

## Book Reviews

You will find the answer on page 204 of this valuable, entertaining and most informative volume. It was a gracious but appropriate act to dedicate the book to John Keevil.

ZACHARY COPE

*Daniel Drake (1785–1852); Pioneer Physician of the Midwest.* EMMET FIELD HORINE, M.D. (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 1961). Pp. 425, with 35 plates. \$6.00.

Daniel Drake is one of the most colourful figures in the history of American Medicine. Sir William Osler, calling Drake 'the greatest physician of the West [of the U.S.A.], said that he started nearly everything in Cincinnati that is good and has lasted', while F. H. Garrison has told us in his monumental *History of Medicine* that there is nothing in the literature of Medical Geography to equal Drake's classic work on *The Principal Diseases of the Interior Valley of North America*, unless it be Hippocrates' *Airs, Waters and Places*. It is the fruit of many years of study.

The earliest of Drake's writings was his book entitled *Notices concerning Cincinnati*, written when he was twenty-five, a guide of much value to the many Americans who were at that time moving westward. Drake founded two great medical schools, and stated his views on medical education, which were so strangely modern, in his *Practical Essays on Medical Education*, originally published in 1832, and reprinted by Dr. David Tucker, Jr. in 1952, a book which may still be read with pleasure and profit.

In 1828, Drake had established the *Western Medical and Physical Journal*, of which he remained editor until 1849; meanwhile the name had been changed to the *Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery*. Another important work was Drake's *Treatise on Cholera*, written during the epidemic at Cincinnati in 1832, in which he advocated strict cleanliness, and the boiling of drinking water. This, of course, was long before the cause of cholera was demonstrated.

Such a man as this deserves a good biography, more especially as no full-length account of his life and work has appeared since Dr. Otto Juettner wrote *Daniel Drake and His Followers* in 1909. The time was therefore ripe for a reevaluation of Drake and his noteworthy achievement.

This task has now been most ably undertaken by Dr. Emmet Field Horine, a well-known cardiologist of Louisville, where Drake himself taught medicine for seven years. Dr. Horine has devoted many years of study to the life and work of Daniel Drake, and was well fitted for his task as biographer.

In tracing Drake's ancestry, he can neither confirm nor refute the family tradition of descent from Sir Francis Drake. Quoting extensively from Drake's autobiography, entitled *Pioneer Life in Kentucky*, written for his children and published eighteen years after his death, the author traces the early life of his hero from his birth in a log cabin on 20 October 1785, and through his apprenticeship, at the age of fifteen, to Dr. Goforth of Cincinnati, after the family had removed west across the Allegheny Mountains, a hazardous journey at that time.

Thus Daniel Drake entered upon his study of Medicine, 'regaling his olfactory nerves with the mingled odours' which arose from brown paper bundles of herbs and open jars of ointment like those of 'an apothecary in the days of Solomon', and committing to memory the works on anatomy and humoral pathology available at the time.

His next step was to study in more academic fashion at Philadelphia under such inspiring teachers as Benjamin Rush, William Shippen and Caspar Wistar, and to graduate M.D. in 1816. The writer goes on to tell us of Drake's appointment in 1817 as professor of materia medica in Transylvania University, Lexington, the first

## Book Reviews

medical school west of the Alleghenies, and the sixth in the United States. He deals at some length with the stormy arguments and controversies which so frequently marked, but never seriously marred, Drake's career as professor at Lexington, at Louisville and above all at Cincinnati, the city so closely associated with his name. A small town when he first entered it in 1800, it was still known then as Fort Washington, since it began as a military outpost against the Indians, but it later became an important centre of commerce and culture, having owed much to the labours of Daniel Drake.

It was Drake who established a museum in the city, having as his assistant in art and taxidermy no less a person than John James Audubon, then unknown and penniless, but destined to be America's most famous ornithologist. Drake also founded the college now called the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, and established the first hospital in the United States offering medical instruction with a full medical faculty, now the Cincinnati General Hospital. At the time of his death, which occurred on 5 November 1852, he was Cincinnati's most noted citizen, with a national reputation, although, strangely enough, he never visited Europe. Yet he rose to the head of his profession, and became the most highly respected physician in the United States.

Dr. Horine well epitomizes this fine biography in the three closing chapters, on 'Visitors to Cincinnati', 'Drake's Versatility' and 'Drake's Personal Appearance', and does so especially in the final paragraph, which is worth quoting—'Drake was a man who inevitably left his mark on his times. Indeed, today, his influence is alive, important, and imperishable.'

References appear as footnotes on nearly every page, and there is a good index, while the illustrations, thirty-five in number, include five portraits of Drake, which convey his tall, stately build, his dignified manner and his attractive demeanour.

This is indeed a biography to study and to treasure, a fine memorial to a great American physician which will certainly guide and inspire many of his followers.

DOUGLAS GUTHRIE

*The Toadstool Millionaires.* JAMES HARVEY-YOUNG, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1961, pp. 282.

This volume, which has the sub-title of *A Social History of Patent Medicines in America before Federal Legislation*, derives its name from the statement of Oliver Wendell Holmes: 'Somebody buys all the quack medicines that build palaces for the mushroom, say rather, the toadstool millionaires.' It is a fascinating story of the ingenuity and avarice (and occasionally sincerity) of the manufacturers and of the pathetic credulity and ignorance of the sick.

The earliest patent medicines were imported from Great Britain but enterprising Americans soon built up a trade which eventually far outpassed that of this country.

Patent medicine vendors were among the first to realize the importance of advertising and of pretentious premises. Thus there were huge signs erected in many places, such as at the Niagara Falls and on the Rockies, the latter bringing complaints that travellers could not see the mountains for the signs. One enterprising salesman offered to pay for the base of the Statue of Liberty if he could use it for his advertisements and another opened an ostentatious 'Temple of Pharmacy'. Almanacks advocating the use of nostrums became so popular that they were used as textbooks in some circles and one publisher claimed that his was second in circulation only to the Bible.

In the heyday of this trade some of the firms employed detail-men to visit physicians