

Book Reviews

RUSSELL M. JONES (editor), *The Parisian education of an American surgeon. Letters of Jonathan Mason Warren (1832–1835)*, Philadelphia, Pa., American Philosophical Society, 1977, 8vo, pp. xiv, 266, \$8.00.

During most of the nineteenth century, American medicine was very much dependent on that of Europe. In the first three or four decades, those wishing to further their education and skills visited Paris where the anatomical approach to disease had begun and was flourishing. First-hand accounts by foreigners to a country are always of great value, and thus the letters of J. M. Warren, of the great Boston family of surgeons, are of particular significance.

They are presented here with copious notes, which, however, are not always accurate or correct in interpretation. Thus, “humoral pathology” is incorrectly described in Note 15 on page 216. The elucidatory medical comments are mostly unnecessary, because the majority of readers of these letters will not need them. Moreover, they are sometimes naïve and clearly the product of a non-medical person.

Nevertheless, to the historian of nineteenth-century medicine this book will provide a fascinating and valuable account of a time when medicine was shaking itself free from the shackles of out-moded concepts; provided the notes concerning medical matters are not accepted uncritically.

JOHN WOODALL, *The surgions mate, 1617*, a facsimile edited by John Kirkup, Bath, Somerset, Kingsmead Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xxxiv, 362 [facsimile], illus., £8.00.

John Woodall (1570–1643) was a surgical colleague of Harvey at St. Bartholomew’s Hospital, Master of the Barber-Surgeons Company of London, and the first Surgeon-General to the East India Company. His clinical experience, both military and civil, was extensive, and in 1617 he published his important work *The surgions mate*. It is now reprinted in facsimile, with an excellent introduction (pp. xi–xxiv), a list of references and bibliography of Woodall’s other works, the present whereabouts of the originals, and an appendix with very brief biographies. Woodall intended his book for the benefit of mariners, and it is the first medical manual written for practice at sea.

Both the editor Mr. John Kirkup, and the publisher are to be congratulated on producing a high-quality reprint of an important and very rare classic. It is hoped that they will provide further examples in the future.

Graphische Bildnisse des 16.–20 Jahrhunderts aus dem Porträtarchiv Diepenbroick. Porträt 2: Der Arzt, Münster, Westfälische Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte, 1978, 4to, pp. 319, illus., [no price stated].

The 187 portraits described here are being shown in various German towns, and this represents a lavish catalogue of them. There are lengthy introductions dealing with medical history, portraits in prints and in books, and the picture of the doctor in literature. Each of the portraits listed is reproduced, and there is an excellent description of it, with a biographical sketch and notes on the provenance. They are arranged chronologically and divided into five periods, ranging from 500 B.C. to A.D. 1920. This is an important contribution to the iconography of the doctor and provides a model that other catalogues should follow.