

Book Reviews

James Parkinson of 'paralysis agitans' fame, was speaking for medical reform in the first decade of the nineteenth century, and played a major role in founding the P.M.S.A.; of Sir John Forbes, John Conolly, John Kidd, George Webster, and a host of others. And many notorious characters are again brought vividly to life in all their waverings and machinations, notably Thomas Wakley of the *Lancet*.

It might well seem niggardly to suggest that the detail at times tends to obscure the main theme and that it would make for easier reference if the chapter headings were printed at the top of alternate pages and the years in the margin. This is, however, a minor criticism of a masterly and scholarly work, which should be read by all who are interested in the history of the organization of the medical profession in the first sixty years of the nineteenth century, and especially in the movements which led to the founding of the British Medical Association, and the passing of the Medical Act of 1858.

COHEN OF BIRKENHEAD

Parasites and Parasitic Infections in Early Medicine and Science. R. HOEPLI. University of Malaya Press, Singapore, 1959; pp. xiv+526, with 23 plates.

The University Press in Singapore is to be congratulated on producing a volume which would be a noble achievement from any press in the world. Professor Hoeppli's name is well known in medical circles through many countries; after occupying the chair of parasitology in Peking for 22 years, he taught for a time in Singapore, and with indefatigable devotion to this science and to the welfare of tropical human-kind, is now working in Liberia. In this book he brings together many substantial papers on the history of parasitology long sought after by historians of medicine and the biological sciences.

There are three main sections of the volume. The eleven chapters of the first discuss important general subjects such as the knowledge of human parasites in different ages and cultures, the description and clinical treatments of parasitic affections, and ideas on spontaneous generation. The twelve chapters of the second section deal with more specialised subjects, half of them with special reference to China, e.g. malaria and dysentery in Chinese medicine, the use of leeches in Asia, and the role assigned to the moon's phases in biology and medicine in east and west. Finally, the third section gives a brief, but most judicious, outline of the development of parasitology in the period of modern science from the middle of the seventeenth century onwards.

This arrangement is perfectly logical. Indeed Professor Hoeppli's book breaks new ground not only in its own subject, but because it is the first book on any such subject in the history of science which treats of medieval Chinese, Indian and Arabic contributions on exactly the same level, and with the same detail, and the same degree of seriousness, as those of Western antiquity and the Middle Ages. The scholarly value of the work is very greatly enhanced by an abundant use of Chinese characters. One must salute in it the work of a great scientific humanist.

JOSEPH NEEDHAM

The Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children, 1860-1960. DOUGLAS GUTHRIE, with various contributors. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1960; pp. xii+75. Illustrated. 17s. 6d.

This book will be greatly valued by those who have worked in the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children in the past. They will recognize familiar places and recall

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half-forgotten figures. The mention of the names and characteristics of the men and women who made the hospital famous will help maintain tradition now buffeted by the onslaught of the National Health Service. But for those who do not know Edinburgh the book is disappointing. There has not been sufficient space to give in logical sequence the story of the emancipation of paediatrics from obstetrics, its apprenticeship under the guardian wing of medicine and its evolution as a speciality in its own right.

Four interesting biographies, two of physicians and two of surgeons, lift the book from the dull and factual to pulsating interest as we see momentarily, not just the bricks and mortar of the hospital but something of its vital life. Unfortunately there is some needless repetition. On page 28, nineteen lines are devoted to Dr. John Thomson whereas a fuller biography is given on pages 39 to 42.

The illustrations are interesting and varied, but the crude colouring of the frontispiece is not worthy of the excellent production of the rest of the book.

JOHN RENDLE-SHORT

A History of Embryology. JOSEPH NEEDHAM, F.R.S. 2nd edition. Revised with the assistance of Arthur Hughes. London: Cambridge University Press, 1959; pp. 304. Illustrated. 52s. 6d.

In the early nineteen-thirties Dr. Joseph Needham gave a series of lectures at the University of London entitled 'Speculation, Observation and Experiment as illustrated by the History of Embryology', and, in amplified form, these were published in 1934 as *A History of Embryology*. This has been out of print for a number of years and now a second edition has been published, in the revision of which the author has been assisted by Dr. Arthur Hughes, Lecturer in Anatomy in the University of Cambridge. The present volume also includes a concluding chapter by Dr. Needham which summarizes the influences which have operated in the history of embryology from the speculations of the ancients to the birth of the science of experimental embryology as we know it today. Although the present book is entitled *A History of Embryology* it only brings the story to about 1800. The continuation to the end of the nineteenth century is hinted at as a project for the future.

To have produced a second edition of this well-known book is of course a great service to the history of medicine and biology in general but most readers will regret the rather abrupt ending. It is painfully reminiscent of the familiar phrase 'to be continued in our next', which punctuated the monthly instalments of the riddles of Sherlock Holmes. In what has already been printed we are told a great deal about the speculations of the ancients and of the restricted observations of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but the story breaks off just as we approach the age of experiment. We are left waiting for the continuation of the exciting story of the consequences of 'seeing what would happen if . . .' and all that developed from this attitude in the nineteenth century.

CUTHBERT DUKES

Notable Names in Medicine and Surgery. HAMILTON BAILEY and W. J. BISHOP. 3rd edition, London: H. K. Lewis, 1959; pp. 216. Illustrated. 35s.

It is a real pleasure to welcome a new edition of this useful and lavishly illustrated book. Eponyms are frequently used in wards, operating theatres, out-patients