

## Book Reviews

The book closes with a discussion of Harvey's letters to Riolan and others, and of his *De Generatione Animalium*.

This essay is the product of a life-time's study. It is brimful of informative detail and comment. Enthusiasm for his subject, however, has led to a rather disjointed mode of presentation, which tends to obscure the main outline of the figure portrayed. There is also a tendency to an exuberance of Latin quotations which are not always relevant to the main theme. The skilful choice of illustrations and the full references reflect something of the richness of erudition from which this work on Harvey has sprung.

This is a book which will be fully appreciated by those who have already met Harvey and know something of him, rather than by those who wish to be introduced to him for the first time.

K. D. KEELE

*Famous Faces in Diabetes.* CECIL STRIKER. Boston: G. K. Hall & Co., 1961; pp. 256. This is an entirely novel and original contribution to the literature on diabetes. It provides the reader with a 'visual acquaintance' of the men who have made major contributions in this field. In addition to the portraits, of which there are nearly 200, there are short biographies of these distinguished people, together with succinct accounts of their individual achievements. There are also reproductions of ancient documents as well as original publications on the subject of diabetes.

In this volume of 255 pages, matter is arranged chronologically in sections. These deal firstly with the early descriptive period, followed by the development of the subject in relation to the basic medical sciences and clinical medicine. The work of Banting and Best is highlighted and there is also liberal featuring of The American Diabetes Association. The author was its originator and first President. There is also a section devoted to the contribution made by a major American pharmaceutical firm to the early development of insulin on a commercial basis.

This book is something of a collector's piece. What a pity that several errors in type and spelling mar the production and that the poor standard of reproduction of some of the documents and early portraits diminish the pleasure this book gives to the reader. For example, Maimonides appears as a smudge on page 11 and very little can be deciphered from the leaf of Banting and Best's notebook on page 163.

However, the author succeeds well in his main purpose 'to humanize a body of facts which might otherwise be less interesting and more difficult to remember'. How welcome would be an extension of this principle if adopted by more authors on specialized subjects.

ROBERT SMITH

*Surgery is Destined to the Practice of Medicine.* SIR REGINALD WATSON-JONES. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1961. pp. 81. 21s.

The text of Sir Reginald Watson-Jones's Hunterian Oration at the Royal College of Surgeons is full of interesting historical side-lights, including the reminder that a flourishing Royal College of Physicians declined what a penurious body of surgeons accepted, namely the great Hunterian Collection, now sadly depleted by bombing.

Sir Reginald has made an independent contribution to the history of the Reynolds portrait of John Hunter, perhaps better known by Sharp's famous engraving, by having radiological studies made in collaboration with Mr. Ian Rawkins, scientific