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documents to illustrate his theme, and rightly attributes the improved status of the general practitioner to the Medical Act of 1858.

Dr. Guthrie opens his paper on 'Scottish Influence on the Evolution of British Medicine' with the characteristic sentence—'Medical knowledge has long been one of Scotland's principal exports.' His is an impressive and engrossing story of Scottish medicine, beginning with 'The Mediciner' (teacher of medicine) in Aberdeen University in 1494, and the Incorporation of Barbers and Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1505. He tells of the contribution of the remarkable King James IV, who took a deep interest in medicine, alchemy, dentistry and other technical activities, and records a weighty and remarkable list of Scottish graduates who have by their work in England engraved their names indelibly on the tablets of medical history.

This Congress volume conveys much valuable new information and conveniently summarizes for the discriminating reader what is well known but relevant to the general theme. It can be warmly recommended and should focus attention on a topic whose synoptic treatment has hitherto been somewhat neglected by the medical historian.

COHEN OF BIRKENHEAD

Unvollendete. PAUL DIEPGEN. Stuttgart: G. Theime Verlag, 1960; pp. 223.

The well-known medical historian Professor Paul Diepgen of Mainz has written an interesting account of the lives and labours of a number of distinguished medical men and scientists who died young, their work apparently incomplete, during the past 150 years, from 1800 to 1950.

The title of the book, *Unvollendete*, is inspired by the recollection of Franz Schubert, who died of typhus at the age of thirty-two before the completion of his great symphony.

A wide range of choice was open to the author, and it is not surprising that German names predominate, but the selection has been carefully made, and the result is a series of biographies of young men who, during their short lives, made valuable contributions to medicine and science.

Their work lay in many diverse fields; such names as Bilharz, Bichat, Finsen and von Graefe indicate the varied nature of their work. The chapter on tropical diseases includes the careers of J. E. Dutton and Walter Myers.

The introductory discussion regarding the best age for mental work is of much interest, as also is the account of the causes of the regrettable termination of so many promising careers.

A concluding chapter, however, leads the reader to wonder whether such lives are as 'unfinished' as they at first appear.

An unfinished task may prove all the stronger as a stimulus to subsequent workers. There are eleven plates, mainly portraits, and an adequate index.

DOUGLAS GUTHRIE

A Short History of Clinical Pathology. W. D. FOSTER. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1961; pp. xii+154. Illustrated. 27s. 6d.

I do not propose entering into the controversies that flare up when busy hospital pathologists start talking about their everyday duties. Some of these, especially about status, I believe to be sterile and waste of time; others reflect the earnest consideration and devoted labours of men who can scarcely afford the encroachment this must mean upon their scanty hours of leisure. But so devoted and so patient have been

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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.