

Book Reviews

title entry has been chosen with a note of relevant STC and Wing numbers. The printing is large and clear, and seems to be accurate. The sensible binding will prolong the shelf life of this useful little book.

E. J. FREEMAN

The History of Diabetes Mellitus, 2nd ed., by N. S. PAPANPYROS, Stuttgart, G. Thieme Verlag, 1964, pp. 104, 10 plates, revised and supplemented, DM. 19.50.

No research scholar of real value has ever understated the importance of the history of his problem. So writes the author of this excellent little book on the history of diabetes.

Diabetes, a major problem in the metabolism of the body, is here considered from the historical aspect, and perhaps in no other disease is a survey of history so essential as a background to present-day knowledge.

It was Aretaeus, in the second century A.D., who first described this morbid condition, and gave it the name Diabetes. Since that time the many aspects of the problem have been gradually solved. Willis inaugurated a new era in laying stress on the psychogenic factors in diabetes, Claude Bernard discovered the glycogenic function of the liver, Minkowski drew attention to the role of the pancreas, while Langerhans noticed his 'islets' in that organ. Naunyn, Pavy, Noorden and others devoted their lives to the study of diabetes. Then came the brilliant discovery of insulin by Banting and Best, and later still the study of the possibility of oral treatment.

The interesting story is well told by Dr. Papanpyros, who is Director of the Diabetic Centre at Athens, and a pupil of Dr. R. D. Lawrence, who contributes the Preface. This is the second edition of a book originally published in 1952 and sold out within a year. New material, illustrations and 208 references have been added, besides a good index. The contributions of chemists and physiologists to what appeared at first to be only a clinical problem, is especially noteworthy, and the whole study demonstrates how important is the past as an integral part of present-day knowledge.

Well written, and clearly printed, this work will certainly take its place as the authoritative short history of Diabetes. The reviewer can detect only two trivial printer's errors, (p. xiv), though an R has been added to his own name, and wrong initial (p. lx).

DOUGLAS GUTHRIE

Bibliotheca Belgica: livraisons 227e-228e (HUGO FAVOLIUS, P. VAN GOORLE, T. MONTIS, J. SAUVAGE), edited by ELLY COCKX, Brussels, Indestege, 1963, illus. (no price stated).

The *Bibliotheca Belgica*, now in its third series, lists and describes early works printed in Belgium and Holland, and books by Belgian and Dutch authors printed elsewhere. The fascicles under review are devoted to the now rare books of four obscure medical men, all of whom flourished in the sixteenth century; three of them at the town of Anvers. Hugo Favolius (1523-85) achieved some local eminence as a physician and poet. He studied at Padua and travelled in Asia Minor. His publications were miscellaneous, including an epic poem on his journeys, almanacs, and a book of plague remedies. Jacques Sauvage, a doctor of astronomy as well as of medicine, issued a series of almanacs, some of which were popular in England. Of Thomas Montis and Peeter van Goorle, both medical astrologers, little is known beyond their published astrological prognostications.

As is usual in this series, a simplified transcription of the title-page is flanked by

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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