

### Book Reviews

these very labours that we now are confronted with a vigorous and enterprising sub-division of the science of disease, that we call clinical pathology. Its secret of success lies, of course, in its bringing to the sick bed so much of the thought and adventure of every division of the mother sciences of physiology and pathology, whereby the clinician's labours are lightened and many of the most difficult problems of diagnosis and treatment are fast being resolved.

But there is far more to the matter than this. Thanks to the brilliant leadership of a host of gifted workers, many of them British, whole sections of the parent sciences are being taken over, with superb effrontery, by men far removed from the rarefied atmosphere of academic laboratories. This is particularly the case with haematology, immunology and chemical pathology wherein important discoveries are being made with great regularity. Without doubt the clinical laboratory has achieved its majority as an indispensable component of the war against disease and the intellectual advancement of medicine.

To those who wish to follow this inspiring story the vivid little book of Dr. Foster can be highly recommended. With impeccable style and enthusiasm he traces the interweaving of the various disciplines that have been encroached upon in the foundation of his subject. The reviewer went on reading this short history far into the night, so beguiling was its story and skilfully chosen its biographical vignettes. We must thank Dr. Foster, too, for many unusual photographs of the great leaders of his profession. Many are quite revealing and startlingly reminiscent of present-day personalities. Are we in for a type of doctor branded with the hallmark of a clinical pathologist?

A special word of thanks must be offered to Dr. S. C. Dyke who has contributed a lucid chapter on the organization of clinical pathology up to the present time. From one whose pioneering enthusiasm has inspired so many colleagues throughout the world this is a most appropriate gesture.

One little slip needs correcting in future editions. Morgagni published his *De Sedibus* in 1761, not 1751. We have been celebrating the bicentenary of this great moment in history this year. There is a useful reference list but a rather poverty-stricken index.

ROY CAMERON

*William Harvey: Englishman.* KENNETH J. FRANKLIN. London: MacGibbon & Kee, 1961; pp. 133. Illust, Col. front. 21s.

For many years now, Professor Kenneth Franklin has regaled us with his studies on the history of research on the circulation, and aspects of William Harvey. This brief book of his is a treasure-trove for students of Harvey, being full of distinctively personal touches, all the more valuable as coming from such a source.

The story of Harvey is presented in the form of an essay without chapter headings. It commences with a brief summary of the work of Harvey's predecessors, from Alcmaeon to Fabricius. It then turns to an account of the Harvey family and follows Harvey's life biographically leading to an interpretation of his attitude to research, in particular of course to research on the circulation. A detailed analysis of the great work *De Motu Cordis* is made chapter by chapter, and its repercussions in Europe are discussed. Interspersed in this account is a description of the Civil War, with particular reference to the reactions in Oxford to the presence of the King. Professor Franklin pays particular attention to events occurring round his home in the village of Yarnton.

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The book closes with a discussion of Harvey's letters to Riolan and others, and of his *De Generatione Animalium*.

This essay is the product of a life-time's study. It is brimful of informative detail and comment. Enthusiasm for his subject, however, has led to a rather disjointed mode of presentation, which tends to obscure the main outline of the figure portrayed. There is also a tendency to an exuberance of Latin quotations which are not always relevant to the main theme. The skilful choice of illustrations and the full references reflect something of the richness of erudition from which this work on Harvey has sprung.

This is a book which will be fully appreciated by those who have already met Harvey and know something of him, rather than by those who wish to be introduced to him for the first time.

K. D. KEELE

*Famous Faces in Diabetes.* CECIL STRIKER. Boston: G. K. Hall & Co., 1961; pp. 256. This is an entirely novel and original contribution to the literature on diabetes. It provides the reader with a 'visual acquaintance' of the men who have made major contributions in this field. In addition to the portraits, of which there are nearly 200, there are short biographies of these distinguished people, together with succinct accounts of their individual achievements. There are also reproductions of ancient documents as well as original publications on the subject of diabetes.

In this volume of 255 pages, matter is arranged chronologically in sections. These deal firstly with the early descriptive period, followed by the development of the subject in relation to the basic medical sciences and clinical medicine. The work of Banting and Best is highlighted and there is also liberal featuring of The American Diabetes Association. The author was its originator and first President. There is also a section devoted to the contribution made by a major American pharmaceutical firm to the early development of insulin on a commercial basis.

This book is something of a collector's piece. What a pity that several errors in type and spelling mar the production and that the poor standard of reproduction of some of the documents and early portraits diminish the pleasure this book gives to the reader. For example, Maimonides appears as a smudge on page 11 and very little can be deciphered from the leaf of Banting and Best's notebook on page 163.

However, the author succeeds well in his main purpose 'to humanize a body of facts which might otherwise be less interesting and more difficult to remember'. How welcome would be an extension of this principle if adopted by more authors on specialized subjects.

ROBERT SMITH

*Surgery is Destined to the Practice of Medicine.* SIR REGINALD WATSON-JONES. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1961. pp. 81. 21s.

The text of Sir Reginald Watson-Jones's Hunterian Oration at the Royal College of Surgeons is full of interesting historical side-lights, including the reminder that a flourishing Royal College of Physicians declined what a penurious body of surgeons accepted, namely the great Hunterian Collection, now sadly depleted by bombing.

Sir Reginald has made an independent contribution to the history of the Reynolds portrait of John Hunter, perhaps better known by Sharp's famous engraving, by having radiological studies made in collaboration with Mr. Ian Rawkins, scientific