

Book Reviews

Medical History for Students, by JOHN R. GREEN, Springfield, Illinois, C. C. Thomas, 1968, pp. ix, 197, illus., \$9.75.

This book, based upon the author's lecture syllabus, has been written for the express purpose of introducing the student to an outline of medical history from the earliest times until the present day. Controversial discussion would therefore be out of place. The subject is treated both chronologically and geographically. All the more important facts are presented in an interesting narrative form. This, itself, is something of a feat in a work which consists of only one hundred and eighty pages of fairly large print. There is a very full index and a useful list of books for further reading. The book ends with a brief, rather superficial survey of patterns of medical progress in various countries since the Second World War. British readers will find little cause for complacency in the short and apposite section accorded to Great Britain. Many will agree that the author has hit the nail squarely upon the head.

One or two minor criticisms must be made. A short account of the Black Death contains the absurdity 'the total number of victims was estimated to be 42,836,486 persons'. The use of gothic script in chapter headings, scroll-like maps, and an imitation parchment paper gives an unfortunate impression of 'ye olde worlde' which is quite out of place in a serious history of medicine—particularly one which is primarily aimed at medical students. It is to be hoped that this ill-considered format will be changed in the next edition.

For this is a book which deserves wide popularity and a long life. It can be confidently recommended as a simple, interesting, and accurate survey. A copy should certainly be in every medical school library.

F. F. CARTWRIGHT

A Bibliography of Sir Philip Manson-Bahr, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., by A. J. DUGGAN, with a foreword by D. W. ADAMSON. (Memoirs of the Wellcome Museum of Medical Science No. 1), London, Wellcome Foundation, 1970, pp. 4, iv, 50, illus., 10s.

Bibliographies are the essential foundation for all historical research and this bibliography of the massive body of work published by the late Sir Philip Manson-Bahr will prove a valuable tool for medical historians who come to write the history of tropical medicine in the present century. Extending from 1907 to 1966, the 621 entries record the outstanding contribution of one of the British leaders in the field. Embedded in it are references to numerous papers and addresses on the history of tropical medicine, and especially on the pioneer work of his father-in-law, Sir Patrick Manson. Among the beautifully reproduced plates with which the work is illustrated is a portrait frontispiece of the man himself, a 'speaking likeness' recalling that dominating figure and impressive personality. There are also a few of his own line-drawings and a page of one of his original manuscripts. These are among the many donations of material which he made to the Wellcome Museum of Medical Science over more than forty years.

The choice of subject is a happy one to inaugurate the new series of the Museum's *Memoirs* planned by its Director, Dr. A. J. Duggan. The work has been carried out with meticulous accuracy and the indexes help to bring out many hidden aspects of the works recorded in the bibliography.

F. N. L. POYNTER