

## Book Reviews

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