

Book Reviews

paper, the most important document in the history of Mendelism, the publishers will arrange to supply it separately in pamphlet form.

See No. 10.

10. *Experiments in Plant Hybridization*.
Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1925.
This pamphlet has no title page; at the top of the first page is the word 'Appendix'. The pages are numbered 313-52. Contains paper *A* only. There are issues dated 1926.
11. *Experimentos en hibridación, por Gregorio Mendel*;
Traducción introducción y notas por Emilio Robledo.
Tip. Sanson, Medellín, (1940).
According to the introduction, this Spanish translation is based on the English translation of No. 9.
12. E. W. Sinnott, L. C. Dunn, Th. Dobzhansky,
Principles of Genetics.
Fourth edition.
McGraw Hill Book Company Inc., New York, Toronto, London, 1950.
Paper *A* is found on pp. 463-93.
Dobzhansky joined the two first-mentioned authors for the fourth edition. The previous editions (1925, 1932, 1939) do not contain any of Mendel's papers.
13. Luigi Gedda,
Novant' anni delle legge mendeliane, 1865-1955.
Con la collaborazione di Giacomo Amigoni.
Istituto 'Gregorio Mendel', Roma 1956.
This item contains a facsimile reproduction of the manuscript and an Italian translation by L. Gedda and R. Pinkus, pp. 3-99.

Book Reviews

A History of Public Health. GEORGE ROSEN. New York: M.D. Publications, Inc., 1958;
pp. 551. \$5.75.

In this book Professor Rosen attempts to give a comprehensive history of public health through the ages in the main industrial countries of the world. This formidable undertaking has not really been attempted previously, and he has produced a work which, within the limits imposed by the nature of the undertaking, will be of great service to those interested in the subject. A little over a third of the book is devoted to classical times, the medieval period, and the later period up to about 1830; the remainder of the book deals with the modern period from about 1830.

The classical period is well dealt with, and the account of the water supply of Ancient Rome is very satisfactory. The section on the Middle Ages adopts the formal treatment usually found, and the Dark Ages are scarcely dealt with. The account of the development of the theory of the *contagium animatum* is good. It may be said that

Book Reviews

all the sections up to the beginning of the nineteenth century contain much information which would not be easily available to any but those who, like the author, have spent much of their lives in the study of medical history.

The section on the Sanitary Movement is especially interesting because of the author's discussion of the social, political and economical factors which ushered in the movement. It is perhaps surprising that Professor Rosen still adheres to the old view of the importance of Bentham in originating the public health movement. It was customary to adopt this attitude during Chadwick's lifetime, though Chadwick himself denied that Bentham's influence on his subsequent work had been great, and least of all in public health. The author pays much attention to Chadwick, but less to Simon, and practically none at all to the great pioneers who were the first Medical Officers of Health. He does, however, refer to the foundation of their society, and its early history; though in the list of societies at the end of the book its name does not appear, nor is any reference made to the fact that *Public Health* is its organ. The subsequent history of public health in Great Britain is adequately dealt with—subject to certain provisos mentioned later.

The author has had great experience of public health work in the United States, especially in New York, and it is in this field that one would expect him to be illuminating. It may be said that he provides as full account as is possible within a limited space. Much information on this subject found here is not easily available elsewhere. But it must be said that he strikes rather a different note from that found in other histories of American public health, in that the part played by the Marine Hospital Service is minimized. (Incidentally, though that body is mentioned several times, it does not appear in the index.) The later development of the various branches of public health in the United States are admirably treated. There is also a section on the history of bacteriology and immunology; it contains much information which is at present only available in special works. In the brief history of medical statistics, Gavarret is mentioned but Thomas Short is not.

Professor Rosen, like many of his countrymen, appears to have been completely baffled by the British system of titles. He makes no mention of the fact that Chadwick, Simon, Manson, Ross, to mention only a few, were ultimately knighted, or that Lister became a baron. A more serious fault in a work dealing with public health administration is the failure to distinguish between England and Great Britain. There are a few minor points which deserve comment. Boyce's forename was 'Rubert' not 'Rupert'; incidentally, he also was later knighted. The Royal Sanitary Institute is mentioned in the text, but not in the list of societies at the end. There we find the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health—without any statement that this was formerly the Royal Sanitary Institute. The Royal Institute for Public Health is not mentioned. Similarly, in the list of journals the *American Review of Tuberculosis* is given under the U.S.A., but under 'England' there is no mention of the two venerable British journals dealing with that subject.

One could have wished that Professor Rosen had given his references in detail, instead of listing (alphabetically under authors) a series of sources for each chapter. This of course makes the checking of statements difficult. Two of the standard English works on public health are listed but little use seems to have been made of the writings of Newsholme, Newman or MacNalty. In the same way the references to articles are mainly to those appearing in American journals and little use appears to have been made of authoritative historical papers which have been published in British journals.

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