

Book Reviews

A Bibliography of Dr. Robert Hooke. SIR GEOFFREY KEYNES. Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1960; pp. xix, 115, 12 plates. 50s.

Hooke's *Micrographia* is one of the great classics in the history of science. Among the subjects illustrated in its thirty-eight magnificent plates is figured for the first time the cell as a unit of organic structure, not the least of the revelations which the microscope enabled Hooke to present to his astonished contemporaries in 1665. As 'Curator of Experiments' to the Royal Society in its early days Hooke left his mark on all the work and deliberations of its early Fellows. He not only devised but made the air-pump which enabled Robert Boyle to demonstrate the law which bears his name. Universal joints and spiral springs (including the hair-spring of the watch) were also among the productions of Hooke's fertile brain, and all are beautifully illustrated in the handsome *Bibliography* which Sir Geoffrey Keynes has now added to his classic series of bibliographies of some of our pioneer scientists. In this volume all Hooke's published work, some of it scattered in the books of others, is brought together and expertly described. In addition we are given a summary list of all of Hooke's MS. papers and letters preserved in the archives of the Royal Society; a guide to the letters to be found in printed sources; and a list of books and articles dealing with Hooke and his work. As an intriguing supplement to an already valuable study, Sir Geoffrey concludes by printing for the first time from the holograph notes in Cambridge University Library the voluminous notes which Sir Isaac Newton made on his first and obviously very close reading of Hooke's *Micrographia*.

F. N. L. POYNTER

Selected Papers. SIR GEOFFREY JEFFERSON. Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd., 1960; pp. 563. 105s.

Sir Geoffrey Jefferson has just cause for pride in his consistent output of masterly addresses, and in the delight they have afforded those who have been privileged to hear them. A wider audience is now permitted to gather and to enjoy this harvest of erudition. It was a happy thought to collect some of Jefferson's papers, not a few of which were becoming relatively inaccessible or too readily overlooked. Many of these articles are 'technical' in nature and of special interest to neurosurgeons. There are many papers, however, whose appeal is wider. Some are of a reflective character; others are of a historical or biographical order. These works indicate Jefferson's thoughtful nature, his learning and his philosophic bent. Topics of cerebral localization are dealt with in at least three of his papers, and the impact of phrenology upon medicine and science at the beginning of the nineteenth century is admirably described. The interest shown by George Eliot and her circle in the novel doctrines of organology is well brought out by Jefferson in his Toronto address. We are permitted a number of studies of such personages as Marshall Hall, Macewen, Horsley and Cushing, and in patriotic vein Jefferson has written appreciations of his earlier colleagues at Manchester—Ross, Thorburn and Williamson. As we read and re-read these collected papers we vividly re-visualize the engaging and disarming figure of the author and we note the wholly individual character of his prose-style. This volume

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is a necessary item and a valuable addition to the library of every scholar-physician and surgeon.

MACDONALD CRITCHLEY

Dr. Jenner of Berkeley. DOROTHY FISK. London: Heinemann, 1959; pp. vii+288. Illustrated. 25s.

Much has been written about Edward Jenner, but there was need for a new appraisal of the life and work of the great physician-naturalist. John Baron's two-volume *Life* was published in 1827-38, but although it retains its value as a vast repository of facts it is not easy reading, and, what is perhaps more important, it is not accessible to the ordinary general reader. The late Dr. Dawtrey Drewitt's *Life*, originally published in 1931, is probably the best of the many short books, but it is a charming essay rather than a full-scale biography and it appears to be little known. Mrs. Fisk is a practised writer whose name is familiar to those interested in medical history by virtue of one of her earlier books, *Bouquet for the Doctor*. In writing the *Life of Edward Jenner* she had a fine subject and a challenging one, for Jenner's interests and achievements covered a very wide range, and, while there were abundant but widely scattered materials for a biographer to work on, much of it was of a controversial nature. Mrs. Fisk has done ample justice to Jenner the country doctor, the discoverer of vaccination, the naturalist, the poet and the man. Her book is detailed, accurate, and altogether absorbing. The background to country practice in the eighteenth century is sketched in with admirable skill, and extracts from Jenner's voluminous correspondence, especially the letters that passed between him and his friend and mentor John Hunter, are used with telling effect. Production, printing and illustration provide a worthy setting for an inspiring story superbly told. This admirable book should appeal to all classes of readers, not least to the boy or girl who may be thinking of taking up medicine as a career.

W. J. B.

St. Peter's Hospital for Stone, 1860-1960. Edited by CLIFFORD MORSON, O.B.E., F.R.C.S. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1960; pp. viii+64. Illustrated. 21s.

It is curious that although calculous disease was for long one of the commonest maladies in this country, a special hospital for stone was not established until 1860. One of the grounds put forward when the appeal for the original Hospital for Stone was launched was, indeed, the fact that there had been a marked increase in the frequency of stone in this country in the years 1850-60—an increase ascribed to bad feeding in the 'hungry forties'. Another declared object of the new institution was the development and application of the then comparatively new operation of lithotripsy in place of the ancient one of lithotomy. It is well-known that the establishment of all the special hospitals met with strong opposition, but in no other case was the reaction so vocal or so violent as that called forth by the proposal to establish a Hospital for Stone. The project was denounced in the medical press as useless and injurious. A manifesto signed by a large number of the leading physicians and surgeons on the staff of general hospitals described it as an 'evil'. This opposition died hard. In 1866, when the Hospital had been in existence for six years, Mr. W. J. Coulson was called upon to resign his office of surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital because he had accepted an appointment at St. Peter's.