

Book Reviews

James Parkinson of 'paralysis agitans' fame, was speaking for medical reform in the first decade of the nineteenth century, and played a major role in founding the P.M.S.A.; of Sir John Forbes, John Conolly, John Kidd, George Webster, and a host of others. And many notorious characters are again brought vividly to life in all their waverings and machinations, notably Thomas Wakley of the *Lancet*.

It might well seem niggardly to suggest that the detail at times tends to obscure the main theme and that it would make for easier reference if the chapter headings were printed at the top of alternate pages and the years in the margin. This is, however, a minor criticism of a masterly and scholarly work, which should be read by all who are interested in the history of the organization of the medical profession in the first sixty years of the nineteenth century, and especially in the movements which led to the founding of the British Medical Association, and the passing of the Medical Act of 1858.

COHEN OF BIRKENHEAD

Parasites and Parasitic Infections in Early Medicine and Science. R. HOEPLI. University of Malaya Press, Singapore, 1959; pp. xiv+526, with 23 plates.

The University Press in Singapore is to be congratulated on producing a volume which would be a noble achievement from any press in the world. Professor Hoeppli's name is well known in medical circles through many countries; after occupying the chair of parasitology in Peking for 22 years, he taught for a time in Singapore, and with indefatigable devotion to this science and to the welfare of tropical human-kind, is now working in Liberia. In this book he brings together many substantial papers on the history of parasitology long sought after by historians of medicine and the biological sciences.

There are three main sections of the volume. The eleven chapters of the first discuss important general subjects such as the knowledge of human parasites in different ages and cultures, the description and clinical treatments of parasitic affections, and ideas on spontaneous generation. The twelve chapters of the second section deal with more specialised subjects, half of them with special reference to China, e.g. malaria and dysentery in Chinese medicine, the use of leeches in Asia, and the role assigned to the moon's phases in biology and medicine in east and west. Finally, the third section gives a brief, but most judicious, outline of the development of parasitology in the period of modern science from the middle of the seventeenth century onwards.

This arrangement is perfectly logical. Indeed Professor Hoeppli's book breaks new ground not only in its own subject, but because it is the first book on any such subject in the history of science which treats of medieval Chinese, Indian and Arabic contributions on exactly the same level, and with the same detail, and the same degree of seriousness, as those of Western antiquity and the Middle Ages. The scholarly value of the work is very greatly enhanced by an abundant use of Chinese characters. One must salute in it the work of a great scientific humanist.

JOSEPH NEEDHAM

The Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children, 1860-1960. DOUGLAS GUTHRIE, with various contributors. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1960; pp. xii+75. Illustrated. 17s. 6d.

This book will be greatly valued by those who have worked in the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children in the past. They will recognize familiar places and recall