

their assistants that the customer is always right because that attitude is good for trade, but I nourish the hope that hospitals will never compete with supermarkets in seeking consumer preference.

Men and women are not simple enough and human relations are too complex to be reduced to formulae expressed in percentages. Many years ago Lord Haldane, in a discussion of the value of the intelligence quotient derived from the then novel Binet-Simon tests, asked me whether I thought the activities and feelings of any human mind could ever be expressed in terms of shallow arithmetic. I said no, and remain of the same opinion.

To be fair, the author, after the challenging first sentence I have quoted, writes a number of paragraphs in which with disarming candour she admits the fallacies and limitations inherent in the evidence she has gathered. Nevertheless she holds her conclusions are relevant to a general evaluation of the hospital service. And, in a way, they are a contribution. The worst feature of the service in her opinion is that a parsimonious Treasury has compelled the acceptance of poor and out-moded conditions in many hospitals, and no one will disagree with that. It is silly, however, to say the nursing and medical professions have accepted these conditions in deference to traditions of charity associated with voluntary hospitals and Poor Law infirmaries in treatment of the sick poor. Doctors and nurses (and many laymen) have protested for years about the crippling lack of finance; few if any of them are guilty of "attitudes of condescension and charity" to their patients, and most matrons are humane and reconciled to the sight of comfortable but untidy beds and patients eating.

A. P. THOMSON.

Tragedy of an Anatomist

Knox the Anatomist. By Isobel Rae. (Pp. 164+v; illustrated. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd. 1964.

In 1958 Miss Isobel Rae published *The Strange Story of Dr. James Barry*, who obtained the M.D. of Edinburgh, served as a surgeon in the Army, rose to the rank of Inspector-General of Hospitals, and was found to be a woman only after her death in 1864. She now makes another valuable contribution to the history of medicine by this biography of the unfortunate Robert Knox, based on prolonged investigation and new sources of information.

Miss Rae first traces the career of Robert Knox, M.D. Edinburgh (1793 to 1862), through his school days at the Edinburgh High School; as a medical student at the University; his time at St. Bartholomew's Hospital under John Abernethy; his career as an Army surgeon—he attended the wounded at Brussels after Waterloo and saw active service in the Kaffir War in South Africa; his studies in Paris, where he was influenced by Cuvier, Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, and De Blainville; as founder and conservator of the Museum of Comparative Anatomy in Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh, up to the zenith of his fame as a brilliant extramural lecturer on anatomy to enthusiastic and overflowing audiences of medical students in Edinburgh thrice daily. It was the time of the "Resurrectionists." In addition, the horrible murders by Burke and Hare were exposed in 1828, and Dr. Knox was universally execrated as the venal purchaser of the victims in order to sustain his claim that he

could always provide his students with subjects for dissection. Knox treated the accusations with silent contempt. He seems not to have appreciated the odium he had incurred unwittingly. In the midst of the popular excitement he proposed reading a scientific paper to the Royal Society of Edinburgh and was only prevented from doing so by the wise intervention of the president, Sir Walter Scott. In 1829 an influential committee of Scottish laymen and doctors exonerated Dr. Knox and his assistants from all knowledge of the crimes.

His students were loyal and defended him. Some of them afterwards became eminent in their profession, like Sir William Fergusson, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, John Goodsir, Henry Lonsdale (Knox's first biographer), J. Hughes Bennett, and others. Nevertheless, Knox's career was ruined, partly because through arrogance and self-sufficiency he was his own worst enemy. He migrated to Glasgow, but his teaching was only appreciated by a few students, including Benjamin Ward Richardson.

Subsequently Knox went to London, where he regained some of his reputation. He did general practice in Hackney, was made an honorary fellow of the Ethnological Society of London and honorary curator of its museum. From 1856 up to his death he found congenial work as pathologist to the Cancer Hospital. There is a slight error on page 150. The writer of the letter about R. L. Stevenson's fictional tale, *The Body Snatcher*, published in 1884, was not Professor John Goodsir, who died in 1867.

Robert Knox's brilliant career was clouded by popular and unreasoning clamour. A tragic story but worth the retelling in Miss Rae's well-written and sympathetic biography.

ARTHUR S. MACNALLY.

Books Received

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.

