

Book Reviews

RICHARD WISEMAN, *Of wounds, of gun-shot wounds, of fractures and luxations*, facsimile of 1676 edition with introduction etc., by John Kirkup, Bath, Kingsmead Press, 1977, 4to, pp. xxi, facsimile (6 11., 339–498), xxiii-xli, illus., £10.00.

Richard Wiseman (b. between 1621 and 1623, d. 1676) published his *Severall chirurgicall treatises* in 1676, and Mr. Kirkup here presents an excellent facsimile reproduction of a section of its 600 pages. His introduction deals with Wiseman and contemporary surgery, but unfortunately it is inadequate and in parts erroneous. British surgery is referred to almost exclusively, and only English sources, some of them now discredited, have been used, with none of the more recent literature on seventeenth-century medicine.

Nevertheless, this strives to be one of the better types of reprints, for in addition to the introduction there is a 'Biographical appendix' and a 'Glossary'. Again, however, our faith in the author is much weakened by his inclusion of "Galen, Claudius" in the former. He is clearly entirely dependent upon secondary sources and even these he is not able to evaluate critically.

MICHAEL E. BURKE, *The Royal College of San Carlos. Surgery and Spanish medical reform in the late eighteenth century*, Durham, N. C., Duke University Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. xv, 215, \$10.75.

As little of a scholarly nature has been written in English on the history of Spanish medicine, Professor Burke's excellent book is most welcome. Based on his broad knowledge of the Spanish Enlightenment, he is able to depict the founding in Madrid of this College in 1787 and its chequered career thereafter. The problems assailing its development were much the same as in other countries—financial stringency, conflict with the state, with the physicians, and with provincials, amongst others—but their full analysis, with reference to the European context, could only be made by a scholar of Burke's stature and knowledge.

We also learn of the organization of the Spanish medical profession and its various institutions, the reform of medical education in universities and hospitals, as well as the curriculum, staff, administration, and academic life as a whole.

This book is based on extensive research into records and can be recommended unreservedly as an important contribution to the history of European medicine.

ROBERT G. RICHARDSON (editor), *Nurse Sarah Anne. With Florence Nightingale at Scutari*, London, John Murray, 1977, 8vo, pp. 183, illus., £4.95.

Our intimate knowledge of the medical aspects of the Crimea War have come mainly from individuals like Florence Nightingale attacking the appalling deficiencies, and from those defending their arrangements. Sarah Anne Terrot (1822–1902) was at Scutari during the terrible winter of 1854–1855 and kept an intimate and detailed diary of her activities and observations, unconcerned with exposing or covering up inadequacies and incompetence. This is reproduced here (pp. 65–164) with an extensive introduction setting the scene, but making wild claims for the diary's worth; there are a few notes and references. Like many diaries, this adds a new dimension to a historical event and is thus an important document. We now need a similar account from the Russian side, which is said to exist but almost unknown to the West.