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and documents, no less than nine commemorate the centenary of Bichat's death. Other papers deal with Fontenelle's protégé, Daniel Tavvry, history of pre-Vesalian anatomy, history of malaria, Hindu medicine, medical bibliography, etc.

Reading through this volume, it is interesting to view how the history of medicine was conceived at the beginning of the century as compared with present trends. It does not always turn to the advantage of the latter.

JOSEPH SCHILLER

The Development of Modern Surgery from 1830, by FREDERICK F. CARTWRIGHT, London, Arthur Barker, 1967, pp. x, 323, illus., 50s. 0d.

This book, written by a distinguished anaesthetist, is a useful and interesting contribution to the history of surgery. Though written primarily for non-medical readers it should be equally or more valuable to medical students. The author has been selective in the choice of subject and material but has managed to include most of the salient facts in the history of surgery during the last hundred and fifty years, and he has inserted much that is not generally known.

The story begins with a good account of the state of surgery and the status of the surgeon at the beginning of the nineteenth century; this is followed by a short but dogmatic account of the introduction of anaesthesia by nitrous oxide gas, ether and chloroform. The parts played by Crawford Long, Horace Wells, W. T. G. Morton and Charles Jackson are described. Simpson's fight for the introduction of chloroform as an anaesthetic is related. The good work done by John Snow is mentioned, but there is no reference to Clover's ingenious inhaler.

The third chapter is devoted to an account of Lister and his introduction of anti-sepsis; the facts are well given but some of the opinions may not find universal agreement, yet it is wise to listen to both sides of a question.

Chapter four, entitled 'The Exciting Years', narrates the mixed reception accorded Lister's work in different countries. The author rightly attributes the rapid advance in surgery by Germany to the quick appreciation of the value of antiseptics by the German surgeons. The gradual evolution of the aseptic modification is described and explained. The 'nice little story' about the first use of thin rubber gloves in the operating theatre of Johns Hopkins Hospital is, of course, authentic. (See *Halsted of Johns Hopkins*, by S. J. Crowe, 1957, p. 51.)

Chapter five begins by a brief description of the advances in the basic medical sciences—physiology, pathology and bacteriology—in the middle of the nineteenth century; then tells the breathtaking stories of the discoveries of the X-rays by Roentgen and of radium by Madame Curie; and finishes by giving examples of the extension of the scope of surgery between 1877 and 1912. Good use is made of the records of King's College Hospital in showing this increased scope which is confirmed on a larger scale by an interesting account of the foundation and astonishing growth of the famous Mayo clinic.

Chapter six gives a succinct account of the advances in the treatment of war-wounds in the various wars that occurred between 1870 and 1945. In the First World War the discrediting of the ordinary antiseptics by Almroth Wright created a vigorous controversy that led to more effective measures. In the Spanish Civil War Trueta

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demonstrated the immense natural powers of recovery by encasing the limb in plaster of Paris immediately after debridement of the wound. His successful results were convincing. In the war of 1939–45 early wound debridement and the use of one of the sulpha drugs or penicillin led to better results; and forward operating teams specially trained in neurological or thoracic surgery obtained astonishingly good results.

Chapters five to eleven are devoted to the history of surgical specialties. They are packed with interesting information and well repay reading. Urology and orthopaedics are combined in one chapter. Then follows plastic surgery (the surgery of repair) including hernia; abdominal surgery; surgery of the brain, lung and heart; and surgery of the eye, ear, nose and throat including thyroid surgery.

The final chapter on 'The Surgeon and his Operating Theatre' gives an excellent picture of the surgeon as he was years ago and as he is today, and describes the transformation of the old crude operating room into the modern up-to-date suite of rooms with every convenience handy. The author finally forecasts what may be the future development of surgery.

References, a bibliography, and an index of names and subjects are appended.

There are a few inaccuracies, mostly minor, in the text. Lawson Tait was the first to perform cholecystostomy for gallstones in Britain in 1879 but he had been fore-stalled by J. S. Bobbs in the U.S.A. in 1868. On page 65 Savory's name is spelt Savoury. On page 243, in the account of Blalock's operation for a 'Blue baby' the subclavian *vein* has been mistakenly printed instead of the subclavian *artery*. In the description of thyroid surgery there is not sufficient discrimination between ordinary goitre and exophthalmic goitre. The index of names is inadequate, e.g. the names of Thomas Dunhill, James Berry, James Hinton, Joseph Toynbee, Leonard Colebrook, William Savory and others are missing.

Finally, the subject of anaesthesia is of such vital importance to both surgeon and patient that we would plead for the whole subject to be dealt with in one chapter. In the present volume one has to refer to at least three chapters to piece the story together.

We hope and expect that a second edition will soon be needed.

ZACHARY COPE

Geschichte der Pflege des kranken Menschen, by EDUARD SEIDLER, Stuttgart, Kohlhammer Verlag, 1966, pp. 184, illus., DM. 7.80.

A happy result of the resurgence of medical history is the interest now being taken in the subject in schools. A few years ago, Poynter and Keele wrote an excellent short account primarily aimed at sixth formers. This German paperback is aimed at the same audience. It was therefore surprising to see that no reference appears to Poynter and Keele's book in an otherwise very comprehensive list of 246 references occupying ten pages.

The volume is pocket-sized and contains 184 pages. Despite this, its small closely-packed print, which is difficult to read, deals with the whole spectrum of the subject from ancient times until the nineteenth century. This is done in seven chapters. There are twenty-eight glossy prints at the back illustrating the text, together with a map showing the sources of Middle East and European medical thought. There is also a