

Book Reviews

a photocopy of the original. There are occasional discrepancies between the two. Reasonably full details of collation, contents, bibliographical references, and locations of copies are provided, together with a short biographical note about the author. These are four useful additions to an indispensable key to the bibliography and biography of the Low Countries.

E. J. FREEMAN

Felix Platter, Observationes I, Berne, Hüber, 1963, frontis., pp. 198, DM. 26.50 (Leinen), 9.80 (Broschierte Studienausgabe).

This is the first volume in a new series on Classics in Medicine and the Natural Sciences, by the Swiss firm Hans Hüber of Berne. The series is edited by Professor Erwin Ackerknecht of Zürich who needs no introduction, assisted by Professor Heinrich Buess of Basle and Professor Alexandre Koyré of Paris.

As befits a Swiss publication, the first subject to be dealt with is the Swiss physician and Professor at Basle—Felix Platter, who lived from 1536 to 1614. This is the first of three translations from the Latin of his *Observationes*, by Günther Goldschmidt. The other two will appear in 1965 and 1966. All three are edited by Professor Buess.

This book deals with functional disorders of the mind and of movement. Some of the subjects discussed include such topics as stupor following the use of opium, epilepsy in children, catalepsy, inborn mental defect, melancholia and hypochondriasis. The text is interspersed with personal case records and treatment. All show that Platter was an accurate observer and a good clinician.

There is a table of contents, index, notes on the text and a list of pharmaceutical drugs, together with a full bibliography on Platter. Those who wish to find out something of a Swiss physician whose name must be almost unknown here, will discover this a fascinating and instructive volume.

I. M. LIBRACH

Ambroise Paré: Rechtfertigung und Bericht über meine Reisen in verschiedene Orte, Berne Hüber, 1963, frontis., pp. 125, DM. 22.50 (Leinen), 7.50 (Broschierte Studienausgabe).

This is the second volume in the new series by Hüber of Berne, Switzerland. It is a translation by Erwin Ackerknecht of the French original—*Apologie et Traité contenant les Voyages faits en divers Lieux*, by Ambroise Paré. It consists of 124 pages, including an introduction and notes. There is also an English translation done by Geoffrey Keynes in 1951.

There are details of twenty journeys; some to Landresy 1544 and Boulogne 1545 have only a half-page each, but others, such as Metz 1552, are given 16 pages.

The journeys—as might be expected—concern Paré's military experiences, both as a surgeon and as a traveller. His well-known sympathy and understanding for his patients and for the tribulations of the soldiery shine through every page, as does his practical handling of surgical problems.

The book is well produced; the typescript beautifully clear. Lovers of Paré and others who have not yet made his acquaintance will do well to read this little gem.

I. M. LIBRACH

A History of Medicine in South Carolina 1670–1825, by JOSEPH I. WARING, Charleston, S.C., The South Carolina Medical Association, 1964, pp. xviii, 407, illus., \$7.50. For many years, whilst practising as a pediatrician, the author has been collecting material in Charleston local institutions and elsewhere to produce a straightforward

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narrative of medical events in his native area. The result is a lively account of early colonial practice, the epidemics affecting South Carolina, the controversies and achievements of inoculation for smallpox, the role of local physicians in the American Revolution and the contributions made by the South Carolina Medical Society. Waring had the unique advantage of a thorough knowledge of every stone, name, document and event of his native State. It is not surprising, therefore, that he has unearthed considerable new material, from an unrecorded Bill of Charleston mortality for 1755-6, to the account of the French physicians exiled from San Domingo, who settled in Charleston at the end of the eighteenth century. All this and the rich biographical section of over 150 pages will be very useful to the historian.

It could be suggested that the material might have been arranged in a more systematic way. Some historical analysis of South Carolina social conditions, particularly the effects of economics on plantation medicine, would have enhanced the value of the book. Despite this, the provincial flavour, crowded style and unadorned character of the work give to Waring's medical history of South Carolina freshness, interest and honest historical value.

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