

Book Reviews

The catalogue contains more than 300 plates, four of which are in colour; those in black and white are of excellent quality, but the colour plates have not come out quite so well. Sir Caesar Hawkins (plate 102) would seem to be suffering from one of the acute exanthemata.

The Royal College of Surgeons is a forward-looking body which also, happily, continues to provide evidence of an appreciation of its treasures and of its historical traditions. Mr. Le Fanu's Catalogue is a worthy companion volume to the *Lives of the Fellows* and to Sir Zachary Cope's *History*; it is, indeed, a model work of its kind.

W. J. B.

The Royal West Sussex Hospital. The First Hundred Years, 1784-1884. FRANCIS W. STEER, M.A., F.S.A. Published by the Chichester City Council, 1960; pp. 22, 5 illustrations. 3s. 6d. (Obtainable from The Town Clerk, Greyfriars, Chichester, and booksellers.)

This pamphlet, which is No. 15 of the Chichester Papers, contains a wealth of interesting matter concerning the early history of the Royal West Sussex Hospital, which was founded in 1784 as the Chichester Dispensary and did not acquire its present name until 1913. Although the early histories of infirmaries and dispensaries tend to run to a common general pattern—benevolent founders, imposing Rules, high aspirations, rapid growth, a never-ending struggle to make both ends meet, trouble with drains, epidemics, high mortality among house surgeons, embezzling secretaries, professional squabbles and worthy benefactors—every institution has its own individuality. The archives of the Royal West Sussex Hospital are unusually complete and interesting; the first registers of patients, covering the period 1784-1800, were rescued from a London bookstall in 1895 and are still intact, together with some 150 volumes of other registers and case books. This wealth of material has enabled Mr. Steer to record many details of hospital management for which histories are usually consulted in vain. There are intriguing stories of a (presumably male) patient who attempted to enter the women's ward in disguise, of colossal expenditure on leeches, and of a house surgeon who absented himself during the three days of the Goodwood races. The illustrations include a reproduction of the painted portrait of Sir John Forbes, M.D., the translator of Laënnec, who was the most celebrated of the Honorary Physicians to the Hospital. Brief notes are given on other early members of the staff; one would like to know more about Mrs. Rogers who was Matron of the Hospital for thirty years in the pre-Nightingale era. Mr. Steer gives a list of the singularly complete archives of the hospital, most of which are now stored at the County Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, where they will be available to future historians. Many readers of Mr. Steer's concise history will hope that he may himself find time to provide the full-scale book on the Chichester hospitals which he is so well qualified to write.

W. J. B.

Pharmacy Jars at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. An Annotated Catalogue. SIR VICTOR NEGUS, F.R.C.S., 1959. Mimeographed, pp. 24.

In this catalogue Sir Victor Negus describes the fine collection of drug jars, comprising nearly one hundred specimens, in the possession of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The great majority of the jars were bequeathed to the college by the late Sir St. Clair Thomson, who besides being an oto-laryngologist of international