

## Medical History Illustrated

An Illustrated History of Medicine. By Roberto Margotta. (Pp. 324. 63s.) London: Paul Hamlyn. 1968.

Of the several illustrated histories of medicine that have been published, this is probably the most sumptuous and the most original in pictorial content. The illustrations, many of them in excellent colour, have been mostly reproduced from primary sources and it is a pleasure to see so many that have not appeared before in other examples of this kind of book. Altogether the book is a credit to the Italian firm that has produced it.

Unfortunately the text, to which the illustrations are secondary, although well written is not as praiseworthy. The author's laudable

aim is to provide "in simple terms, a picture of the main stages of medicine in its evolution through the centuries" and as a continuing process set against the general background of civilization. But the story is unbalanced, so that more space is devoted to earlier periods than is warranted, owing perhaps to the more dramatic pictorial material available to illustrate them. There are a number of errors which taken separately are perhaps of little consequence, but when collected together are more serious. There is an unwarranted emphasis on Italian contributions, exemplified best by the usual attempt to magnify the significance of Cesalpino's writings on the circulation of the blood, and by the mention of Matteucci's but not of Du Bois-Reymond's work on electrophysiology.

The section on the nineteenth century, although dealing with the essential and dramatic topics such as anaesthesia, military medicine, nursing, antisepsis and asepsis,

infection, x-rays, and nervous and mental diseases, provides no overall view of medical advances in this period. There are several striking omissions, and certain areas of knowledge such as the neurological sciences are dealt with, albeit inadequately, while other equally important medical sciences are neglected. Finally, it is not at all clear why most of the illustrations for the final section, "Medicine in modern society," should be Russian in origin. The book has no reference to textual sources and the index is too brief.

It is admittedly very difficult to write a short account of the evolution of medicine, but it is regrettable that the author could not have composed a more balanced, impartial, and accurate synopsis which would have matched the brilliance of his illustrations and the gracefulness of his prose.

EDWIN CLARKE.

## Books Received

*Books noticed here may be reviewed later.*

**Metabolism.** Edited by Philip L. Altman and Dorothy S. Dittmer. (Pp. 737+xix. \$20.) Bethesda: Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. 1968.

**Late Somatic Effects of Ionizing Radiation.** By Charles D. Van Cleave. (Pp. 310+vii; illustrated. \$3.) Oak Ridge: U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. 1968.

**Epilepsie, Diagnose und Therapie.** Edited by F. Labhardt. (Pp. 71. 40s.) Basle: S. Karger.

**Handbook of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.** By Ralph C. Benson, M.D. Third edition. (Pp. 752; illustrated. 50s.) Los Altos: Lange Medical Publications. 1968.

**Demand and Need for Dental Care.** By J. S. Bulman, B.D.S., N. D. Richards, M.A., G. L. Slack, O.B.E., T.D., F.D.S., Dip. Bact., and A. J. Willcocks, B.Com., Ph.D. (Pp. 103+viii. 15s.) Oxford: University Press for the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust. 1969.

**Viral Etiology of Congenital Malformations.** (Pp. 178+vi; illustrated. 65 cents.) Bethesda: National Institutes of Health. 1968.

**British National Formulary 1968.** (Pp. 384. 13s. 6d.) London: British Medical Association and the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. 1969.

**The Autobiography of William Carlos Williams.** (Pp. 402+xiv. 63s.) London: MacGibbon & Kee. 1969.

**Proceedings in Echo-Encephalography.** Edited by E. Kazner, W. Schiefer and K. J. Zülch. (Pp. 258+ix; illustrated. 150s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1968.

**Mims Annual Compendium 1968-9.** Edited by Ernest N. Pullom, F.C.S., M.P.S. (Pp. 372+12 Practice Duty Rotas+111. £3 3s. Free to doctors.) London: Medical Publications. 1968.

**XIXth International Tuberculosis Conference.** Edited by Johs. Holm. (Pp. 342; illustrated.) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. 1968.

**Integrative Mechanism of Neuroendocrine System.** Edited by Shinji Itoh, M.D. (Pp. 203; illustrated.) Sapporo: Hokkaido University School of Medicine. 1968.

**Gynäkologie und Geburtshilfe. Band 1, Die geschlechtsspezifischen Funktionen der Frau und ihre Störungen.** By F. Bahner and others. (Pp. 973+xvi; illustrated. DM. 288.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1969.

