

Book Reviews

at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and this book is a tribute to him. It contains three appreciations of him and his work and reprints of eighteen of his more important contributions to psychology, physiology, endocrinology and neurology, which illustrate his main areas of interest: animal behaviour, biological rhythms and self-regulatory functions, the autonomic nervous system, neurology and domestication.

Although these already-published articles will be the history of tomorrow, the collection is intended for the present-day student and not the historian. It will nevertheless be of value to the latter, but the introductions are inadequate and there is no running commentary. Nor is there any attempt made to integrate Dr. Richter's pioneer work with contemporary and with subsequent research by others.

PAUL SPEISER and FERDINAND G. SMEKAL, *Karl Landsteiner, the discoverer of the blood groups and a pioneer in the field of immunology. Biography of a Nobel Prize winner of the Vienna Medical School*, translated by Richard Rickett, Vienna, Brüder Hollinek, 1975, 8vo, pp. 198, illus., S.220.

The first German edition of this book appeared in 1961 and it has now been accurately translated into English. It constitutes an excellent account of Landsteiner's life and work. Although remembered as the man who discovered the blood groups in 1900 and was rewarded for this in 1930 with a Nobel prize, he has been honoured as an outstanding scientist more because of his intensive and critical studies of the specificity of serological reactions; he also worked on typhus fever, allergy and tuberculin sensitivity.

The authors first describe his life and personality and then his work is examined closely. The text is illuminated with many excellent illustrations but documentation is somewhat deficient. As well as dealing with Landsteiner, this book also provides us with information on the great school of medicine of Vienna and there is a series of photographs of teachers, colleagues, collaborators, pupils and contemporaries (pp. 123–166), many of whom were Viennese. There is also a list of Landsteiner's 346 publications.

Altogether this slender volume is an excellent biography, the first of any length in English dealing with Landsteiner. Moreover it sets a high standard for biographers, and it is to be hoped that others will attempt to emulate the authors' techniques.

HAROLD F. HUTCHISON, *Sir Christopher Wren. A biography*, London, Gollancz, 1976, 8vo, pp. 191, illus., £5.00.

The vast majority of books on Wren have dealt mainly or solely with his remarkable achievements as an architect and have usually neglected his contributions to science. The late Mr. Hutchison has catered for the general reader, omitting technical jargon and mathematics and dealing with all Wren's versatile activities. It is well written, with numerous illustrations and adequate documentation, and it provides an excellent, all-round account of a remarkable man. The author does not, however, discuss fully Wren's contributions to medical research and has omitted to record important papers describing them.

Nevertheless the book can be recommended as one of the better, and certainly more comprehensive, biographies of Wren.