these problems, clearly visualized by the pioneers, that still call for solution today. Even in the education of the blind child, as distinct from the employment of the blind adult, the question of segregation is real, and Samuel Gridley Howe—one of the great figures of blind education in the United States—could formulate a hundred years ago that ‘the human family is the unit of society . . . its fireside, its table and its domestic altar—there is the place for the early education of the child. His [the blind child’s] instruction may be had in school; his heart and character shall be developed and moulded at home.’ Early attempts at educating the blind child in day-schools, possibly in special classes, where the blind children could mix with sighted children—and such attempts were made in London as early as 1879—are not likely to be repeated today, but it is not unlikely that day-schools for the blind will emerge. In the United States such schools now accommodate some 25 per cent of blind children. As for the integration of the adult blind into the general community, its feasibility is now generally accepted.

*The Story of Blindness* with its wealth of historical detail contains much critical and important information on blind welfare today throughout the world. The book is no parochial record of work in the United States, and not the least valuable feature of this excellent study is that the problems of today and of tomorrow are discussed in the light of achievements and failures of the past.

ARNOLD SORSBY

*Landmarks in the History of Hygiene.* HENRY E. SIGERIST (University of London. Heath Clark Lectures, 1952, delivered at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.) London, New York, Toronto; Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press, 1956. Pp. viii+78. Illustrated. 12s. 6d.

Dr. Sigerist started as a student of Oriental languages and literature, and from philology he went to science, then to medicine, finally making the history and sociology of medicine his field of research. These broad interests are evident in this series of five lectures, which it is a pleasure to see in print at last, four years after they were delivered.

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The intervals of time between the five selected 'landmarks' are approximately the same—two centuries—apart from that between the first and second, which is nearer twelve, but the tempo of change gets progressively quicker. Galen's *Hygiene* is an aristocratic work, telling the leisured classes of the second century of our era, who had the time to follow its precepts, how they could enjoy the most health, suffer the least sickness, and grow old most comfortably. The *Regimen Sanitatis Salernitanum*, on the other hand, is a popular work of the Middle Ages, written in verse, but also concerned exclusively with personal hygiene. Cornaro's *Discorsi della Vita Sobria* are a product of the Renaissance, when men were much occupied with the quest for long life. This, according to Cornaro, could be achieved simply by moderation and sobriety. With the eighteenth century came a change from this purely personal, to a broader, social idea of hygiene, typified above all in Johann Peter Frank. His grandiose conception of a complete 'Medizinische Polizey' foreshadowed the Welfare State, but the methods he visualized, those of a despotic paternalism, presupposed conditions that, even by the time of his death, had largely ceased to exist. The Industrial Revolution has brought about a completely different kind of society in which the pattern of medical care is undergoing the changes described in the final lecture. Medicine has become less the healing art and more the means of promoting health.

Dr. Sigerist tells this fascinating story in an interesting way and with an emphasis on its social and cultural aspects, which is surely exactly the kind of thing in the mind of Charles Heath Clark when he founded this lectureship.

C. C. BARNARD

*The Royal Northern Hospital, 1856–1956. The Story of a Hundred Years' Work in North London.* ERIC C. O. JEWESBURY, M.A., D.M.(OXON.), M.R.C.P. With a Foreword by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, K.G. London, H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd., 1956. Pp. xi+157. Illustrated. 17s. 6d.

In May 1856 Mr. Sherard Freeman Statham, Junior Assistant Surgeon at University College Hospital, was removed from his office following a charge of unbecoming language and conduct brought against him by his senior colleague John Erichsen. The charge, which was not denied, was that he had exhorted a patient to whom chloroform was being administered to fill his 'bloody chest', and that he slapped the bare buttocks of another man who was about to be operated upon for anal fistula. It is questionable whether such conduct would be punished so severely today, but however that may be, Statham's expulsion from a teaching post proved to be a