

Book Reviews

Miller's papers, and a list of his publications.

Henry Miller was an exceptional man: a brilliant clinician and a talented administrator, but also a hedonist, a wit, a scourge, a gadfly, a *bon viveur*, patron of the arts, raconteur, and humanist. This multi-faceted personality accounts for the varied impressions he made on individuals, which are here revealed. Together they gave Newcastle a man to be proud of and hard to forget.

DESMOND KING-HELE, *Doctor of revolution. The life and genius of Erasmus Darwin*, London, Faber & Faber, 1977, pp. 361, illus., £12.50.

Erasmus, the grandfather of Charles, Darwin was, like Franklin, one of the intellectual giants of the eighteenth century, but hardly the greatest Englishman of the century as the author claims. Erasmus Darwin was a polymath, equally at home in science and technology as in the arts. He was an outstanding physician, biologist, and meteorologist; a founder of the Birmingham Lunar Society; a major poet praised by Coleridge, whom he influenced, together with Wordsworth and Shelley; and a technologist of steam, carriages, windmills, and a rocket motor.

And yet Erasmus is relatively unknown when contrasted with Charles. Being in clinical medicine, he advertised his accomplishments less and, unlike his contemporary, Dr. Johnson, did not have a Boswell. On account of such undeserved neglect, he is, therefore, well worthy of this excellent biography, prepared by a scientist in elegant style and with full documentation. Mr. King-Hele has carried out extensive research, including the use of new material, which together help to rehabilitate a figure who until now has been in declining favour and insufficiently appreciated.

JOHN GINGER, *The notable man. The life and times of Oliver Goldsmith*, London, Hamish Hamilton, 1977, 8vo, pp. xv, 408, illus., £7.95.

One wonders why yet further biographies of outstanding men are produced, when no new material is available. This one, however, is justified by the author's sympathy for Goldsmith, by his searching and shrewd analysis of him, and by the new ideas he puts forward. The account of Goldsmith's medical studies in Edinburgh is fuller than usual; one of his teachers was Alexander Monro (not "Munro" as given here), presumably *secundus*.

Mr. Ginger presents an excellent biography, accurately depicted in its historical setting and eminently readable. It will replace most of the previous books on Goldsmith which have attempted a popular account of him.

A. E. GUNTHER, *The life of William Carmichael M'Intosh, M.D., F.R.S., of St. Andrews (1838-1931). A pioneer in marine biology*, Edinburgh, Scottish Academic Press for the University of St. Andrews, 1977, 4to, pp. 214, illus., [no price stated].

The materials available for a biography of M'Intosh are legion, and the author has made good use of them, not only to depict the long and full life of an outstanding Scottish scientist, but also to contribute to the history of marine biology, of the University of St. Andrews, and of St. Andrews Medical School. The text is well documented, there are ten plates of illustrations, and several appendices containing useful data. On the whole, this is a book to consult rather than to read, and it will be