

Book Reviews

as well as other illustrations which considerably enhance the book. The articles on therapeutic terms are less satisfactory, being vaguer and not always up to date. Dr. Skinner has also included short essays on general subjects such as 'electricity' and 'glass' which are only indirectly apposite. Some of these would seem less intrusive, if they had been rigorously brought level with advances in modern medicine; the article 'microscope' for instance begins admirably but breaks off at 1856. Dr. Skinner's pleasantly discursive style presents his detailed learning in eminently readable form, and his book can in general be recommended for quick reference and for leisurely browsing.

W. R. LE FANU

Bibliography of Medico-Legal Works in English, ROBERT P. BRITTAİN, London, Sweet and Maxwell, Ltd., 1962, pp. 252, £2 12s. 6d.

Forensic medicine has had only one serious bibliographer, Stamford Chaillé in 1876, and this new bibliography of medico-legal works in English must therefore expect a warm welcome from both academic experts in the subject and from medical historians: it well deserves a place on the shelves of each.

Brittain has expended much patient labour in collecting the published works either written in the original in English or translated from the French of M. Orfila, the German of Mittermaier, the Italian of Enrico Ferri. The large Indian contribution to the literature in forensic medicine receives full notice.

Here the historian will quickly be able to locate the source of Christison's plea for a Chair in the University of Edinburgh, the fate of Chitty's treatise, read the original of Bucknill's classification of criminal lunatics or browse in the long and distinguished career of Taylor's *Principles and Practice of Medical Jurisprudence*. The difficulty of exclusion—mainly of pamphlets and lectures—often published privately by their proud authors—has not been overcome and much trivial matter of little or no literary or historical importance could have been evicted to make room for important figures like Mead, Blyth, Faulds, Herschel, or the leaders of current opinion like Williams, Race, Mourant or Dreisbach. But no major task like this is ever accomplished satisfactorily in a first writing. We hope to see 'Brittain' in a second edition with both weeding and new plantings before long has elapsed. He has already produced a remarkably useful reference work: it only needs the pruning and polish that every good writer wishes he had given his work before handing in the manuscript. Sweet and Maxwell would do well to extend 'Brittain's' commission—without strings.

KEITH SIMPSON

Medical Department, United States Army. Internal Medicine in World War II. Vol. I: Activities of Medical Consultants. Editor-in-Chief, COLONEL JOHN BOYD COATES, JR., M.C., Editor for Internal Medicine, W. PAUL HAVENS, JR., M.D. Washington, D.C., Office of the Surgeon General Department of the Army, 1961, pp. 880, illus., \$7.50.

This massive tome, the seventeenth to be published in the series concerned with the history of the U.S. Army Medical Department in the Second World War, deals with internal medicine, and is the first of three volumes upon the subject. Its nine chapters are written by thirteen physicians with wartime experience as consultants to the Army.

On 7 December 1941 the Japanese air force attacked Pearl Harbour and bombed the United States fleet which lay at anchor. Next day the United States was at war with the Axis Powers.