**Diagnosis of Surgical Disease, Volumes I, II, & III.** By Richard T. Shackelford, M.D. (Pp. 1-780+lxiii, 781-1510+lxiii, and 1511-2131+lxiii; illustrated. £30 16s. the set.) Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1968.

**Handbook of Pediatric Medical Emergencies.** By Charles Varga, M.D., and contributors. Fourth edition. (Pp. 694+xiv; illustrated. 178s.) St. Louis: C. V. Mosby. 1968.

**Facial Prosthesis.** By F. S. Al-Qudsi, D.D.S., M.Sc., F.I.C.D. (Pp. 196; illustrated.) Baghdad: Baghdad University Fund. 1968.

**Die Epilepsien. Spezielle Pathologie und Therapie.** By Dieter Janz. (Pp. 554+xv; illustrated. DM. 118.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1969.

**Infections of the Nervous System. Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease, Volume XLIV.** Edited by H. M. Zimmerman, M.D. (Pp. 495+xv; illustrated. £10 10s.) Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins. 1968.

**Penelope Hall's Social Services of England and Wales.** Edited by Anthony Forder. (Pp. 324+xxvii. £1 15s.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1969.

**Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society. Volume 14.** (Pp. 467; illustrated. 85s.) London: The Royal Society. 1968.

**Introduction to Medical Decision Making.** By Lee B. Lusted, M.D. (Pp. 271+xvii; illustrated, \$18.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1968.

**Hypercholesterolemia and Clinical Atherosclerosis.** By Jacob H. Reisel, M.D. (Pp. 199; illustrated, 84s.) Rotterdam: Uitgevers Wyt. 1969.

**Fluorescent Protein Tracing.** 3rd edition. Edited by R. C. Nairn, M.D., Ph.D., F.C.Path, F.R.S.E. (Pp. 503+xvi; illustrated, 60s.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1969.

**Body Image and Personality.** 2nd revised edition. By Seymour Fisher and Sidney E. Cleveland. (Pp. 448+xi. 28s. 6d.) London: Constable. New York: Dover Publications. 1969.

**Screening for Inborn Errors of Metabolism.** W.H.O. Technical Report Series. No. 401. (Pp. 57; 8s.) Geneva: W.H.O. 1968.

**Obstetrics Illustrated.** By M. M. Carrey, M.B., D.P.H., F.R.C.O.G. and others. (Pp. 493+xii; illustrated, 55s.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1969.

**The Embouchure.** By Maurice Porter. (Pp. 144+xiii; illustrated, 35s.) London: Boosey & Hawkes. 1968.

**Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research.** Vol. 58. Edited by Marshall R. Urist. (Pp. 305+vi; illustrated, 75s.) London: Pitman. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott. 1968.

**Practical Haematology.** By J. V. Dacie, F.R.C.P. and S. M. Lewis, M.D., M.C.Path. 4th edition. (Pp. 568+vii; illustrated. 50s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1968.

**The Principles and Practice of Hormone Therapy in Gynaecology and Obstetrics.** By Joachim Ufer. (Pp. 147+viii; illustrated. DM.54.) Berlin: Walter de Gruyter. 1969.

**Diagnosis and Treatment of Cardiac Arrhythmias.** By J. P. P. Stock, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 234+x; illustrated. 75s.) London: Butterworths. 1969.

**Anaesthetics.** By A. B. Vaughan, M.B.(Lond.), F.F.A.R.C.S. with a chapter by P. V. Cole. (Pp. 306+xiii; illustrated. 40s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1969.

**Perspectives in Health Planning.** By Arthur Engel, M.D. (Pp. 88+vii; illustrated. 25s.) London: Athlone Press. 1969.

**Charakterstudien.** By N. Petrilowitsch, M.D., Ph.D. (Pp. 270+vi. 110s.) Basle and New York: S. Karger. U.K.: Academic Press. 1969.

**Leprosy. For Practitioners.** By S. J. Yawalkar, M.D.(Munich), D.V.D.(Bombay). (Pp. 128+xvi; illustrated. 40s.) London: English Universities Press. 1969.

**Diabetes, Coronary Thrombosis and the Saccharine Disease.** 2nd edition. By T. L. Cleave, M.R.C.P. and G. D. Campbell, M.D., F.R.C.P.(Edin.). (Pp. 162+xiii; illustrated. 21s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1969.

**Treatment of Nervous Disorders.** Edited by K. Hartmann-V. Monakov. (Pp. 775+xiv; illustrated. 370s.) Basle: S. Karger. U.K.: Academic Press. 1969.