

Book Reviews

volumes will expand this topic and deal with others. They will no doubt be of the same lofty standard of scholarship so that medical historians will be further indebted to Linacre College and to its enlightened Principal, Mr. J. B. Bamborough.

E. ASHWORTH UNDERWOOD, *Boerhaave's men at Leyden and after*, Edinburgh University Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. vii, 227, illus., £8.00.

Herman Boerhaave (1688–1738) taught medicine at Leyden from 1701 until his death, and such was his success that he attracted students from all over Europe, especially from Britain where medical education was backward on account of devotion to ancient authority, religious barriers, and incompetent individuals. It is well known that his students helped to found the Edinburgh Medical School, but their influence elsewhere in Scotland, England, and Ireland has been much less appreciated.

Dr. Underwood, who, in his retirement, is still contributing importantly to the history of medicine, has studied carefully the careers of Boerhaave's 746 English-speaking students who matriculated at Leyden, with the result that our ideas of this great teacher's influence on medicine in these islands must now be considerably altered. Thus, by their membership of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of London, Edinburgh, and of Ireland, and of the Royal Society, and by several appointments in the universities and in the London hospitals, their effect on medicine, especially in the capitals, was considerable. No other teacher, except perhaps Johannes Müller and Osler, has contributed similarly to the development of medicine by way of his pupils.

The author first considers the students' Leyden period, then their subsequent careers. He has examined an enormous amount of material and presents new and important data which will demand a re-evaluation of medical practice and education in the eighteenth century. His text is fully annotated, the index is excellent, and the illustrations and book production are elegant. All historians of medicine will have to know of this work and they will find it a continual source of valuable and accurate information. The only pertinent criticism would be of the title, which does not specify that the book concerns only Boerhaave's British students.

MARKUS FIERZ, *Girolamo Cardano (1501–1576). Arzt, Naturphilosoph, Mathematiker, Astronom und Traumdeuter*, Basle and Stuttgart, Birkhäuser Verlag, 1977, 8vo, pp. 140, S.Fr.19.80.

This book, written originally for students, is an excellent introduction to the life and works of Cardano. In seven short chapters it describes his life and his activities as physician, philosopher, mathematician, astronomer, and interpreter of dreams. The language is clear and economical, there is no jargon, and the most abstruse ideas are set forth with a simplicity that makes them easily intelligible. Throughout the text, which is based on Cardano's own writings rather than on secondary sources, relevant passages from Cardano's books are incorporated, thus giving character and savour to the author's comments. Other studies dealing with the same subject have not been neglected and the footnotes bear ample witness to the care which Fierz has given to the elucidation of many topics. In so short a book it was not to be expected that a full discussion of Cardano's views on medicine would be included, but a fairly