

Book Reviews

the first reference to human dissection in England and at least one personal observation (concerning a variation from the Galenic description of the emulgent veins). However, only one copy of the treatise is extant—that preserved in the British Museum—not because it was used up to the point of annihilation (like Vesalius' *Tabulae*); but probably because of a small edition and the appearance of the continental masterpieces of anatomy. These encouraged translation rather than the production of indigenous bigger and better books continuing the tradition started by Edwardes who died early and was not mentioned by any contemporary. All this goes far to show the importance of the publication under review for the study of the history of medicine, particularly the history of anatomy and medical education in England. The latter two topics are the theme of the scholarly introduction. To this we owe the refutation of the traditional statement that the first English anatomical book was Thomas Vicary's *A Profitable Treatise of the Anatomie of Man's Body* (1548) no copy of which has survived but which was republished in 1577. In spite of Vicary's merits, his book is but a copy of a medieval manuscript chiefly compiled from Henri de Mondeville (1304; first edition by Julius Pagel 1889)—a text that was also used for the pirated edition of Vesalius' plates by Geminus in 1553 and is preserved in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library. The reviewer feels that we owe a special debt of gratitude to the learned editors for having acquainted us with Edwardes as a figure of the Renaissance and the author of a treatise which on closer inspection may still reveal more points of interest than we have been able to mention.

WALTER PAGEL

Great Moments in Medicine, a collection of the first thirty stories and paintings in the continuing series *A History of Medicine in Pictures*, GEORGE A. BENDER; paintings by ROBERT A. THOM, Detroit, Parke-Davis, 1961, 275 pp., 30 col. plates.

This is a presentation in volume form of the well-known series of paintings with explanatory text distributed by Parke-Davis. Great care had gone into ensuring the accuracy of the facts presented and the text is most readable. Among the most successful 'great moments' treated is the first use of general anaesthetics. It is not for sale, but may be obtained on request from Parke, Davis & Company, Detroit 32, Michigan, U.S.A. (Att. Mr. Geo. Bender).

F. N. L. P.

A Select Bibliography of Medical Biography, compiled by JOHN L. THORNTON, AUDREY J. MONK, and ELAINE S. BROOKE, London (Library Association bibliographies, No. 3.), 1961, 112 pp., 27s. 6d. (20s. 6d. to Members of the Library Association).

This collection of fifty-seven collective and over seven hundred individual biographies covers the lives of between three and four hundred medical men. The two sections are arranged alphabetically, by author in the first case and by biographee in the second.

The selection is limited to works in English, an unusually insular approach to a subject bibliography and one which results in the exclusion of admirable biographies of such important pioneers as Thomas Bartholin and Robert Koch. As there is a further limitation to monographic works no indication can be given of the published biographies (in English) of many other famous medical men which have appeared only as long articles in learned journals. The result is a list which has little usefulness for the medical historian, the biographies of the famous already being well known and