

Book Reviews

Worcester. The author is not certain if it was Maddox who first foresaw the necessity to build a new hospital or if he was acting as the mouthpiece of Harrison. The former view would be more in keeping with what is known of this remarkable divine who would be familiar with the City and its people, for he had been Rector of St. Vedast's from 1730 till 1734. He was a vigorous and genial individual, bold in his planning. The fact that he was appointed Chairman of the Building Committee of 'the Infirmary' rather suggests that he had an active interest in its affairs and may well have been encouraging the young and enthusiastic Harrison to expand on the Mount Field site in Whitechapel.

There are many quotations from the minute books, entertaining both on account of their substance and because of the quaint formalities of that age of patronage. We learn of the regrettable misdemeanours of some of the nurses (apparently they had 2s. danger money added to their wages for nursing a case of smallpox), of early catering difficulties, of trouble with the sanitary arrangements, and of episodes of body-snatching within the hospital itself. We read too of the influence of the indefatigable William Blizard whose last operation was performed at the age of eighty-four; it was for an amputation above the knee-joint and the wound, it is good to note, healed by first intension.

The second volume of Dr. Clark-Kennedy's admirable book will be awaited with interest.

W. H. MCMENEMEY

Readings in Pharmacy, edited by PAUL A. DOYLE, New York and London, Interscience Publishers, 1962, pp. x, 429, 49s.

Students of pharmacy at Fordam University in the State of New York were fortunate in having as their guide to studies such a wise and widely read professor as Dr. Doyle. Fordam's loss, since Dr. Doyle is now at St. John's University, N.Y., is partly made good by the publication of these readings or essays and they will interest not only students for whom they were originally designed but also all concerned with the spread of knowledge of all phases of pharmacy—its beginnings, its development, and the present-day practice in the United States and in many countries overseas. This and much more is coupled with the part that the pharmacist must play in society if he is to fulfil with satisfaction to himself and to the community the responsibilities he shoulders.

Too often in these days of specialization the student is passed from one professor to another concerned only with the discipline that is his immediate charge. In this book Dr. Doyle has shown his appreciation of the need to overcome that tendency by helping the student to widen his horizons. He has culled from a variety of sources, some well known, others more rare, many of the best things that have been written about the art and practice of pharmacy. More, he has included extracts from the works of established authors who have ventured to describe their personal reactions to the work of the pharmacist or from those who in purely fanciful vein have drawn characters 'to the life' of men as they thought they might have seen them in the drug store or in whatever sphere the pharmacist has seen fit to enter—public life, the world of music, literature, or the opera. Only the stage seems to have been treated with less emphasis; save for Shakespeare, there is little reference to the apothecary in the theatre. Perhaps extracts from Molière or from *The Alchemist* by Ben Jonson, or from other plays of the seventeenth century might have enlisted interest in the alchemical 'goings-on' of that period. Gold, in whatever form, seems to commend itself to Fort Knox.

Subjects such as the separation of pharmacy from medicine and the obligations

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which arose from that situation are handled with skill. These are interspersed with papers on the conduct expected of the graduate pharmacist. The legal aspect of practice, in addition to more controversial subjects such as substitution and restrictive sales, is well covered. The reader outside North America will want to learn more than is already given in the papers depicting pharmacy in the United States at the end of the last century and his appetite will be stimulated by 'The Early Days of Pharmacy in the West' and in 'Chuck Wagon Therapy', in which the trailing of beef cattle in Texas and the South-West is vividly portrayed. Had the index to the book been extended the reader would have had his task made more easy.

To each group of essays or extracts under a collective heading, Dr. Doyle has added, for good measure, some fifty or more titles of books and articles as 'Additional Reading', proving that there is no shortage of material for those with the inclination and the backing of a well-stocked library to supplement their studies. In short, he has provided for all tastes and moods, and the pharmaceutical community can be expected to give the book a ready welcome.

LESLIE G. MATTHEWS

Medicine and The Navy, 1200–1900, volume IV, 1815–1900, by CHRISTOPHER LLOYD and JACK L. S. COULTER, London, E. & S. Livingstone, 1963, pp. 300, 13 illus., 50s.

Professor Lloyd and Mr. Jack Coulter have completed the fourth and last volume of *Medicine and the Navy* with commendable speed and have produced another collection of interesting, informative and in some cases remarkable essays. In support of this way of writing history they quote Gibbon to the effect that 'the seeming neglect of chronological order is compensated by the superior advantage of interest and perspicuity'. Certainly it works well in this instance.

The book opens with a rather brief account of the administrative chiefs during the period considered. Harness and Weir were followed by Burnett, Liddell, Bryson, Armstrong, Watt Reid and Dick, of whom Burnett made the greatest impression. The next chapter deals with the naval surgeon and the gradual raising of his status. The life of a naval surgeon in the early days of last century was a hard and often disagreeable experience, and it was no wonder that the quality of the candidates, particularly for the post of assistant surgeon, was very poor. It took many years for the status of the naval surgeon to be raised, whereupon the standard of qualification was at once improved. In 1872 naval surgeons were sent to the Army Medical School at Netley for further instruction, and it was not till 1881 that the naval school at Haslar was opened.

The problems of hygiene, ventilation, and the preservation of food in ships on long voyages were difficult to solve a hundred years ago, and the chapters devoted to those subjects make instructive reading. Not every reader will know that the origin of the term 'bully beef' is from the word *bouilli* which was stamped on the early tins because the patent for the process was taken out by a Frenchman.

The story of the convict ships deals with an unsavoury subject and gives one some idea of the terrible conditions which prevailed on some of the ships. On the other hand our admiration is called forth by the surgeon naturalists who did splendid scientific work under difficult conditions, and by the naval surgeons who took part in the arctic expeditions and did their sometimes unavailing best to prevent the scourges of scurvy. Not till the beginning of this century was the essential cause of scurvy finally revealed.

The terrible losses of our Army during the first winter of the Crimean War have often been related; it is good to read in Chapter Ten of this book that the naval forces in that war were better cared for and had a comparatively good health record.