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heat of their country, so different from the bracing mountain and sea air of Hellas, directed them to more intense mysticism and to less action. Religious and mystical medicine was preponderant. Later, empiricism developed, but the difficulties of chronology of ancient Indian history does not allow us to place there a more rational turning-point, as in Greece. We hope much from Indian medical historians (and India seems greatly interested in the history of medicine) to unravel the problem.

The term 'History' means in Greek 'Investigation', and the object of Hecateos, Herodotus and Thucydides, the founders of this branch of learning, is 'understanding' of human behaviour. There is a great movement among contemporary historians under the influence of Wilhelm Dilthey to bring back this role of history and make away with pure literature and chronicle. Sigerist brings that spirit into the study of the history of medicine. What a difference from the traditional histories of medicine. He devotes to religion, philosophy and general cultural and geographical background as much space as to medicine proper. This is, however, the method of 'understanding' medicine and the role of history of medicine is not to give us a chronicle of past times but to help us to 'understand' medicine. *Historia Magister Vitae*.

The last contact I had with Sigerist was a telephonic conversation from Sils Maria, in Switzerland. I knew from one of his doctors that his condition was deteriorating. He appeared cheerful and full of courage and when I replaced the receiver I remembered the message of that great hermit of Sils Maria, Nietzsche, which could be the message of Sigerist 'This is my way, which is yours.'

A. P. CAWADIAS

William Harvey, Lectures on the Whole of Anatomy, an Annotated Translation of Praelectiones Anatomiae Universalis, by C. D. O'MALLEY, F. N. L. POYNTER, K. F. RUSSELL, University of California Press (Cambridge University Press), 1961, pp. vi, 239, col. port, 64s.

The work under review introduces the reader directly into the presence of a youthful and energetic Harvey. In this lies its great charm and significance. We overhear Harvey preparing his Lumleian Lectures on Anatomy, carefully sifting the extensive literature, adding many original observations and groping for and finally achieving the concept of the closed circulation of the blood. Indeed here is a mine of information on Harvey, on his position in the history of biology and medicine and on these subjects themselves at a time when the foundations for their scientific treatment were being laid—by Harvey himself. The text of the lectures is not new; the facsimile of the manuscript together with the transcription made by Edward Scott was published under the auspices of the Royal College of Physicians in 1886. The book has become rare. Moreover the original script consists of scrawls which defy any attempt at straightforward reading and the transcription gives the notes as they are, mostly jotted down in a rough Latin which sorely tries the patience of the bold reader. It is for this reason that the invaluable source which we possess in these lecture notes has never been properly investigated. What is worse: owing to the difficulties of script and presentation of the contents, a number of errors found their way into the transcription—errors that have misled generations of Harveian scholars (see F. N. L. Poynter in *J. Hist. Med.*, 1957, 12, 152–3). With the present publication the whole situation has been drastically changed and Harveian research placed on a different and higher footing. We have now a version corrected in many places—a version that can be read in the vernacular. Moreover the translation has been equipped with a multitude of scholarly annotations in which the numerous traditional doctrines and quotations

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found in the lecture notes have been traced to their original sources and the latter have been given in full. The result of these Herculean labours is a handsome volume adorned with the Rolls Park coloured portrait of Harvey at the age of forty. The excellent and deeply searching Introduction sets out the history of anatomical studies in England. This provides a framework for the history of the Lumleian Lectures in general and the presumable dates and circumstances of those that were given by Harvey in particular. Harvey, the medical practitioner and student of disease, is shown in these lectures at his best. There are not a few of his patients quoted by name and some of the dates—for example autopsies performed on well-known personages—help to clear up the chronology of the lectures. It would thus appear that Harvey took up his duties as Lumleian lecturer in April 1616 and later added the detailed notes for Thorax and Head prepared for the anatomical lectures of 1617 and 1618. This new information is important concerning the question as to the actual years in which Harvey arrived at his discovery. For it is in these lecture notes that we are given in Harvey's own hand the first account of the Circulation of the Blood (fol. 80 verso). The dating of the latter has vexed many scholars and we are grateful for the authoritative lead provided by the Introduction in this matter, as follows: 'There is no evidence whatever that fo. 80 verso . . . was not written later—even an appreciable amount of time later—than fol. 81 . . . the earliest date on which the brief account of the circulation . . . could have been presented in a lecture is January, 1618.' Other probably older leaves in these lecture notes foreshadow the discovery as given in *De Motu*—indeed, as the Introduction lucidly and judiciously states, 'it is from the fabric of these short notes on the heart that *De Motu Cordis* was to be built' (p. 17).

There is hardly a page which does not promise high reward to a detailed appraisal of the wealth of original observations and interpretations which Harvey has to offer, notably on the anatomical data that elucidate organ function in health and disease. Nothing towards this end can be attempted within the short space allowed for this book notice—not even a superficial evaluation of the chapter on the heart and the bearing of individual statements found here on the history of Harvey's discovery. With some of these points the present writer hopes to deal elsewhere (*History of Science*, 1962, vol. II, in preparation). This brilliant publication is bound to act as a curtain-raiser which will stimulate much new Harveian research. With its most admirable Introduction and Notes the authors have opened up a wonderful treasure and achieved a formidable task which no medical man can ignore and for which everybody must be profoundly grateful.

W. PAGEL

Dr. Timothie Bright (1550–1615): A Survey of His Life with a Bibliography of his Writings, by GEOFFREY KEYNES, K.T., London, The Wellcome Historical Medical Library, 1962, pp. 47, 17 plates, 21s.

This beautifully produced monograph on Dr. Timothie Bright is the latest of the publications of the Wellcome Historical Library, and the first of a new series to be edited by Dr. F. N. L. Poynter. It presents the 1961 Gideon de Laune Lecture, given before the Faculty of the History of Medicine of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries by Sir Geoffrey Keynes. It adds, however, a full bibliography of Bright's works, with illustrations of many of their title-pages, and an index.

Bright was the third Physician to be appointed to the staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in 1585. It cannot be maintained that Bright filled this office with great distinction, but, as Sir Geoffrey points out, he was no commonplace character.