

## Book Reviews

its roots as to predict likely developments in the future. The first assembly of the German Institute for Psychiatric Research at Munich in 1917 gave Professor Emil Kraepelin, its promoter, the opportunity to read a paper sketching the history of psychiatry in the previous hundred years 'in order to justify the new foundation on the evidence of the advances in our specialty'. In greatly expanded form it appeared in the *Zeitschrift für die gesamte Neurologie und Psychiatrie*, 1918, 38, 161–275 with 35 illustrations and a useful bibliography of 82 items, and was issued at the same time as a separate book with a preface by the author. Its value lies less in the details it contains than in the analysis of the major developments of the nineteenth century seen through the alembic of a master mind. Kraepelin—who it must be remembered was writing in World War I—gave overriding importance to the great humanitarian reforms associated particularly with the names of Pinel and Conolly which had prepared the way for the clinical advances to which he himself contributed so much.

The great expectations aroused by an English translation are unfortunately not realized by this book. The text is cut, sentences abbreviated, their sense distorted in all but the simplest, preface and bibliography omitted, the original illustrations replaced by images of psychiatry's latter-day saints for whom Kraepelin would have had little use, and no mention is made of the circumstances which gave rise to the book when it first appeared. One example will serve to show how bad the whole thing is: 'Gummi', the German for rubber, is presented as the inventor of the stomach tube (p. 144) and as such finds a place in the index of names!

RICHARD HUNTER

*St. Thomas's Hospital*, by E. M. McINNES, London, George Allen and Unwin, 1963, pp. 230, illus., 30s.

St. Thomas's Hospital was founded at some time early in the twelfth century as the infirmary for the sick inmates of the Priory of St. Mary Overy in Southwark. After the canonization of Archbishop Thomas à Becket, it was given his name. Following a disastrous fire in 1215 the hospital moved to the site opposite to where Guy's Hospital now stands, and remained there until 1862, when it was driven westwards by the Charing Cross Railway Company, which had procured an Act permitting them to carry a new line across the north-west corner of its garden.

Little is known of the hospital's activities throughout the Middle Ages until its suppression, with other monastic foundations, in 1540. For ten years it remained closed, and the plight of the sick inhabitants of London became a matter of grave concern to the authorities, which culminated in the Lord Mayor, Sir Richard Dobbs, being allowed by Edward VI to purchase it on behalf of the Corporation for their use. On 6 October 1552 a salaried staff was appointed for the new lay hospital. Shortly after this the building was reopened with 250 patients, and the hospital's nominal patron was changed to the no less holy, but unpolitical, St. Thomas the Apostle.

During the period of the Civil Wars both St. Thomas's and its sister hospital of St. Bartholomew 'cured at their own charge' and 'relieved with money and other necessities at their departure' large numbers of the sick and wounded soldiers of the Parliamentary forces. This led to technical advances in the craft of surgery, particularly in the fields of amputation and cutting for the stone; the latter being identified particularly with the Molins and Hollyer families, several generations of which served the hospital as surgeon-lithotomists.

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After the Restoration considerable changes were made in the staff, and rebuilding took place to remedy the losses sustained during the subsequent Great Fire. Wounded sailors and soldiers from the Dutch wars now became an increasing burden on the finances, until a small grant for each man was authorized as the result of the threat of closure. Late in the seventeenth century, however, several benefactors, such as the Lord Mayor, Sir Robert Clayton, came forward and the hospital was rebuilt and enlarged.

The eighteenth century saw the prestige of the hospital rise to new heights, largely as the result of the distinction of its professional staff, chief amongst whom were Richard Mead and William Cheselden.

All this and much more is told in the pleasantly produced little book *St. Thomas's Hospital*, written by the hospital's archivist, Miss McInnes, with the help of a grant from the Endowment Fund. The history of the Medical School from its beginnings in the eighteenth century, its official foundation in the nineteenth century, and the resultant unfortunate rift between the then 'United Hospitals' of St. Thomas's and Guy's is chronicled in some detail, as is the story of the move from Southwark to Lambeth. The chapters on the foundation of the Nightingale Training School for Nurses (1860) and its progress until the outbreak of the first World War are perhaps the best in the book.

From 1914 until the present day the chronicle becomes disappointing. Although the author states in her foreword that 'this is a lay history', it is unexpected to find almost no reference to scientific research and progress; although a number of pages are devoted to such matters as: 'The competence and enthusiasm of the catering staff was demonstrated at Hotelympia, the International cookery exhibition held at Olympia in 1961, when members of the kitchen staff won awards. . . .'

The story of the 'Blitz' is well recapitulated, and the effects of the National Health Service are summarized. The thumbnail sketches of hospital characters who were known to many of the present generation are, however, less happy, and the choice of those mentioned seems fortuitous and incomplete.

The book terminates in two interesting appendices—on the parish and estates of St. Thomas's, and on the hospitals within the new Group.

W. S. C. COPEMAN

*The Story of a Woman Physician*, by G. M. WAUCHOPE, Bristol, John Wright, 1963, pp. 146, 17s. 6d.

Dr. Gladys Mary Wauchope, born in 1889 and not starting medicine until 1916, entered the professional arena just too late to suffer from the restrictions and humiliations of the earlier generation of medical women, so that her autobiography, in spite of its title, has no particularly feminine bias. She had an ideal, even idyllic, preparation for her destiny in a childhood and youth before the First World War, from which she emerged with habits of fortitude, unselfishness, industry and honesty that were put to good use when she finally made up her mind what it was she wanted to do. Bearing in mind that selection is the essence of readable biography, Dr. Wauchope has sorted out her memories with considerable skill, and at least one of her selections, the daily round of a medical student and house officer at the London Hospital about 1920, may be historically valuable in the future.

After qualification in 1921, she eventually settled in general practice in Brighton for a few years, then took the higher degrees and became a busy consultant physician