

Book Reviews

at large inclines us to defend their conclusions to the extent that love of truth will allow. Nor do I think it becoming in us to neglect and make little of their labours and conclusions who bore the torch that has lighted us to the shrine of philosophy.' Unlike many of his contemporaries Harvey appears to have had a genuine appreciation of the evolutionary development of knowledge. The account of Harvey's accomplishment is, as it should be, the high point of the book.

Dr. Keele finds a close unity of theme between *De motu cordis* and *De generatione animalium*, not only as reflection of the Harveian personality—which, incidentally, contributed to such short comings as there are in the latter work—but also because both works demonstrate different aspects of cardiac dominance in the life of animals, both were based on the concept of circular motion, and both were strongly influenced by Aristotle, the former by Aristotelian logic and the latter by Aristotelian embryology. In both works the achievement was essentially the result of clear observation founded upon Harvey's primary interest in anatomy.

This most recent biography of Harvey, a book of modest proportions, has appeared as a volume in the series of 'British Men of Science', presumably published as sound but not necessarily highly specialized studies, for the benefit of intelligent laymen with an interest in medicine or science. Dr. Keele's book, however, transcends any such purpose since it is the first study of Harvey which has come successfully to grips with the all-important question of how his achievements came into being. It is certainly to be recommended to that larger group, but it is also a study that no specialist can afford to overlook.

C. D. O'MALLEY

Varieties of Psychopathological Experience, by CARNEY LANDIS, edited by FRED A. METTLER, New York and London, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1964, pp. xviii, 484, 70s.

Dr. Landis (1897–1962), formerly professor of psychology at Columbia University and at the time of his death chief of the department of psychology of the New York State Psychiatric Institute, conceived the idea of presenting the varieties of abnormal mental experience not, according to the usual plan of objective description of phenomenology, but in the form of subjective accounts 'of the nature of the "inner" experience'. His book 'consists of a selection of excerpts published by persons who were trying'—for any reason other than financial gain—'to describe such inner experiences during a deranged episode'. This type of writing is uncommon and much of it, not surprisingly, anonymous. Dr. Landis after extensive search in America and here, found only about two hundred books and an equal number of articles in the English, French and German literature. Instead of bringing together like passages from diverse sources as a kind of 'Readings in Subjective Psychopathology' he chose the harder way of organising his material by themes 'in the fashion of a textbook'.

His twenty-one chapters, each with introduction, many subheadings and discussion, recount such interesting aspects of mental illness from the inside—some little regarded in ordinary textbooks of psychiatry—as onset, assumed cause, lucid intervals, disturbed perception, disorders of thought and speech, delusions and hallucinations, pain, depersonalisation, insight, the effects of therapy and therapist, and so on.

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The original MS contained two chapters, on 'sex and sexuality' and 'mystical and religious experience', which the editor Dr. Mettler, professor of anatomy at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, and historian of medicine, had to omit, as he states, for lack of space. Had Dr. Landis's health permitted something of interest could have been brought out by a further chapter on self accounts down the ages because there is a growing suspicion that the manifestations of mental illness are changing and not only due to better attitudes and more treatment. Social and cultural influences might have been considered in the same context as well as some formal attempt made to compare if not contrast the manifestations of organic and non-organic states.

Dr. Landis has worked the ground hard and well. He has made an original contribution and brought together much material hitherto known only to a very few collectors. Students of abnormal psychology will gain from it invaluable insights into the sick mind as recorded in spontaneous products unhampered, unforced and unembarrassed by interview. Many will want to go back to read some originals *in extenso* such as the classic autobiographies which were Dr. Landis's starting point and from which he quotes most frequently: Daniel Paul Schreber's *Memoirs of my Nervous Illness* (Leipzig 1903; translated and edited by Ida Macalpine and R. Hunter, London, Dawsons, 1955) and John Perceval's *Narrative of the Treatment Experienced by a Gentleman, during a State of Mental Derangement; Designed to Explain the Causes and the Nature of Insanity* (London, 1838 and 1840; edited by G. Bateson, London, Hogarth Press, 1962).

One closes the book astonished almost as much as the sufferers who laid themselves bare in these pages, by how little we can claim really to understand the working of the mind in ease and disease and its relation to the functions of the brain. This being so and while we still have largely to work within the limitations of symptomatic classification, psychiatric patients are reduced to numbers and diagnoses only at peril.

By a misreading of the great Manchester Physician John Ferriar's *An Essay upon Apparitions* (London, 1813) that author is credited (on page 114) with visions which in fact he quoted from the experiences of Nicolai, the Berlin bookseller, whose frank revelations figure in many psychiatric texts of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

RICHARD HUNTER

Quaderni di Storia della Scienza e della Medicina. Università degli Studi de Ferrara. 1963–1965. *Il Fenomeno Paracelso*, by R. BLASER, 1963, pp. 37, illustr. *Giovanni Pico della Mirandola nei suoi rapporti di amicizia con Gerolamo Savonarola*, by P. ROCCA, 1964, pp. 29, 2 illus. *Arcangelo Piccolomini Ferrarese (1525–1586) e la sua importanza nell'anatomia Postvesaliana*, by F. PIERRO, 1965, pp. 35, frontis. and 4 illus., no prices given.

The new series of short monographs appearing under the auspices of Ferrara University and its professor of Medical History, Ladislao Münster, is appropriately introduced by a study of Paracelsus. For the latter was, according to his own deposition (accepted in lieu of the witness' oath by a Basle magistrate) a graduate