

Book Reviews

to Danville for her operation. As he made the incision, he found her abdomen bruised from the pommel of the saddle. Five days later he found her making her own bed and twenty days later she remounted her horse and rode back the sixty miles through the woods to Greenburg and survived her surgeon by twelve years.

The stories are intensely interesting and completely honest and authentic. Particularly interesting is the account of Warren's first experience in 1846 with ether anaesthesia. Sim's struggle to cure the poor slave girl Lucy with her huge vesico-vaginal fistula makes a fascinating and heroic story as does Murphy's first arterial anastomosis in 1896. It is altogether one of the most readable and absorbing books ever produced, and illustrates the great contribution of American Surgery to the good of mankind.

A. DICKSON WRIGHT

Bibliography of the History of Medicine of the United States and Canada, 1939–60, edited by G. MILLER, Baltimore, John Hopkins Press, 1965, pp. xvi, [2] 428.

One of the many projects which Henry Sigerist helped to launch was an annual bibliography of articles and books on American medical history. Since 1939—the year when this began—Genevieve Miller and her associates have continued to produce their invaluable tool, but until now we have hoped in vain for periodic cumulations. This deficiency no longer exists. In one classificatory sequence (almost identical to that proposed in 1939 by Sigerist) Miss Miller has gathered together all the material indexed during those twenty-one years, and has added to it a certain number of references originally overlooked.

Any judgement of this book must take account of the limiting factors which have always been inherent in the organization of the annual bibliographies. It would be unfair, for instance, to ask for complete coverage of the literature in face of the editor's frank admission that facilities never made this a workable proposition. Help was entirely voluntary throughout. Nevertheless one thousand journals have been indexed, and if there are certain errors of omission within them they surely cannot be of serious proportions judging by the size of this bibliography.

The classification has fifteen sections, the more corpulent ones being Biography, Diseases, Local history, Medical specialties, Pharmacy and Public Health. Cross references sometimes guide the reader from subject to subject, more often from subject to biography. The preface warns the user not to expect too much from the classification unless he is prepared to first study the table of contents. But he will have to do more than consult the table of contents to understand the reason for placing 'Appendectomy' under 'Diseases' whilst other surgical operations are to be found under 'Medical specialties'. Other cases of inconsistency resulting from a basically unsound classification only come to light gradually as one uses the bibliography. For instance, a whole series of articles on paediatrics is scattered throughout the section on 'Medical specialties' without so much as a reference from the section 'Paediatrics'; an article on anaesthesia and psychiatry appears under 'Psychiatry' but not under 'Anaesthesiology'. We are still left, however, with an impressive amount of information and can only regret that the compilers were not able to devote more time to arranging it better.

E. GASKELL