

### Book Reviews

*Louis Pasteur. A great life in brief.* By PASTEUR VALLERY-RADOT. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1958 (translated from the French by Alfred Joseph); pp. vii + 199. Price \$3.00.

The author, grandson of Pasteur, has written two important books about Pasteur and has edited Pasteur's *Oeuvres complètes* and *Correspondance*. This new book is one of a series of 'Great Lives in Brief' written for intelligent laymen. The author has performed an admirable service in presenting in a brief but accurate and interesting fashion the many facets of one of the greatest scientists of all times.

The foremost historian of science, the late Professor George Sarton, once said, 'The more popular an article, the more authoritative it must be.' This book fits this qualification. Pasteur's contributions to science and to human welfare, with their decisive influence, are staggering in their number and variety. He devised some of the most ingenious experiments in the whole history of science; and his methods of subjecting them to the most rigid controls will serve as guides to all students. It is also interesting to note that Pasteur had the ability to inspire his students with something of his own tremendous enthusiasm and insatiable curiosity. He took a personal interest in all of them. Many teachers could reflect on Pasteur's ability to raise the minds and hearts of his pupils. These aspects of Pasteur's work are well chosen and admirably developed by the author.

Unless a student is entirely calloused, he cannot help but be genuinely excited and inspired by the deeds, achievements and thoughts of the great French savant. Pasteur is worth our understanding, admiration and, above all, our study as indicated in this brief but memorable biography. The author must be congratulated.

THOMAS H. GRAINGER

*Medizingeschichte — Wozu?* ('Why Medical History?'). J. SCHUMACHER. Stuttgart: Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft, 1958; pp. 36. Illustrated. D.M. 2.80.

The task of medical history is not to increase knowledge of facts, nor even the search for unjustly forgotten cures, but the understanding of the ideas that gave medicine in each period its characteristic stamp and made its advancement possible. Medical history—through an understanding of the past—brings its students into a relationship with the essential ideas and problems of modern medicine. It teaches medical and scientific thinking, and elevates technical man to the level of thinking man. These thoughts are well integrated with a short survey of the Freiburg Institute of Medical History—the tradition founded and passed on by such men as W. J. A. Werber (1798–1873), Paul Diepgen (b. 1878), and Ludwig Aschoff (1866–1940).

W. P.