

Book Reviews

book is divided into five 'Units', the first being devoted to the history of nursing. This historical Unit, after an introduction, is subdivided into several chapters, as are all the remaining four Units. The period covered by Unit I is from primitive times to the end of the Second World War and includes, amongst much of interest, valuable sections on such diverse subjects as early American hospitals, the Red Cross, nursing organizations and ethical codes for nurses. The emphasis is throughout on American nursing and hospitals, so there is, inevitably, little space for detail regarding other countries. The remaining four Units are entitled: II—Orientation of the Graduate Nurse; III—Opportunities and Preparation; IV—Organizations, national and international and V—Professional Relationships. Each chapter in every Unit has at the end, following the usual American practice, a long and comprehensive list of references, mostly to American textbooks or to articles in American professional medical and nursing magazines. It would be impossible to enumerate the subjects of each subsection in each Unit, but a few chapter titles such as: 'Registration and Interstate Licensure'; 'General Fields of Nursing'; 'American Nurses' Association and its divisions'; 'Legal Problems' and 'Nursing Publications', will serve to demonstrate the valuable content and wide range of the book. The extent of Mrs. Dietz's meticulous research is evident from the many subjects covered, but the earlier part is marred by avoidable mistakes, perhaps due to hasty revision or careless proof-reading. Although an interesting book, it seems doubtful whether it will have much appeal outside America.

LUCY SEYMER

A History of Nursing From Ancient to Modern Times. A world view, 5th edition, by ISABEL

M. STEWART and ANNE L. AUSTIN, New York, G. Putnam's, 1962, pp. 516, 56s.

The publication of the fifth edition of this well-known textbook is itself an historical event. Originally written by the late Miss Lavinia L. Dock and Miss Isabel M. Stewart in the twenties and entitled *A Short History of Nursing*, it has been widely read and admired. This new edition has as the co-authoress Miss Anne L. Austin whose *History of Nursing Source Book* came out in 1957. In the earliest chapters of the present book the same subjects have been covered as in previous editions, although perhaps unnecessarily amplified. The later portions are full of new material and the sub-title 'A World View' is fully justified. The pre-1945 history of nursing in many countries has likewise already been chronicled in former editions, but the present book breaks fresh ground. Interesting accounts are given of the present-day nursing situation in such widely separated countries as China, the U.S.S.R., the Latin American republics and the new countries in Africa. This latest and particularly valuable portion has obviously involved extensive and painstaking research. All nurses should be grateful to the authoresses, as the information would probably be impossible to obtain elsewhere. The book should have an honoured place in every nursing school library.

LUCY SEYMER

Avicenna's Poem on Medicine, ed. by HAVEN C. KRUEGER and R. H. MAJOR, Springfield, Ill., C. C. Thomas, 1963, pp. 112, \$5.00.

This translation of Avicenna's *Cantica* is the first in English and will therefore be a great help to English students of medical history. The translation is not a direct one but comes through a French effort, corroborated carefully with the German and Latin