

### Book Reviews

elected Secretary General of the International Paediatric Association. He has now written his memoirs as a highly personal account of the changes seen during the many years he has been engaged in clinical work, research, teaching and administration. He reviews an almost encyclopaedic range of topics, from the changes in the nature of diseases to the changed aspect of medical congresses. Even the influence of television on children is not forgotten. The subjects which the author was most interested in during his clinical career such as Fanconi's syndrome, Fanconi's anaemia, the vitamins, mongolism etc. are discussed in great detail. The text is liberally interspersed with autobiographic anecdotes and we learn about the author's religious and philosophic views, his thoughts on medical education and his experiences as administrator and editor of a medical journal.

The picture emerges of an eminent physician who in no small way contributed to medical progress, keeping abreast of modern medical and social developments after his retirement. The opportunity to observe and compare clinical practice and research in many countries as visiting professor and secretary general of an international organization stimulated him and gave him great satisfaction. He has mixed feelings about the increasing 'socialization' of medicine but even if he cannot always approve of what he sees of the changing scene he endeavours to describe it with an open mind.

The book is elegantly produced but it is unfortunate that so many errors and misprints have been allowed to creep in—e.g. Galileo discovers the 'satellites of Jupiter with his microscope' and the well-known London Children's Hospital becomes the 'Great-Hormon-Street-Hospital'.

R. HELLER

*Wilson Jameson, Architect of National Health*, by N. M. GOODMAN, London, Allen & Unwin, 1970, pp. 216, £2.10.

Two men, neither of whom were English, have played a dominating role in the development of English public health in the last hundred years. One was Sir John Simon. The other—the subject of this biography—was Sir Wilson Jameson. Their lives overlapped by nearly twenty years—Jameson was born in 1885, whilst Simon died in 1904. Simon's work was mainly environmental; Wilson Jameson, on the other hand, being concerned with the health of the individual.

Jameson was typically a grandson of the Manse, his paternal grandfather being a Presbyterian minister. He was one of the three children of the second marriage of his father, who was seventy-one years old when Wilson was born. After his death in 1891 the family moved to Aberdeen where young Wilson qualified M.B.Ch.B. in 1909.

Following Dr. Johnson's dictum, he went South; first to London where he held several hospital appointments, and then to Eastbourne where he had a spell of general practice which he disliked. After army service from 1915 to 1919 he became Medical Officer of Health at Finchley in 1920. This appointment was decisive in persuading him to spend his life in Public Health.

In 1928 he was appointed the first Professor of Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Here his deputy—Brigadier G. S. Parkinson—collaborated with him in producing the first joint edition of the bible of Public Health—*The Synopsis of Hygiene* or 'Jameson and Parkinson' as it is affectionately known. In

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1940 he was translated to the Ministry of Health and Board of Education as Chief Medical Officer, where he remained until his retirement in 1950. At the Ministry he was responsible for organizing the introduction of the National Health Service which came into being on 5 July 1948. Following his retirement he was appointed medical adviser to the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

Such are the bare facts of the career of a man who presented the picture of great public success and who was equally fortunate in enjoying a happy family life. His first wife died suddenly in 1958 and subsequently he married again, this union lasting until his death from cancer in 1962. Undoubtedly he was a sensitive, kindly individual with a sincere interest in other people and the power to put them at their ease.

Dr. Neville Goodman was both a student and colleague of Jameson. He is thus well fitted to carry out his self-imposed biographical task. This he has done with skill, understanding and sympathy. In addition to Jameson's life, the book also contains a valuable summary of the makings of the National Health Service from the Civil Service point of view. It can be unreservedly recommended to doctor and layman alike for the information it contains and the insight it gives into the life of one of our most illustrious pioneers of Public Health.

I. M. LIBRACH

*A Select Bibliography of Medical Biography, with an Introductory Essay on Medical Biography*, by JOHN L. THORNTON, 2nd ed. London, The Library Association, 1970 pp. 170 illus. £1.50.

This edition follows the same pattern as its predecessor; it is enlarged by an index of authors, editors and translators and a useful introductory essay, which provides a general survey of the subject and a guide to sources outside the scope of the bibliography itself. The two sections of collective and individual biography contain between them some 275 new entries. The criteria for inclusion (monographs published in English in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries) are justified by practical considerations of compilation and by the nature of the series; they suit the needs of reference librarians and students rather than medical historians. Strangely, at least two eighteenth-century items are included. The addition of about ninety new names to this section fills many gaps in the previous edition but it is a pity that there are no cross-references to the section of collective biography either for substantial biographies in collective volumes or for figures who do not appear in the section of individual biography. The book actually includes full-page portraits of Mead and Askew from *The gold-headed cane* but neither has yet received a full-length biography. One must also regret the absence of annotations, at least for such figures as Lister and Pasteur for whom over a dozen items are listed.

The section of collective biography is partially annotated but this section suffers from its alphabetical arrangement under authors; a systematical arrangement would suit the rather heterogeneous material better.

The book is well produced and the type-setting is more economical of space than that of its predecessor, with no loss of clarity. The use of paper covers has made it possible to set a price very little higher than that of the first edition, in spite of the considerable improvements to the text. It should serve as a useful starting point for much future biographical research.

H. J. M. SYMONS