

### Book Reviews

teacher at a time when the Professor was completely somnolent.

To come down to details of the book itself, Dr. Robb-Smith gives some refreshingly accurate statements about the statistics of what the university did for medicine before 1600. The late Dr. W. S. C. Copeman (what a loss to Medical History!) gave a very good paper on John Caius; and Prof. Milnes-Walker one on Glisson, full of useful information. He is perhaps not quite fair to poor Dr. Whistler, who has suffered too much for his sins, about rickets: Whistler really was better on it than Glisson. Dr. Rook's paper on Medical Education 1600–1800 grapples with a difficult subject and is splendid (but why do people say that Needham wrote about 'De Formatio Fortu?' That is nonsense). And it was not the College of Physicians which restricted its Fellowship to Oxford and Cambridge graduates in 1675: it was Charles II, who with typical cunning got round an unavoidable demand that Catholics should be excluded by giving that order to the College, knowing that graduates had to sign the Thirty-nine Articles. And what about (p. 56) the botanic garden in the form of the physic garden which correctly means the same thing, at the corner of Downing Street and Corn Exchange Street? But never mind: Dr. Rook produces so many new facts that these are trivia. His paper on Haviland, Paget and Humphrey is equally good.

Dr. Towers' paper on anatomy and physiology is a model: the book is worth buying for that alone. In future, when overcome by depression or weariness, there is the cure. Dr. Hodgkinson is interesting, contrasting the education of three imaginary students at the beginning, middle and end of the nineteenth century, but there is so much more to say that it was a pity to postpone facts to a gimmick of presentation. Dr. Raymond Williamson and Dr. Woollam are both first-class on the history of pathology at Cambridge, and Prof. F. G. Young is full of interest on the rise of biochemistry. One would expect Lord Cohen (who chaired the congress admirably) to produce a tour de force on Allbutt, and one is not disappointed. Prof. Henry Barcroft gave an excellent review of Joseph Barcroft and his contemporaries, of all of whom he can speak with authority (and interest). Prof. J. H. Edwards produced a new and revealing account of Haldane and Genetics, and Prof. Dixon an impressive list of later contributions to biochemistry: what a man Hopkins was! And he is further revealed in Dr. Kodicek's paper on vitamins: these two ought to be read by research workers of all sorts. Finally Dr. Cole tells the by now encouraging story of the Cambridge School and clinical medicine in this century.

No-one says so, but the idea which this book leaves is that even in its worst times, Cambridge has always been able to put forward somebody who was an example of excellence in some subject to the young. The young easily take fire from the vision of excellence, and perhaps that is what Cambridge has been doing all this time.

CHARLES NEWMAN

*Der Wandel der Medizin wie ich ihn erlebte*, by GUIDO FANCONI, Berne, Stuttgart and Vienna, Huber, 1970, pp. 358, illus., S.Fr.48/DM.43.

The author, Emeritus Professor of Paediatrics and former Director of the Children's Hospital at Zürich University, has gained international recognition by his studies of a number of abnormal conditions in childhood. He has written a textbook of paediatrics and edited the *Helvetica Paediatrica Acta*. After his retirement he was

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elected Secretary General of the International Paediatric Association. He has now written his memoirs as a highly personal account of the changes seen during the many years he has been engaged in clinical work, research, teaching and administration. He reviews an almost encyclopaedic range of topics, from the changes in the nature of diseases to the changed aspect of medical congresses. Even the influence of television on children is not forgotten. The subjects which the author was most interested in during his clinical career such as Fanconi's syndrome, Fanconi's anaemia, the vitamins, mongolism etc. are discussed in great detail. The text is liberally interspersed with autobiographic anecdotes and we learn about the author's religious and philosophic views, his thoughts on medical education and his experiences as administrator and editor of a medical journal.

The picture emerges of an eminent physician who in no small way contributed to medical progress, keeping abreast of modern medical and social developments after his retirement. The opportunity to observe and compare clinical practice and research in many countries as visiting professor and secretary general of an international organization stimulated him and gave him great satisfaction. He has mixed feelings about the increasing 'socialization' of medicine but even if he cannot always approve of what he sees of the changing scene he endeavours to describe it with an open mind.

The book is elegantly produced but it is unfortunate that so many errors and misprints have been allowed to creep in—e.g. Galileo discovers the 'satellites of Jupiter with his microscope' and the well-known London Children's Hospital becomes the 'Great-Hormon-Street-Hospital'.

R. HELLER

*Wilson Jameson, Architect of National Health*, by N. M. GOODMAN, London, Allen & Unwin, 1970, pp. 216, £2.10.

Two men, neither of whom were English, have played a dominating role in the development of English public health in the last hundred years. One was Sir John Simon. The other—the subject of this biography—was Sir Wilson Jameson. Their lives overlapped by nearly twenty years—Jameson was born in 1885, whilst Simon died in 1904. Simon's work was mainly environmental; Wilson Jameson, on the other hand, being concerned with the health of the individual.

Jameson was typically a grandson of the Manse, his paternal grandfather being a Presbyterian minister. He was one of the three children of the second marriage of his father, who was seventy-one years old when Wilson was born. After his death in 1891 the family moved to Aberdeen where young Wilson qualified M.B.Ch.B. in 1909.

Following Dr. Johnson's dictum, he went South; first to London where he held several hospital appointments, and then to Eastbourne where he had a spell of general practice which he disliked. After army service from 1915 to 1919 he became Medical Officer of Health at Finchley in 1920. This appointment was decisive in persuading him to spend his life in Public Health.

In 1928 he was appointed the first Professor of Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Here his deputy—Brigadier G. S. Parkinson—collaborated with him in producing the first joint edition of the bible of Public Health—*The Synopsis of Hygiene* or 'Jameson and Parkinson' as it is affectionately known. In