

Book Notices

ARTHUR ROOK, *Cambridge Medical Society 1880–1980. A centennial study*, Cambridge Medical Society, 1980, 8vo, pp. vii 143, illus., £6.00.

Centennials are frequently occasions for reflective celebration. Arthur Rook's little history of the first hundred years of the Cambridge Medical Society provides him with such an opportunity. Drawing on his unparalleled knowledge of Cambridge medical history, he describes the course of what is in many ways a typical medical society whose functions have gradually evolved over the years. Founded in 1880, partly the result of the meeting of the British Medical Association in Cambridge in that year, its prehistory lay in the Cambridge Medical Book Club, a circulating medical library started in 1832. The CMS was designed to complement the local Cambridge branch of the BMA, eschewing medical politics in favour of professional education. Dr. Rook has analysed the kind of papers delivered before the Society, noting the virtual disappearance of papers devoted to specialties such as surgery and infectious diseases with the gradual increase in contributions of more general interest (including medical history). He also provides brief biographies of the Society's officers which, although sometimes drawn from the élites of the Cambridge Medical School, have more often come from practitioners and consultants in the area. Although many of the book's details will be of interest primarily to those who are familiar with the Cambridge medical scene, the microcosm has much relevance to wider features of British medical life during the past century. This volume, which contains portraits of many of the Society's past officers, is available from the Cambridge Medical Society, Clinic 7, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

HUGH H. SMITH, *Life's a pleasant institution: the peregrinations of a Rockefeller Doctor*, Tucson, Arizona, [the author], 1978, pp. x, 254, illus., [no price stated].

Hugh Smith is an American physician who spent his primary career with the Rockefeller Foundation. Born in South Carolina in 1902, he studied medicine at the Johns Hopkins University. His association with the research and public health activities of the Rockefeller Foundation have taken him to many parts of the world, including Jamaica, Brazil, and Colombia. In the latter two countries he was principally concerned with yellow fever. He spent World War II as the Rockefeller representative in Britain, returning after the war to New York City, where he became assistant director of the Foundation's International Health Division. He retired to Arizona in the early 1950s, where he occupied himself with various activities including running a Red Cross Blood Bank Service and teaching virology and public health at the University of Arizona. Travel has always been an important element in Dr. Smith's career and personal life, and much of this volume is devoted to recounting the experiences he has had, and the friends and acquaintances he has made, throughout the world. Dr. Smith's account of his life is intensely personal and hence will be of most interest to those who know him or his work. However, he writes well, has an eye for a good story, and offers insights into many problems relating to public health in developing countries. British readers will also find his chapter on his wartime experiences in London amusing, even if it contains a few quaint Americanisms, such as calling the Athenaeum the Athenaeum Club. He also confuses the Wellcome Foundation with the Wellcome Trust.

This privately printed autobiography is available from Dr. Smith, 1200 East Ina Road, Tucson, Arizona 85718, U.S.A.

GEOFFREY BILSON, *A darkened House. Cholera in nineteenth-century Canada*, Toronto, Buffalo, and London, University of Toronto Press, 1980, 8vo, pp. x, 222, \$15.00 (\$5.95 paperback).

Within the more general efflorescence of interest in the social history of medicine, there has been a recent outbreak of particular concern with cholera and its nineteenth-century incursions into Europe and North America. Bilson's straightforward account of cholera in nineteenth-century Canada thus logically joins R. J. Morris's *Cholera 1832. The social response to an epidemic* (1976), Michael Durey's *The return of the plague. British society and the cholera*

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1831–2 (1979), and Margaret Pelling's *Cholera, fever and English medicine 1825–1865* (1978) in providing greater depth and texture to our current understanding of these traumatic and revealing episodes. Two-thirds of Bilson's lucid account are devoted to the epidemic of 1832–4, the most dramatic of cholera's visits to North America. Bilson makes good use of abundant archival materials and constructs a detailed and effective account of the epidemic and public and administrative reactions to it. The University of Toronto Press has, moreover, chosen to combat prevailing book prices by issuing this contribution to its Social History of Canada series simultaneously in cloth and paper. Perhaps this policy will allow practising historians again to consider purchasing new monographs in their fields, an option not normally available in this era of ever-increasing book prices.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

ROSARIO BEAUPERTHUY DE BENEDETTI, *General José Gregorio Monagas: Presidente de Venezuela y liberador de los esclavos*, Caracas, [the author: Quinta 52, Av. Valencia, Urbanización Las Palmas, Caracas, Venezuela], 1980, pp. 16, illus.

BELFAST: inaugural lectures delivered before the Queen's University of Belfast (copies obtainable from the Librarian, at 40p + postage):

S. A. LEWIS, *Psychology applied to medicine: old wine in new bottles* (6 February 1980), pp. 24, illus.

A. G. KERR, *They have ears but they hear not* (13 February 1980), pp. 33, illus.

J. H. ELWOOD, *Medicine and the community*, (27 February 1980), pp. 22, illus.

WILLIAM F. M. WALLACE, *Science and medicine*, (16 April 1980), pp. 23, illus.

RICHARD Q. BELL and LAWRENCE V. HARPER, *Child effects on adults*, Lincoln, Nebr., and London, University of Nebraska Press, 1980, 8vo, pp. xii, 253, £2.70 (paperback).

A. RUPERT HALL and NORMAN SMITH (editors), *History of Technology*, 5th annual volume, London, Mansell, 1980, 8vo, pp. vii, 157, illus., £18.50.

MORRIS MADDOCKS, *The Christian healing ministry*, London, SPCK, 1981, 8vo, pp. xii, 243, £4.95 (paperback).

'Medicine and History', *Transactions and Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia*, Series V, vol. II, no. 2, September 1980, pp. 159–240, \$7.50 (paperback).

Revista de la Sociedad Venezolana de Historia de la Medicina, 1980, vol. 29, nos. 43–44, pp. 138, [no price stated].

Tibetan Medicine, no. 1, 1980 (Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Gangchen Kyishong, Dharamsala 176215, Himachal Pradesh, India), pp. 58, Rs. 20.00.

FELIKS WIDY-WIRSKI (editor), *Biuletyn Głównej Biblioteki Lekarskiej*, nos. 10 and 11 (1979); and *Archiwum Historii Medycyny*, 1980, vol. 43. (Warsaw, ul. Chocimska 22, Poland.)