

Book Reviews

commentary. In this way the work is given continuity. In certain parts, like the sections that deal with traction in the treatment of fractures and the evolution of arthroplasty and osteotomy, we are given an excellent outline of each subject with the original papers used as landmarks in the story.

The layout of the book, the type and the small portrait sketches of each character, make the book a visual pleasure. Many of the author's short biographical notes, however, are spoilt by the inclusion of trivialities and humorous asides which mar the otherwise high standard of the book. The selection of material has been good, the cutting of certain papers has been arranged without destroying the sense of the original.

It is perhaps unfair to criticize an anthology for being incomplete, but it is disappointing to find no reference to Sir Astley Cooper in the section on fractures, when his *Treatise on Fractures and Dislocations* laid the foundations of the present-day management of these injuries. It was by following his example that Colles and Smith made their acute observations that are quoted. In fact, Cooper describes a case of Colles' fracture in his book and illustrates it with drawings of a post mortem dissection and a wrist showing the typical dinner-fork deformity. In mentioning Smith's fracture this is described as a supination injury when it is a pronation injury. These are, however, small faults in an otherwise accurate and surprisingly comprehensive book.

The book is written by a practising orthopaedic surgeon and it will, I think, have a wide appeal to clinicians who are too busy or lack the facilities to consult the original texts. It will stimulate some to look further into the past and for these there is a complete bibliography and advice on important source books.

P. J. STILES

The Life of an Egyptian Doctor, by NAGUIB MAHFOUZ, with a foreword by Sir Cecil Wakeley, Bt., Edinburgh and London, E. & S. Livingstone, 1966, pp. xii, 192, illus., 40s.

It is a happy touch to write one's autobiography for 'my children and my grandchildren' for if an excuse is needed, surely this is the best of all. The story is absorbing both for doctors and non-medical readers; in it the author describes his childhood, his student years and his career as a gynaecologist, a career which progressed literally step by step with the establishment of his specialty in Egypt.

Mahfouz was born a Christian and he was trained entirely in Egypt, starting school at the American Mission before attending the Government school and passing on to the School of Medicine in Cairo. Here he came under the influence of English and German teachers, most of whom showed the pioneering enthusiasm to be found in a new or re-constituted school; Mahfouz is appreciative of their merits both as teachers of medical subjects and as mentors in character building.

After he qualified, Dr. Cresswell, Dr. Keatinge, Professor Madden and the surgeons Frank and Herbert Milton allowed and helped Mahfouz to make the small beginnings of a gynaecological department. Later, Dr. Roy Dobbin was appointed to Kasi El Aini Hospital, Cairo, and brought to his young colleague the up-to-date methods and enthusiasms of the Dublin school of obstetrics and gynaecology.

Since 1904 Mahfouz has worked at this hospital, in private hospitals and later at the Coptic Hospital as Professor of Gynaecology, and the volume of his work over this long period of years had been immense. Seventeen years ago he produced the

Book Reviews

unique three volume *Atlas of Mahfouz's Obstetric and Gynaecological Museum* which extended to 1,276 pages and had 713 illustrations, many of them coloured. The numbers and the rarity of many of the specimens brought home to working gynaecologists that the author has had unique experience in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Professor Mahfouz has seen the renaissance of the School of Medicine in Cairo. He ascribes this to a combination of factors including the change in language for tuition from Arabic to English and the infusion of new blood in the teaching staff. He himself has made a world wide reputation as the pioneer of both obstetrics and gynaecology in the Egypt of today. He has written his autobiography as a series of self-contained chapters each describing interesting events, some of them personal and domestic, and others of quite historical importance. His style is simple narrative which is pleasant to read and suitable as a bedside book, particularly for the layman. Most gynaecologists will want to read it and a much wider public will enjoy it too. Co-incidentally it is a work of considerable value in medical history, describing how the department of obstetrics and gynaecology of the medical school of Cairo came into being, a first-hand account from one who was present throughout the period.

ALISTAIR GUNN

The Nature of Hypnosis: selected basic readings, edited by R. E. SHOR and M. T. ORNE, London, Holt, Rinehart & Wilson, 1965, pp. vii, 504, front., 88s.

The history of hypnosis is of enormous relevance to the history of psychiatry. To trace out the story of hypnotic studies during the last 200 years means coming close to the centre of most of the important arguments which have shaped modern psychiatry. Mesmerism was the narrow watershed between the occult and the scientific study of mind. The debate between Bernheim and Charcot was an acting out of the conflict between animists and somaticists. If Anna O had not so conveniently gone into her spontaneous evening trances we should have heard less of Breuer or Freud. Hull's writing on hypnosis gives a vivid instance of behaviourism as a revolutionary creed. The division between Pavlovian and Freudian theories on hypnosis is one of the great schisms. And the growth of psychosomatic medicine may owe much to the nineteenth century demonstrations of hypnotic influence on somatic function.

Shor and Orne have put together in this volume 34 papers from a vast literature, and for anyone with a specialist interest in hypnosis such a book serves no purpose. For the non-specialist however the editor's balanced and intelligent choosings provide an excellent survey of the subject. The eight papers in the historical section include Mesmer's letter to the Royal College of Physicians, an agreeable extract from Deleuze on rules of magnetizing and Ernest Hart's description of the hypno-therapeutic department of La Charité under Dr. Luys. There is an historical bibliography which, though incomplete, is useful.

The editors show too that the study of hypnosis is still throwing up questions. In particular, the contribution of 'role-playing' to hypnotic behaviour must challenge our thinking on the influence of social control on the content of neurotic illness. Shor and Orne not only titillate the historian's interest—Greatraks, Elliotson, Esdaile, Braid, Gurney have none of them received sufficient scholarly attention—but show up the shortcomings of any contemporary theory when put to the task of explaining hypnosis.