

Book Reviews

WILLIAM HARVEY, *An anatomical disputation concerning the movement of the heart and blood in living creatures*, translated with introduction and notes by Gweneth Whitteridge, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1976, 8vo, pp. lxii, 142, illus., £9.75 (£4.75 paperback).

In her "Preface" Dr. Whitteridge fully justifies the need for another translation of the *De mortu cordis* complete with lengthy introduction and notes to each chapter. Previous translators have all erred in one way or another, but the best is the first, which was published in 1653. She has therefore modelled her version on this, attempting at all times to capture the flavour of seventeenth-century English and Harvey's vigorous Latin phraseology, and always to translate but never to paraphrase.

The end-result is fully praise-worthy and Dr. Whitteridge presents us with the best translation yet to appear. Her "Introduction" is also masterly and in it she discusses the structure of the *De motu cordis* and the way in which Harvey discovered the circulation; she examines problem passages in Chapter 8, and gives an illustrated description of the heart's anatomy in the light of seventeenth-century conventions and knowledge. There is also a brief bibliography, that should have been annotated and lengthier. The notes to the translation are at the end of each chapter and there is a useful index.

This new translation, which is in good time for the celebrations of 1978, will soon become the standard work, making us again indebted to Mrs. Whitteridge for another contribution to our knowledge and appreciation of Harvey and seventeenth-century medical thought.

Studies in the History of Medicine, edited by Hakim Abdul Hameed, vol. 1, no. 1, March 1977, Tughlaqabad, New Delhi, Department of History of Medicine, Institute of History of Medicine and Medical Research, pp. 100, published quarterly, £7.00 per annum.

An Institute of History of Medicine and Medical Research has been recently founded in Tughlaqabad, New Delhi. Its Department of History of Medicine has issued the first volume, no. 1 (1977), of *Studies in History of Medicine*. The editor, Dr. Hakim Abdul Hameed, is assisted by an advisory board of six specialist historians of Arabic and Hindu medicine. The need for an Institute of History of Medicine in India is stressed in a passage selected by the editor from Dr. Henry Sigerist's report presented some years ago to Sir Joseph Bhore, the then British Government appointee Chairman of the Health Survey and Development Committee: "Since India is confronted with the problems of indigenous medical systems and will be so for a long time, an Institute of the History of Medicine could greatly help to clarify the situation."

Much effort and care have been put into printing this volume of a quarterly journal which will appear in March, June, September and December, and will be printed on the Institute's own modern printing press. The six inaugural papers cover a wide range of interesting subjects on the history of medicine, pharmacology, botany, and alchemy. A section is devoted to book reviews. We offer sincere congratulations for the inception of the Institute of History of Medicine and Medical Research and our good wishes for the success and continuity of this useful journal.