

Book Reviews

Current Problems in History of Medicine. (Proceedings of the XIXth International Congress for the History of Medicine, Basel, 7–11 September 1964), ed. by R. BLASER and H. BUSS. Basle and New York, S. Karger, 1966, pp. xxviii, 687, illus., £13 2s. 6d.

The volume is as sizeable as it is handsome, and it is pleasing to browse through its beautifully printed pages. It aptly reflects a major event in the presentation of medical historical research and in particular the elder statesmanship of Professor Heinrich Buess in organizing and mastering a symposium of some secular importance. This largely derives from the first section of the communications which was devoted to Vesalius. No less than 27 out of a total of 113 papers deal with his life and portraits, with his anatomical studies and with Vesalian associations in sixteenth-century medicine in general. Against this there are 16 papers on ancient, seven on medieval and 22 on historical-therapeutical medicine. A further section (15 papers) is on Switzerland's contribution to the development of medicine, followed by seven papers on the history of psychiatry and the rest on miscellaneous subjects. It is quite impossible to go into any detail concerning the impressive amount of new documents and information which comes to life in this book. We must mention, however, Professor Buess' warm tribute to the late Ernest Wickersheimer. His opening address and last paper (on Joh. Sturm, the Strasbourg friend of Vesalius) recall unforgettably the master whose death at the age of 85 cut short a life-long endeavour still full of promise for the future. The Latin 'salutatio' by Professor G. Wolf-Heidegger lends colour and dignity to the proceedings nostalgically reminding us of the days when scholars understood each other in the field of *philosophia naturalis* through the medium of a universal language. It remains to mention the co-editor Professor R. Blaser and his share in the tremendous work of organization that made this fine publication possible.

WALTER PAGEL

Quellen zur Geschichte der Kinderheilkunde, ed. by A. PEIPER, (Hubers Klassiker der Medizin und der Naturwissenschaften, No. 7), Bern, 1966, pp. 164, illus., DM.12.50 (de luxe ed. DM. 19.50).

This is No. 7 of the classic paper-back series on medicine and science, published by Huber. The layout of the book bears some resemblance to the Dover paper-back *Source Book of Medical History* by Logan Clendening published in 1960. It consists of a series of forty-four extracts on paediatrics dating from Ancient Egypt and classical times through such authors as Roesslin 1513, van Helmont 1648, Michael Underwood 1784 and ending with Bednar 1850–56.

There is a table of contents, an index of personal names, a bibliography which includes Still's *History of Paediatrics*, some useful notes and interesting illustrations.

This is an excellent little source book and would well merit translation into English as a companion volume to that of Clendening.

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