

Book Reviews

Perspectives of Medicine, by J. B. HARMAN, London, Pitman Medical Publishing Company, Ltd., 1964, pp. 86, 7s. 6d.

This little book contains the substance of a course of historical lectures which Dr. Bishop Harman gave to his students at St. Thomas's Hospital, not, as he tells us in his Introduction, 'to interest students in history, but to explain medicine'. 'History', he says, 'can act as a sort of meteorology of medicine, predicting the way things will go from the familiar patterns that appear.' Linked throughout to contemporary ideas and the current practice of clinical medicine, it is a most stimulating and interesting experiment in medical teaching which 'made sense' to a great number of St. Thomas's students. Now that it is available in such a cheap and handy form to medical students everywhere (and their teachers), the merits of this approach will surely be more widely appreciated.

F. N. L. P.

Invățământul medical și farmaceutic din București de la începuturi pînă în prezent, ed. by T. ILEA, Institutul de Medicină și Farmacie București, 1963, pp. 604, no price given.

Although in a distant part of Europe, Rumania was never entirely cut off from the medical learning of the West. Indeed there was an Academy of Scientific Studies founded as early as 1561, and it has recently been shown (*Medical History*, 7, 1963, 395) that Padua influenced the development of Rumanian medicine and science in the seventeenth century.

Nevertheless it was only in the nineteenth century that the organization of the study and the practice of medicine took on its modern form. Count Paul Kiselev can be said to have founded Rumania's medical services between 1828 and 1834 when he organized an effective system of quarantine. Of greater long-term importance, however, was the effect of the French Revolution. French *émigrés* and French ideas freed Rumanian studies from the trammels of Greek, and thus stimulated publications in the vernacular, the formation of medical societies and a medical review. All these activities were finally co-ordinated by Charles Davila, a French doctor who arrived in 1853 to head the military sanitary service.

In 1855 he founded a School of Surgery in Bucharest which later expanded to include medicine and pharmacy. From this school, in 1869, developed the modern medical faculty of the University of Bucharest. This was the training-ground of the many famous Rumanian doctors whose work soon made Bucharest one of the best medical schools in Eastern Europe.

Professor Ilea has now made it easy to follow this story of success by bringing together in one volume many contributors and a vast amount of information. After the general history of the faculty there is a comprehensive account of the various departments and there are useful appendices listing all those who have held teaching posts there.

R. S. ROBERTS

The Manchester Royal Eye Hospital 1814-1964: A Short History, by F. S. STANCLIFFE, Manchester University Press, 1964, pp. 110, 8 plates, 5 figs., 15s.

This interesting book celebrates the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the hospital. Now boasting two hundred and ten beds and dealing with forty-five thousand patients a year it began in a quiet way in a house at the top of the now fashionable King Street at a rent of £25 a year. Its precise location is not