

Book Reviews

or quotes are paraphrased, losing the colour of the original event. The press itself must take the blame for rather disappointing production: besides many typographical errors, the print is strangely difficult to read.

However, Morris Vogel's book is, overall, very useful. He has successfully treated his topic as a social development, where patients and governors, local politicians and ethnic leaders, all take their place with medical men. In that, it is a refreshing piece of social history.

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JOSEP TRUETA, *Trueta: surgeon in war and peace*, translated by Amelia and Michael Stubell, London, Gollancz, 1980, 8vo, pp. 288, £9.95.

The memoirs of Josep Trueta (1897–1977) are in fact two books: above all, through the fate of the author and his family, the reader lives the Catalonian struggle for independence within the Spanish state as from 1900 until now. Second, he is introduced to important moments in two apparently completely different fields, i.e. in the history of treatment of war wounds and in research on renal circulation.

Trueta's outstanding surgical work during the Spanish Civil War made him known abroad. Love for Catalonia eventually drove him out of his home country. And it was in England that his endeavour to explain on experimental grounds his successes empirically obtained during his conflicts in Catalonia led him to a university chair, namely the then unique British chair of orthopaedics at Oxford. Trueta's five principles of war wounds and fractures have been accepted the world over ever since. His splendid physiological work on renal circulation brought about the concept of redistribution of blood flow, for instance in shock (Trueta's shunt). This implied important changes in patient care. Not unexpectedly, as is the case with many relevant discoveries, Trueta was involved in questions of priority. These are, however, played down in a most gentlemanly manner in this warm account of a courageous and generous life. Trueta emerges as a man aiming at enlarging knowledge scientifically, when circumstances were good. What is more, he never gave up his attempts to derive benefit for mankind even from the many situations of hardship in which he lived.

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EDMUND D. PELLEGRINO, *Humanism and the physician*, Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. xiii, 248, \$15.50.

Is the unexamined medical life worth living? Is an unexamined medical education worth having? These are Socratic questions. Socrates, said Cicero, transferred philosophy "right into people's homes; and he compelled it to ask questions about how one ought to live and behave, and what is good and what is bad". Edmund Pellegrino, physician by training, founder and editor of the *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, former director of the Institute on Human Values in Medicine and President of the Catholic University, uses Cicero's description of Socrates to explain his own objectives in this book of sixteen short essays. These essays, most of which started out