

Book Reviews

of impediment and the method of resolving it can be of value to others involved with similar plans and negotiations, and those in this country who look forward to an extension of British medical education, when the economic climate improves, will find much of interest and value in this book, even though conditions, pressures, funds and other aspects may be quite different. Dr. Lippard also points out that for the future historian these essays on the developmental aspects of new medical schools will provide important sources. His book is, therefore, doubly welcome.

Thomas Dover's life and legacy, edited and introduced by Kenneth Dewhurst, Metuchen, N.J., The Scarecrow Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. xliii, viii, 240, [facsimile reproduction], (241–247), \$12.50.

This is another volume (No. 44) in the notable series of reprints being published under the auspices of The New York Academy of Medicine.

Thomas Dover (1662–1742) was not only an able physician and the inventor of an antipyretic powder still known and occasionally used today, but he was also an outstandingly successful privateer, and the discoverer of Alexander Selkirk, who probably inspired Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*. Moreover, he was a pioneer of British mercantile interests in South America (1715–1717), an aspect of his career about which previously little was known.

The sixth edition of Dover's *The ancient physician's legacy to his country* (London, 1742), the last published in his life-time and therefore the most complete, has been selected for reprinting in facsimile. Its reproduction can be justified by the biographical material on its author it contains, and by the light it sheds on contemporary medical practice. Unfortunately the copy used for reproduction is incomplete, for it lacks the half-title and several leaves at the end, including the index. Although this serious defect obviously reflects on the editor, Dr. Dewhurst, he can be in no way responsible for it. It should have been obvious to those who selected the copy that A₁ and R₁ are missing, especially as there is a tie-word on Q₈; in fact it lacks R₁ to R₄.

It is a pity that this error should mar what otherwise is everything a good reprint should be. The necessary criteria are: an elegant and accurate facsimile reprint of the original; a scholarly introduction, fully documented from original sources, and written by the accepted authority on the subject; editorial annotations to elucidate the text. All but the first are present here. Dr. Dewhurst's outstanding biography of Dover, *The quicksilver doctor* (1957) is now out of print, but he includes in his introduction to this reprint important additional information recently acquired. The two books therefore complement each other.

Without doubt, Dover's classic is essential for the study of early eighteenth-century British medicine, and Dewhurst's additions to it greatly increase its value to the scholar. In view of Dover's commercial dealings and the hitherto unpublished data on this aspect of his remarkable career which are now provided, this work will be of great interest and usefulness to those engaged in economic and social history of the eighteenth century. For all these it can be recommended enthusiastically, with the proviso that they should consult a complete copy of the *Legacy* in order to surmount the transmitted mutilation.