Radioactive Metal Mobilization in Medicine. By Alexander Catsch, M.D. Translated from the German by Bergene Kawin, Ph.D. (Pp. 170+xii; illustrated. \$7.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

The Bacterial Cell Wall. By Milton R. J. Salton. (Pp. 293+xiii; illustrated. 80s.) Amsterdam, New York, London: Elsevier Publishing Company. 1964.

Evolution of the Atherosclerotic Plaque. Edited by Richard J. Jones, M.D. (Pp. 360+xiii; illustrated. 50s.) Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press. 1964.

Reflexions sur la Médecine Psychosomatique. By René Tzanck. (Pp. 182. 12 F.) Paris: René Julliard. 1964.

The Practice of Psychiatric Nursing. By R. E. Bray and T. E. Bird. With forewords by Professor D. Russell Davis and J. M. Warboys. (Pp. 372+xv; illustrated. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1964.

Out-Island Doctor. By Evans W. Cottman. (Pp. 248; illustrated. 21s.) London: Hodder & Stoughton. 1964.

The Crystal Arrow. Essays on Literature, Travel, Art, Love, and the History of Medicine. By Felix Marti-Ibanez, M.D. (Pp. 712+xx. \$6.00.) New York: Clarkson N. Potter Inc. 1964.

Irradiation of Lymph Nodes and Vessels. Experiments in Rats, with Reference to Cancer Therapy. By Arnfinn Engeset, M.D. From Norsk Hydro's Institute for Cancer Research, Oslo, Norway. (Pp. 125; illustrated. 40s.) Oslo: Universitetsforlaget. 1964.

Automation and the Future of Man. By S. Demczynski. (Pp. 238. 32s.) London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 1964.

Food and Its Functions. By A. G. Cameron. (Pp. 208; illustrated. 12s. 6d.) London: Edward Arnold. 1964.

Ultrasound as a Diagnostic and Surgical Tool. Based on the International Symposium held at the Royal College of Surgeons, London, 5 and 6 December 1962. Edited by Douglas Gordon, M.B., D.M.R., D.M.R.D. (Pp. 413+xi; illustrated. 63s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1964.

Mammalian Protein Metabolism. Edited by H. N. Munron and J. B. Allison. Volume I. (Pp. 566+xv. £6 12s.) New York and London: Academic Press. 1964.

Introduction to Molecular Biology. By G. H. Haggis, D. Michie, A. R. Muir, K. B. Roberts, and P. M. B. Walker. (Pp. 401+xi; illustrated. 40s.) London: Longmans, Green and Co. Ltd. 1964.

Clinical Proctology. By J. Peerman Nesselrod, B.S., M.S., M.Sc., M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.P.S. Third edition. (Pp. 323+xviii; illustrated. £2 19s. 6d.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1964.

Experimental Chemotherapy. Edited by R. J. Schnitzer and Frank Hawking. Volume II, Part 1. (Pp. 614+xvii. £8 4s.) New York and London: Academic Press. 1964.

Physical Examination in Health and Disease. By Rudolph Kampmeier, M.D. 3rd edition. (Pp. 803+xix; illustrated. 84s.) Philadelphia: F. A. Davis Company. 1964.

Physiological Problems in Space Exploration. Edited by James D. Hardy, Ph.D. (Pp. 33+ix; illustrated. \$12.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

The Chemistry and Therapy of Disorders of the Voluntary Muscles. By E. G. Murphy, M.B., B.S., D.C.H. (Pp. 123+xiv; illustrated. \$6.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

Modern Treatment. Volume I, Number 1. January 1964. Treatment of Renal Disease. Edited by E. Lovell Becker, M.D. Treatment of Thyroid Disease. Edited by E. A. Carr, jun., M.D. (Pp. 228; illustrated. Bi-monthly series. \$16.00 per annum.) New York: Harper & Row, Hoeber Medical Division. 1964.

Cancer of the Stomach. By William H. ReMine, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.S., James T. Priestley, M.D., M.S., Ph.D., F.A.C.S., and Joseph Berkson, M.D., D.Sc., and members of the staff of the Mayo Clinic. (Pp. 255+x; illustrated. 80s. 6d.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1964.

Recent Advances in Clinical Pathology. Series 4. General editor, S. C. Dyke, D.M.(Oxon), F.R.C.P. (Pp. 424+xii; illustrated. 60s.) London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1964.