

### Book Reviews

and many clinicians overcame the stultifying effects of the Brunonian theory. Francesco Torrigiani sought post-mortem confirmation of his bedside diagnoses, and Antonio Catellacci wrote a good account of the yellow fever—although Torrigiani accused him of plagiarizing it. Amongst the twenty short biographies is one of Giuseppe Bertini (1722–1845), the first professor of the philosophical history of medicine at Florence in 1805, and who in 1810 at the fall of the Regency was moved to Pisa, when all the other professorial chairs were transferred under the imperial government.

JOHN CULE

*The Legacy of Philippe Pinel: An Inquiry into Thought on Mental Alienation*, by WALTHER RIESE, New York, Springer Publishing Co., 1969, pp. xii, 194, \$7.50.

What is the spell Pinel has cast over the historians of medicine? Was he the right man, at the right time in the right place, or did his personality and work place him in a position to become a French myth hero? Or perhaps was it the result of a famous picture by Robert Fleury of Pinel unchaining the lunatics—an act so dramatic, so sentimental, so well portrayed and so appealing to the *Zeitgeist*. Pinel's *Traité medico-philosophique sur L'Aliénation mentale ou la Manie* has become one of the classics of psychiatry, and Walther Riese uses it to show, by the extensive use of quotations, the importance of Pinel's work in the development of psychiatric thought and practice. Pinel's approach to mental illness was influenced by philosophers such as Locke and Condillac on the one hand, and on the other by British empirical psychiatrists—particularly John Haslam and Alexander Crichton. Dr. Riese suggests that Pinel was the inaugurator of 'traitement moral' and for this reason stands 'head and shoulders in the early history of psychiatry'. By moral treatment was meant not only the kindly control of the sick person, but a psychological approach based on a knowledge of the etiology and natural history of mental diseases, as well as on the understanding of the role of emotion in these conditions. Certainly Pinel was a pioneer in the care of the mentally ill, and by his influence on British psychiatry and thus on American psychiatry played an important role in the later non-restraint movement. Dr. Riese has illuminated many aspects of Pinel's thought, and his interpretation of the *Traité* based as it is, on translated excerpts, will be of value to those who read more deeply into the history of psychiatry.

DENIS LEIGH

*Early Days in the Mayo Clinic*, by W. F. BRAASCH, Springfield, Illinois, C. C. Thomas, 1969, pp. viii, 142, illus., \$7.50.

If ever one needed to cite a monument to individual initiative it could well be the Mayo Clinic. Here is its story, presented drily, tersely and unpretentiously, with a good number of anecdotes about the Mayo brothers. The author, who has been in Rochester since 1907, must be better qualified than most to write about the famous institution in that town.

He tells of Mayo père emigrating from England in 1845 because of the difficulties he had experienced there in his efforts to become a doctor; of his subsequent success in America where self-help was as acceptable in medical education as in any other sphere of activity; and of his two sons Will and Charles who created an astonishing

## Book Reviews

reputation for themselves as surgeons.

What drove them on was their constant and almost obsessive desire to go one better than their colleagues from the Eastern seaboard. They succeeded. And yet, at the same time, the more sophisticated men from Boston and Baltimore were themselves setting out to raise American medicine up to and above European levels. And they, too, succeeded.

In this short book one can learn a great deal about the need for a combination of humanity and dignity both in the direction of medical institutions and in the doctor-patient relationship. The Mayo brothers had these qualities almost to excess, which accounts perhaps for the support which the public accorded the Clinic and for its ability to attract skilful surgeons. Foresight was shown too in the formation of a Graduate School of Medicine, of a charitable Foundation, and of a good library. One of the most fascinating vignettes in the whole book is of Mrs. Maud Mellish, the formidable first librarian who edited the Clinic's papers with vast erudition and who even rewrote work of her own employer, Dr. Charles, in such a way that he afterwards failed to recognize it.

E. GASKELL

*A History of Bladder Stone*, by HAROLD ELLIS, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1970, pp. x, 77, illus., £1.75.

My first introduction to this subject was as a student when P. T. Crymble—Professor of Surgery at Queen's University, Belfast—opened a lecture with the momentous words 'Cutting on the gripe ended with the advent of Listerian surgery'! Later I was to renew a more personal acquaintance as a sufferer and patient.

As the blurb says the story of bladder stone is amongst the longest in medical history. It is a story punctuated by the agonised cries of the patient be he so humble or exalted, and where quackery made one of its greatest impacts. It was indeed surprising to see that no one had previously set down this story in book form. It is fortunate that Professor Harold Ellis has seen fit to do so, for he is both an entertaining and erudite author.

This is a small book of only seventy-seven pages, including a table of contents, a bibliography and an index. There are seven chapters—an introduction, perineal lithotomy, supra-pubic lithotomy, trans-urethral lithotripsy, two royal bladder stones—Napoleon III and Leopold I of the Belgians—litholapaxy and finally victims of the stone. There are numerous photographs, diagrams and drawings of surgical instruments. The layout and print make for easy reading.

Some facts may whet the appetite for the prospective reader—thus—the oldest bladder stone is Egyptian from a boy of sixteen years at El Amrah, about 4800 B.C.; the apparatus minor was a simple operation requiring merely a knife and a hook to extract the stone, and, perhaps strangest of all, the development of lateral lithotomy by Frère Jacques whose name has been perpetuated in the well-known nursery rhyme. Finally, there was Samuel Pepys' mother who voided a large stone which to his disappointment she threw into the fire.

Non-surgeons should not be put off either by the title or the contents. This is a most excellent account and one which does credit to author and publisher alike.

I. M. LIBRACH