

Book Reviews

Perspectives of Medicine, by J. B. HARMAN, London, Pitman Medical Publishing Company, Ltd., 1964, pp. 86, 7s. 6d.

This little book contains the substance of a course of historical lectures which Dr. Bishop Harman gave to his students at St. Thomas's Hospital, not, as he tells us in his Introduction, 'to interest students in history, but to explain medicine'. 'History', he says, 'can act as a sort of meteorology of medicine, predicting the way things will go from the familiar patterns that appear.' Linked throughout to contemporary ideas and the current practice of clinical medicine, it is a most stimulating and interesting experiment in medical teaching which 'made sense' to a great number of St. Thomas's students. Now that it is available in such a cheap and handy form to medical students everywhere (and their teachers), the merits of this approach will surely be more widely appreciated.

F. N. L. P.

Invățământul medical și farmaceutic din București de la începuturi pînă în prezent, ed. by T. ILEA, Institutul de Medicină și Farmacie București, 1963, pp. 604, no price given.

Although in a distant part of Europe, Rumania was never entirely cut off from the medical learning of the West. Indeed there was an Academy of Scientific Studies founded as early as 1561, and it has recently been shown (*Medical History*, 7, 1963, 395) that Padua influenced the development of Rumanian medicine and science in the seventeenth century.

Nevertheless it was only in the nineteenth century that the organization of the study and the practice of medicine took on its modern form. Count Paul Kiselev can be said to have founded Rumania's medical services between 1828 and 1834 when he organized an effective system of quarantine. Of greater long-term importance, however, was the effect of the French Revolution. French *émigrés* and French ideas freed Rumanian studies from the trammels of Greek, and thus stimulated publications in the vernacular, the formation of medical societies and a medical review. All these activities were finally co-ordinated by Charles Davila, a French doctor who arrived in 1853 to head the military sanitary service.

In 1855 he founded a School of Surgery in Bucharest which later expanded to include medicine and pharmacy. From this school, in 1869, developed the modern medical faculty of the University of Bucharest. This was the training-ground of the many famous Rumanian doctors whose work soon made Bucharest one of the best medical schools in Eastern Europe.

Professor Ilea has now made it easy to follow this story of success by bringing together in one volume many contributors and a vast amount of information. After the general history of the faculty there is a comprehensive account of the various departments and there are useful appendices listing all those who have held teaching posts there.

R. S. ROBERTS

The Manchester Royal Eye Hospital 1814-1964: A Short History, by F. S. STANCLIFFE, Manchester University Press, 1964, pp. 110, 8 plates, 5 figs., 15s.

This interesting book celebrates the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the hospital. Now boasting two hundred and ten beds and dealing with forty-five thousand patients a year it began in a quiet way in a house at the top of the now fashionable King Street at a rent of £25 a year. Its precise location is not

known. Nineteen hundred patients were treated in the first year as out-patients. At the end of that time the Committee were informed that the work was too much for one surgeon. It was resolved to appoint a second. The hospital has moved five times to bigger and better sites. It reached its present building in 1884 and is now part of the United Manchester Hospitals.

The first house surgeon was appointed in 1863, but he had to act as secretary in addition. At the same time the hospital advertised for 'an active and well educated female without encumbrance as the Matron to live on the premises, salary not exceeding £25 per annum'. The number of servants was also increased to four strong and efficient females, two to work in the kitchen and 'two to act as nurses and housemaids and in particular to administer to the requirements of the surgeons and patients'. This at a time when there were twenty-four beds. Three thousand patients were treated in a year including one hundred and fifty-five in-patients and four hundred and seventy accidents. From small beginnings great things have been accomplished. The author tells his story well.

W. BROCKBANK

Description of The Retreat, by SAMUEL TUKE, reprinted with an Introduction by Richard Hunter and Ida Macalpine, London, Dawsons, 1964, pp. 26, 227, illus., 70s. The Retreat was founded in 1796. Samuel Tuke published his *Description of The Retreat* in 1813. That work sold out within three years and has been out of print since that time notwithstanding its importance in the development of psychiatry. When the famous Sidney Smith reviewed in 1815 Tuke's original work he remarked that 'The Retreat is situate about a mile from the City of York, upon an eminence commanding the adjacent County'. What is now clear is that the eminence of The Retreat has been, not merely geographical, but historical, not only local but international. Its influence led to the reformation of hospital practice in this country and abroad; the idea of the 'moral treatment of insanity' was an early and major revolution in psychiatry.

Samuel Tuke's classical work now, therefore, becomes, after a long absence, widely available in this present publication, photolithography reproducing his original book. Richard Hunter and Ida Macalpine have furnished an excellent introduction dealing with the history of those times which witnessed the birth of The Retreat. This present volume makes available a valuable book of interest not only to psychiatrists and medical historians but to all those concerned with ideas at once revolutionary, radical and humane.

W. A. L. BOWEN

English books printed before 1701 in the Library of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, by W. R. LEFANU, Edinburgh and London, E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1963, pp. 27, (no price given).

The Librarian of the Royal College of Surgeons has produced a helpful list of his library's holdings of English books printed before 1701. Six hundred and thirty-seven editions are noted, of which thirty-eight are previously unrecorded or variant issues. Essentially the list is a supplement to the standard works of A. W. Pollard and G. R. Redgrave, *A Short Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland and Ireland and of English Books Printed Abroad 1475-1640*, and Donald Wing, *Short Title Catalogue 1641-1700*. Otherwise the exclusion of the Surgeons' copy of Harvey, *De motu cordis*, 1628, printed abroad and in Latin, might seem capricious. A simple form of short