

Book Reviews

in 1565 as *Dos Libros*. . . . The Badianus Manuscript on Aztec medicine had been compiled but not published and so Monardes was the first to popularize the many native remedies, sassafras, sarsaparilla and tobacco, all of which Spaniards treated with a great deal of respect. The later popularity of American drugs then derived very much from this Seville physician who hitherto had been rather conservative and was of historical interest only because of his disposition to experiment and his keen observation, as, for example, his vigorous limitation of the word 'citrus'. The success of this and later works is obvious from the many editions in Spain. In 1572 a Paracelsian, surprisingly, translated into French his work on Mechoacan. More predictably in 1574, Escluse had published in Antwerp a Latin version of *Dos Libros*. . . ., *De Simplicibus Medicamentis ex occidentali India*. . . . There were similar translations into Italian, and in 1577 John Frampton, once a merchant in Spain, aptly called his translation *Joyfull Newes out of the newe founde worlde*. . . . Judging by the Customs statistics for England the joyful news was readily acted upon; the number and value of drugs imported rose quickly and in 1604 drugs for the first time were treated as a separate group of some 200 basic commodities.

The main interest in Dr. Guerra's book is its definitive bibliographical detail, but the relation of Monardes and his writings to the broader background of medicine is successfully achieved. The advantage of the bibliographical approach is that the excellent tables and plates at the end of the book remedy the many deficiencies in Gaselee, Arber and Emmart. If there is one day to be an edition in English of this important book, some rearrangement of the chapters and the addition of an index and more references would make it even more of a pleasure to use.

R. S. ROBERTS

Sir William Osler. Aphorisms, collected by R. B. BEAN, edited by W. B. BEAN, 2nd printing, Springfield, Ill., C. C. Thomas, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publ., 1961, pp. 164, 32s.

This is the second printing of a collection of aphorisms from Osler's bedside teachings and writings presented in a pocket-sized volume. As the editor states in his introduction, his object is 'to introduce' Sir William Osler 'to a new generation of medical students and to refresh the memory of an older generation'. An hour will suffice to complete the reading of the book and drive one to the shelf for a volume of Osler's more complete writings. These aphorisms in themselves bring Osler to life as a man and a physician, a great teacher and a perpetual student. The book might be called 'Jewels Culled from the Wisdom of Osler', and, if less expensive, should be at every student's bedside.

The page numbers in the list of contents, reprinted from the first edition, are incorrect as no allowance has been made for the four pages of the new foreword.

HAROLD AVERY

Historia de la Medicina, ZUNIGA CISNEROS, M., Caracas—Madrid, Ediciones Edime, 1960, pp. 587.

The scope of this history of medicine only reaches the low Middle Ages, because the author has tried to complement a previous volume by Lain Entralgo devoted to medicine from the Renaissance. Dr. Zuñiga Cisneros, Chairman and Professor of the History of Medicine at Caracas, has followed in this work most of Castiglioni's and Sigerist's findings, although after consulting some original texts he ventures to disagree with the interpretation of several historical tenets, offering what he believes is a more balanced view for the Spanish-American reader.

FRANCISCO GUERRA