

### Book Reviews

and surgeons do not know that tuberculosis is a notifiable disease, or that most men in industry are not very intelligent.

Very wisely, Dr. Hobson has drawn many lessons from the medical histories of wars, and in particular of the Second World War, which was a triumph for hygiene and preventive medicine. He recalls the low standards of sanitation among the Axis troops in North Africa which contributed to their downfall. It must not be forgotten, however, that it was the unremitting activities of hygiene personnel in the months before Alamein that convinced the Eighth Army that hygiene was something more than 'slightly vulgar and faintly amusing'. Fly control was carried out effectively long before D.D.T. came on the scene. The fact that the invading army in N.W. Europe was 'the most healthy army the world has ever known' is proof of the way in which health educational lessons had been learned by the General Staff who planned the campaign, and the officers and men who took part in it.

The chapter on tuberculosis cannot fail to impress upon the reader the importance of this disease as a world problem. It will be seen that many countries are now struggling against an epidemic phase of phthisis, as we did for more than 200 years before natural causes, social betterment and organized control schemes began to tell. The public at home will learn of the contribution that B.C.G. and effective treatment can make to the eradication of consumption. References to the impact of tuberculosis on literature and art help to maintain the reader's interest. (It was in 1882, of course, not 1870, that Koch announced his discovery of the bacillus.)

The other chapters range far and wide over the whole field of preventive medicine, with a wealth of historical and epidemiological accompaniments which excite attention.

The book concludes with a plea for a new form of international co-operation for the elimination of disease and suffering, and the idea of world citizenship; at the same time, stress is laid on the need for more individual knowledge and responsibility. Well illustrated and attractive, this is a book which merits a large circulation.

H. D. CHALKE

*Galen on the Passions and Errors of the Soul*, translated by P. W. HARKINS) with an introduction and interpretation by W. Riese, Ohio State University Press, 1964, pp. 136, \$4.75.

This book offers the first English translation of two treatises by Galen based on the critical edition of Wilko de Boer in *Corpus Medicorum Graecorum*, Leipzig and Berlin, 1937. Dr. Riese supplies a short introduction to Galen and an interpretation of the treatises. Galenists will be grateful to have the text, which is particularly interesting for its autobiographical details, so readably presented and carefully analysed.

It is not so easy to follow Dr. Riese's claim that these treatises are 'contributions to that part of medicine known today as psychotherapy'. Much of the matter is mere midbrow moralizing like 'The education of children in some way closely resembles horticulture. For all his careful attention, the farmer could never make a bramble bush produce a bunch of grapes.' Hardly the sort of statement which requires the master-mind of the man who dominated medicine for fifteen centuries.

More striking perhaps is to read of the denial Galen imposed upon himself never to hit a member of his household with his hand, achieved not as a triumph of mind over matter, but learnt from the bitter experience of friends who had bruised themselves 'while striking their slaves in the teeth' bare-fisted. As his father rightly said, wait until you can get hold of a whip and then you may inflict as many blows as you wish with

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impunity, and, what is more, 'accomplish the act with reflection'. Perhaps psychotherapy has become so much more difficult because we are no longer exposed to such simple temptations.

RICHARD HUNTER

*Aldrovandi on Chickens: The Ornithology of Ulisse Aldrovandi (1600)*, vol. II, Bk XIV, translated and edited by L. R. LIND, University of Oklahoma Press, 1963, pp. xxxvi, 447, illus., \$6.95.

This is a delightful book. There are many reasons for being grateful to L. R. Lind for his translation and to Professor Loyal F. Payne, who not only persuaded him to undertake this task but obtained from various sources the subsidies that rendered possible both the translation and publication.

Aldrovandi seems to have been fascinated by almost everything, alive or dead. In his Introduction, Lind mentions 18 volumes of plates in colour, containing more than 3,000 drawings of fruits, flowers, plants and animals, and manuscripts bound together in 363 volumes. His published works fill over a dozen folio volumes and his *Ornithology* occupies over 2,000 pages. Of these, barely a tenth are devoted to chickens, but this is perhaps the section which concerns the average person most. This is also the section which Harvey refers to in his work on generation.

While Aldrovandi is concerned with the role the chickens play in proverbs, apologues, apophthegms, riddles and hieroglyphics, he also devotes a considerable space to their use in medicine.

Aldrovandi has summarized all that he has been able to learn of chickens in the great collection of books at his disposal but also tells us something of contemporary practice. Certain aspects of this, such as a Dutch method of fattening hens, do not seem to differ very much from those practised today or for that matter from those described by Varro.

*Aldrovandi on Chickens* has been reduced from the three volumes of *Ornithology* to a single octavo and considerable care has been devoted to this transformation. The illustrations on ornithology have been especially esteemed. Many of these occupy a full folio page and achieve a happy balance with the opposing page of rather heavy print. In other instances, print and illustrations are combined in a single page. In the translation the same paper has been used throughout for text and illustrations. The marginal notes have been placed at the bottom of the page and the illustrations so reduced that even the largest no longer have to lie lengthwise. Occasionally Aldrovandi has quoted a fragment of verse and this has been translated as prose and incorporated in the text. It might have been better to have written these fragments in verse form. But by and large one has nothing but praise for the way in which this book has been produced.

Alessandro Ghigi has written a brief but informative foreword and the translator, L. R. Lind, an introduction, which tells us much about the life and works of Ulisse Aldrovandi.

C. E. KELLETT

*A Short History of the Gout and the Rheumatic Diseases*, by W. S. C. COPEMAN, Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press (London, Cambridge University Press), 1964, pp. xi, 236, illus., \$6.

Dr. Copeman has exceptional qualifications for writing this history, being a specialist on the diseases considered, and also eminent as a medical historian and promoter of