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ryly humorous, shrewd, but generous in his assessment of men and their achievements, Major Greenwood used their lives as starting points for his own observations on science, statistics, medical education, medical politics, and life in general. The Medical Dictator, his collection of biographical studies of medical men, takes its title from his epithet for Galen, the subject of the first essay, who, as Greenwood points out, exercised a virtually unchallenged authority over the profession for thirteen hundred years after his death.

The other men depicted here had less pervasive influence, but had in common that "the lives of all [of them] give us a favourable impression of human nature. Intellectually they were all loyal to what they took to be truth . . . Not one of them was, in the popular sense a great man . . . Some subtler test of greatness all of them can pass." They Include John Freind ("a hero of the London College of Physicians"); "Heart" Latham; Osler; the French physician, Louis, inventor of the "méthode numérique"; and the statistician William Farr. The last essay is a moving and highly personal tribute to the entomologist A W Bacot.

Major Greenwood, the first professor of epidemiology and statistics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, was in many ways as remarkable as those he commemorated. In the introduction to this Keynes Press edition Sir Austin Bradford Hill, who knew him well, provides a fascinating portrait as well as examining the significance of Greenwood's career.



Peter Mere Latham

THE MEDICAL DICTATOR

and other biographical studies

MAJOR GREENWOOD
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
AUSTIN BRADFORD HILL

THE KEYNES PRESS

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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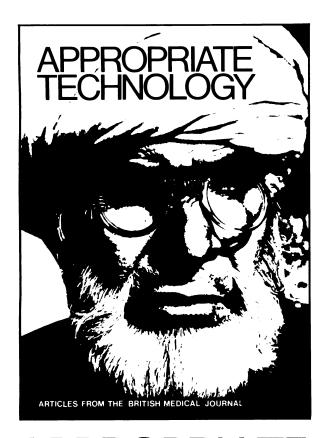


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