

Book Reviews

and many clinicians overcame the stultifying effects of the Brunonian theory. Francesco Torrigiani sought post-mortem confirmation of his bedside diagnoses, and Antonio Catellacci wrote a good account of the yellow fever—although Torrigiani accused him of plagiarizing it. Amongst the twenty short biographies is one of Giuseppe Bertini (1722–1845), the first professor of the philosophical history of medicine at Florence in 1805, and who in 1810 at the fall of the Regency was moved to Pisa, when all the other professorial chairs were transferred under the imperial government.

JOHN CULE

The Legacy of Philippe Pinel: An Inquiry into Thought on Mental Alienation, by WALTHER RIESE, New York, Springer Publishing Co., 1969, pp. xii, 194, \$7.50.

What is the spell Pinel has cast over the historians of medicine? Was he the right man, at the right time in the right place, or did his personality and work place him in a position to become a French myth hero? Or perhaps was it the result of a famous picture by Robert Fleury of Pinel unchaining the lunatics—an act so dramatic, so sentimental, so well portrayed and so appealing to the Zeitgeist. Pinel's *Traité medico-philosophique sur L'Alienation mentale ou la Manie* has become one of the classics of psychiatry, and Walther Riese uses it to show, by the extensive use of quotations, the importance of Pinel's work in the development of psychiatric thought and practice. Pinel's approach to mental illness was influenced by philosophers such as Locke and Condillac on the one hand, and on the other by British empirical psychiatrists—particularly John Haslam and Alexander Crichton. Dr. Riese suggests that Pinel was the inaugurator of 'traitement moral' and for this reason stands 'head and shoulders in the early history of psychiatry'. By moral treatment was meant not only the kindly control of the sick person, but a psychological approach based on a knowledge of the etiology and natural history of mental diseases, as well as on the understanding of the role of emotion in these conditions. Certainly Pinel was a pioneer in the care of the mentally ill, and by his influence on British psychiatry and thus on American psychiatry played an important role in the later non-restraint movement. Dr. Riese has illuminated many aspects of Pinel's thought, and his interpretation of the *Traité* based as it is, on translated excerpts, will be of value to those who read more deeply into the history of psychiatry.

DENIS LEIGH

Early Days in the Mayo Clinic, by W. F. BRAASCH, Springfield, Illinois, C. C. Thomas, 1969, pp. viii, 142, illus., \$7.50.

If ever one needed to cite a monument to individual initiative it could well be the Mayo Clinic. Here is its story, presented drily, tersely and unpretentiously, with a good number of anecdotes about the Mayo brothers. The author, who has been in Rochester since 1907, must be better qualified than most to write about the famous institution in that town.

He tells of Mayo père emigrating from England in 1845 because of the difficulties he had experienced there in his efforts to become a doctor; of his subsequent success in America where self-help was as acceptable in medical education as in any other sphere of activity; and of his two sons Will and Charles who created an astonishing