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which was built in the eighteen sixties. When Bischoff, in 1869, became head of the newly established Department of Obstetrics at the Bürgerspital, he based himself on what he had learned in England from Braxton Hicks, Sir Thomas Spencer Wells, Benjamin Ward Richardson, Sir James Young Simpson and James Matthew Duncan. In 1887 Bischoff's personal Chair at Basle University was converted into a regular Chair of Obstetrics. Gynaecology as a subject taught at the university was to follow only in 1893, and from that time onwards the department went from strength to strength.

There are extensive bibliographies of the works of the five chief doctors and the dissertations they supervised and influenced.

MARIANNE WINDER

Safeguarding the Public: Historical Aspects of Medicinal Drug Control, edited by JOHN B. BLAKE, Baltimore and London, Johns Hopkins Press, 1970, pp. xi, 200, £3.75.

This volume comprises twelve papers, commentaries and discussions on the History of Drug Control contributed at the second history of medicine conference organized in 1968 by the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation. Twenty-five distinguished historians, legal authorities and professors took part, all except four of them based in the U.S.A. While the participants confined themselves mainly to the subject of the conference, some papers were outside the strict confines of its aims, notably 'A Short Survey of Drug Therapy prior to 1900' (Prof. Ackerknecht, Zurich), and 'An Appraisal of Analgesics to 1900' (Prof. Becher, Harvard Medical School). In a paper on the 'Role of the Pharmaceutical Industry' Prof. Cowen (Rutgers) stressed the means of control and the consequent self-criticism applied by industrialists to their new discoveries and formulations. This aspect of the industry's part in setting up its own controls, ahead of legislation or alongside it, the policies open to and practised by the American Medical Association, highlighted the difficulties seen by some contributors who questioned whether the practising physician could properly distinguish between the new effective medications and those merely 'new'.

Wide-ranging papers on drug control in France and in Britain during the last two centuries led to pertinent questions: What is the effect of the standards laid down in modern pharmacopoeias on medical practice? How can these works be developed to assist pharmacy and medicine? Is a new drug always a clear advance over the old? In discussing the U.S. 1906 Pure Food & Drugs Act and the Regulations under the 1938 Act, Prof. J. H. Young (Emory University) and Prof. Cavers (Harvard Law School) respectively drew attention to enforcement problems. These had become tougher as drugs became more potent and as manufacturers proliferated. A host of scientists had now to be employed in the work of the F.D.A. if the public was to be adequately protected. In a final paper Associate Prof. Lasagna (Johns Hopkins) reviewed current problems and trends—could it be assumed that the established methods of control were wholly satisfactory?

The series of papers serves to point out the diffident approach by some countries and the nature of the problems still calling for solution. The difficulties of developing

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countries in this respect came in for scarcely any comment. Readableness of what is before us owes a great deal to the editor who must have been carefully selective in curtailment of the commentaries and discussion. A knowledge of past and present performance in enforcement of laws, as here exemplified, will be of value to all concerned with therapeutics and in arriving at the goal uppermost in the minds of all the contributors—the better protection of the public in this aspect of renewed health.

LESLIE G. MATTHEWS

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

- AMUSANTO, MARCELINO, *El Compendio de Medicina del Doctor Gomez de Salamanca* (Cuadernos de Historia de la Medicina Española, monographs no. 16), Salamanca, Instituto de Historia de la Medicina Española, 1971, pp. 77, no price stated.
- GRANJEL, LUIS S., *Capitulos de la Medicina Española* (Estudios de Historia de Medicina Española, no. III), Salamanca, Instituto de Historia de la Medicina Española, 1971, pp. 409, illus., no price stated.
- GRANJEL, LUIS S., *La Tocoginecologia Española del Renacimiento* (Cuadernos de Historia de la Medicina Española, monographs no. 15), Salamanca, Instituto de Historia de la Medicina Española, 1971, pp. 50, illus., no price stated.
- LEVIN, SIMON S., *Adam's Rib: Essays on Biblical Medicine*, Los Altos, California, Geron-X, 1970, pp. 180, \$6.95.
- STEUDEL, JOHANNES, *Leibniz und Italien*, Wiesbaden, Franz Steiner Verlag, 1970, pp. 30, DM. 4.
- WIGHTMAN, W. P. D., *The Emergence of Scientific Medicine*, Edinburgh, Oliver & Boyd, 1971, pp. vii, 109, 37½p. (paperback).

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