

Book Reviews

of Surgeons of England, and Dr. Thomas's catalogue of it was published in 1970. The present work, however, is much more than an expanded and more detailed list of the holdings. It is a history of anaesthetics from the point of view of the pieces of apparatus used and the pioneers who devised them. There are sections on ether, chloroform, and nitrous oxide anaesthesia, on insufflation and endotracheal apparatus, on mixed vapours, analgesia, and on face-masks and drop methods. Each has a historical introduction and is beautifully illustrated (there are more than 230 illustrations altogether), and the well-written text is supported by many references to the literature. Although the author is dealing primarily with individual examples in the Collection he does compare them with contemporary pieces elsewhere which adds a useful comparative dimension. In view of the fact that most anaesthetic apparatus carries the name of its inventor this book will allow those interested to read a description of the original and an account of the man whose eponymous name may be in everyday use. When convenient he will then be able to examine the piece in the Collection.

There is no other catalogue in the history of medicine akin to this one for it acts as a history of anaesthesia and of instrumental ingenuity, and at the same time is a scholarly guide to the artefacts themselves. It will be received enthusiastically by all those interested in the history of anaesthetics and by historians of medicine in general. Curators of museum collections, medical and non-medical, can take it as a prototype for the production of similar guides. The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland are to be congratulated on their wish to have an inventory in this enlightened form, and also for selecting Dr. Bryn Thomas to produce it. He has produced a new kind of book and set high standards of excellence. The Collection, and therefore the book, does not proceed beyond World War II, but recent acquisitions will, it is hoped, make a further survey necessary. This will be received with equal indebtedness.

LLOYD C. TAYLOR, jr., *The medical profession and social reform, 1885–1945*, New York, St. Martin's Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. [vii], 168, \$12.95.

The title of this book should be *The American medical profession . . .*, because no other country is mentioned. It deals with the physician as a social reformer as characterized by the early professors at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, by Richard C. Cabot at the Massachusetts General Hospital, by campaigns for social medicine ranging from those against tuberculosis to those in support of better medical education, by Alice Hamilton and industrial reform, by Frances Bradley and child care and rural reform, by World War I and public health, by the 1920s and the fate of social medicine, by the new deal for American medicine in the 1930s, and finally by World War II which produced further social medical reform.

Although much of the material presented is already known, the author writes well and documents his data carefully. His theme is echoed in the last sentence: the quest for social justice by a “. . . band of men and women who through their training, practice, and research in medicine discovered new ideals to enrich the spirit of American democracy.” As a survey of the social aspects of American medicine in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries it will serve as a useful summary.