

Book Reviews

Furthermore there is the fact that Lund's observations were looked upon as paralysis agitans in one of the largest medical works of the time. Huntington's and Lund's descriptions are similar as to the main points. Both characterize the disease as serious and chronic, a disease which occurs in adults and begins with slight choreic movements progressing in the course of years, until the patient becomes a jerking wreck. They both stress the typical hereditary properties of the disease. Both also mention the tendency towards dementia.

Independent of earlier descriptions, it is now possible, after the lapse of nearly a hundred years, to conclude that Lund's and Huntington's chorea are identical.

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Sherrington, Physiologist, Philosopher, and Poet. LORD COHEN OF BIRKENHEAD.
Liverpool: University Press, 1958; pp. 108. Illustrated. 17s. 6d.

It is anything but easy to contribute fresh material upon such a theme as Sherrington, who has already been the target of a number of biographers. Lord Cohen has devoted the first of his series of three lectures, delivered at the University of Liverpool, to a straightforward account of Sherrington's career and his achievements in physiology. In Lecture 2, Cohen has sketched the historical background of our present-day knowledge of neuro-physiology, followed by a clear exposition of some of Sherrington's masterly contributions. It is in the third lecture that Cohen breaks new ground by commenting upon Sherrington in his capacity as philosopher and as a poet. Numerous quotations are afforded us, mostly taken from the Rede and from the Gifford lectures, which indicate Sherrington's lifelong preoccupation with the mind-brain mystery. The author concludes that '... in this field, Sherrington's thinking-cap was second-hand'—having been already worn by exponents of dualism ever since Descartes. For Sherrington's accomplishments as a poet, Cohen accords high praise. Some element of scepticism must, none the less, be confessed to linger. It is open to serious argument whether Sherrington's poetry was really of a very exalted character, and in our respectful enthusiasm for the master's unique position in science, we should be chary of undue evaluation of his role as a humanist.

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Cohen finishes by setting out a bibliography of Sherrington's writings and he also reproduces his last entry in *Who's Who*. This present volume is beautifully printed and there is a frontispiece in colour of Augustus John's portrait of Sherrington—which, understandably perhaps, the sitter thought little of. There is also a black and white reproduction of the portrait by R. G. Eves, one which will probably command wider commendation.

MACDONALD CRITCHLEY

A History of Medicine. Revised Edition with Supplement. DOUGLAS GUTHRIE.

London and Edinburgh: Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd., 1958; pp. xvi+464. 42s.

This admirable history, first published in 1945, has proved so popular that after reprinting in 1945, 1946, and 1947 the author has now produced a new and revised edition, which includes a valuable supplement in which additional information is given on subjects ranging from Peruvian mummies to the Red Cross.

Dr. Guthrie has accomplished the difficult task of producing a book which is not only a rich source of information for the serious student of medical history, but remains at the same time most readable for those who, like the medical student, are entering for the first time the fascinating realm of medical history. If the reader's first impulse is to glance through the admirable illustrations, as is often the case, he could thereafter hardly resist plunging into the surrounding text—it is to be hoped at the beginning. In writing of a work of this size and importance it is difficult to select individual sections for comment, but the high quality of the author's scholarship and his sound judgement are well illustrated by the skill with which he handles the scattered and incomplete evidence available of primitive medicine and early civilizations, and his appreciation of the influence of philosophy on medicine in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Again, when faced with the task of condensing into a small space the wealth of information contained in the many biographies and other accounts of William Harvey and his contribution to medicine, he has produced a freely flowing and interesting narrative, marked by keen perception and sound judgement.

The classified bibliography, which forms the appendix, and the 'books for further reading' at the end of each chapter, will be a boon to the student, whether expert or tyro.

WELDON DALRYMPLE-CHAMPNEYS

Call the Doctor. A Social History of Medical Men. E. S. TURNER. Michael Joseph, 1958; pp. 320. Illustrated. 21s.

Those who have read the author's *Boys will be Boys* in which was recounted the history of the penny dreadful, and his *Shocking History of Advertising*, will know what to expect. The others are in for a great treat, for the author has read widely, choosing his subjects and quotations with skill, and has added a wry commentary which hits the target repeatedly. He begins by stating that the book is not a history of medicine. It deals with the doctor as a member of society from the fourteenth century to the present times, and on the regard in which he has been held by the community. It is to a large extent a record of controversy; controversy not only between doctors themselves and between the democracy of medicine and the Royal Colleges, but controversy with the public on such themes as body-snatching, man-midwifery,