

Book Reviews

VIVIAN NUTTON, *Karl Gottlob Kühn and his edition of the works of Galen*, Oxford, Oxford Microfilm Publications, 1976, 8vo, 2 11., pp. 34, £2.80.

The microfiche has been in use for several years, but its popularity is now increasing rapidly, and its first extensive use in the history of medicine is being planned by a group of young enthusiasts. A projected series entitled *Standard works in the history of medicine* will include texts of Galen, Hippocrates, Paracelsus, and Daremberg, together with part of the serial, *Histoire et Mémoires de la Société Royale de Médecine* (Paris, 1779–1789), Sir John Simon's *Reports* (13 volumes, 1859–1871), and selected titles from the Sydenham and New Sydenham Society's publications.

This pamphlet is the guide to Kühn's edition of Galen (1821–1833), reproduced on 108 microfiche and colour-coded and indexed to facilitate the location of any particular book or section of a book; the price of the fiches is £98.00, which represents a very considerable saving on the reprint prepared by traditional methods. Dr. Nutton, the distinguished scholar of classical medicine, presents a brief introduction and then a remarkably useful bibliography of Galen, listing general and bibliographical surveys, works on biography, theories and beliefs, Galen's later influence, manuscripts and early editions, and then editions, translations and studies of the individual Galenic works. This will be of the greatest value to anyone engaged on a study of Galen's writings, and can be purchased separately. Unfortunately this monograph, as though to match the microform of the text to which it belongs, employs a minute print.

Without doubt micro-media methods will in the future become of increasing significance among the technologies of scholarship. It is therefore appropriate to welcome this first product of a planned series, to congratulate its producers, which include Dr. Charles Webster of Oxford as General Editor, and to wish them success for their revolutionary product and their present enterprise.

JAMES BRABAZON, *Albert Schweitzer. A biography*, London, Gollancz, 1976, 8vo, pp. 509, illus., £6.95.

The story of Schweitzer (1875–1965) is well known: a theologian of international fame; a student of the piano and organ and a concert performer; a writer of scholarly studies on Bach; a medically qualified missionary. The controversy about him, however, has been violent and still exists; on one side he was said to be "the greatest man in the world" on the other, a patronising racist. Naturally this has evoked a great deal of literature, but until now a comprehensive biography has not been available.

Mr. Brabazon has gathered his information from Schweitzer's own writings, from many individuals, and from material not used before. He was a formidable man, with a dominating will, charm, and a marked personal magnetism. Response to, and reverence for life were basic personality traits and he strove to detect the true values of human relationships. Mr. Brabazon reveals Schweitzer as a full-rounded, public man, as well as a husband and father. His life embodied his beliefs, and these he could indulge at his celebrated hospital at Lambarene. This account discusses all aspects of his life and works and can be thoroughly recommended as an objective approach to a difficult subject.