

### Book Reviews

departments and lecture theatres, in general practice, among the nursing profession, in the pathological laboratory, dispensary, chemist's shop, factory, or the showroom of the medical and surgical equipment house—Stensen's duct, Pott's fracture, Spencer Wells' forceps, Wassermann reaction, Glauber's salts. Students, nurses and their teachers wanting to know who these people were will find the answer amongst these 83 short, well-written biographies. Each is illustrated with a portrait and often a picture of the hospital in which they worked and a diagram of what they described. Many will be surprised to find that Lugol died more than a century ago, and that Klumpke was an attractive-looking lady. Not the least interesting features are the pictures of many of the world's most famous hospitals and universities and the extraordinary range of beards and moustaches. There is much new material in this edition.

WILLIAM BROCKBANK

*Variations on a Theme by Sydenham: Smallpox.* P. B. WILKINSON. Bristol: John Wright, 1959; pp. 76. Illustrated. 17s 6d.

An epidemic of smallpox struck Hong Kong in the winter of 1937. In one week of March 1938 there were 236 cases with 192 deaths. Dr. Wilkinson's painstaking clinical account fills forty pages of text and thirty-five pages of photographs. The text, a tapestry of carefully chosen words, gives a more striking picture than the illustrations, good and occasionally gruesome as these are. The reader can also discern a portrait of the Author, the clinician-observer after the style of Louis, human and humane in outlook, sceptical and powerless in treatment, in his hand a volume of Sydenham's works while he watches his patients suffer, recover or die and confirms the observations of the Master.

A light thread of bantering humour runs through Dr. Wilkinson's picture. At first this seems out of place. But perhaps a little levity was needed for the Author's (and the Reader's) peace of mind in the face of this anachronistic tragedy. Treatment in the book does not include prevention. In 1937 the theme for smallpox might have been, not by Sydenham, but by Jenner. And then there might have been no chance to read this most attractive book.

ALFRED WHITE FRANKLIN

*Havelock Ellis, a Biography.* A. CALDER-MARSHALL. London: (Rupert Hart-Davis), 1959; pp. 292. Illustrated. 30s.

To record a faithful and effective account of the life and activities of an individual is never as easy as it seems. In the first place there is either too much or too little material from which to erect the monument. Thus, a man who has published more than fifty books on a wide variety of subjects, including an autobiography and *An Open Letter to Biographers*, as well as leaving voluminous unpublished works and letters, and about whom five biographical records have already appeared, presents a formidable problem to anyone who wishes to commemorate the centenary of his birth by an appreciative volume. If in addition the subject selected possessed an incredibly complex and introspective personality, and if during the majority of his eighty years he dealt with a controversial subject, such as sex, the task of a prospective biographer is seen to be immense indeed. Such is the case with Havelock Ellis. That Mr. Calder-Marshall has been successful is an indication of the excellence of his book.