

Book Reviews

Cushing he came to the conclusion that Walter Dandy had more of that 'creative imagination, intuition and persistence which we are accustomed to regard as the highest form of genius'.

In a foreword to the book Alfred Blalock states that within a few hours of completing the volume, Dr. Crowe was stricken by a massive coronary thrombosis to which he succumbed. He has left behind him an account of many of his distinguished contemporaries which will be read with interest by all students of the history of surgery. We hope that an index will be provided for any reprint or second edition.

ZACHARY COPE

Movement of the Heart and Blood in Animals: An Anatomical Essay, by WILLIAM HARVEY. Translated from the original Latin by Kenneth J. Franklin, and now published for the Royal College of Physicians of London. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1957. Pp. xii + 209. Portrait. 17s. 6d.

It is only when there is a change of outlook amongst English-speaking people towards a writer in the Greek or Latin tongue, that the need for a new translation is felt. That this has taken place with regard to Harvey's classic work, last faithfully translated in 1847, is indubitable. And our generation is particularly fortunate in being able to call on Professor Kenneth J. Franklin to reinvestigate those Latin words behind which, for most of us, the thought-processes underlying Harvey's great discovery lie concealed.

Previous translations have met different contemporary needs. The first, in Harvey's own lifetime, needs no explanation. The second, in 1832, coincided with the feeling that physiology had budded off from anatomy; it was soon followed by R. Willis's hitherto standard translation, fully representative of Victorian euphony and satisfaction. Our own present-day attitude has moved far from these euphoric times. An attempt to bring Harvey's thought up to date was made by Chauncey D. Leake in 1928, but it was marred by too great a respect for ephemeral modernity and too little for the values of history. At last the need has been met by Professor Franklin bringing his classical erudition and deep knowledge of the cardiovascular system to bear on the problem.

Throughout his translation Professor Franklin brings us closer to Harvey as a person, and therefore closer to the words we feel Harvey himself would have used were he explaining his position to us today. Had Harvey been a Victorian physician he might well have used words like those chosen by Willis in his translation, but if he had a twentieth century mind undoubtedly this is how he would have spoken.

One comparison of passages will make this clear. Discussing in the first chapter the reception of his views, Willis's Harvey says: 'These views, as

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usual pleased some more, others less; some chid and calumniated me, and laid it to me as a crime that I had dared to depart from the precepts and opinions of all anatomists; others desired further explanations of the novelties, which they said were both worthy of consideration and might perchance be found of signal use.'

Franklin's Harvey says: 'As happens, this view was acceptable to some, to others less so. The latter tore it to pieces, misrepresented it, and found cause of offence in my departure from the rules and belief of anatomists as a whole. The former asked for further explanation of the novelty, asserting that it would be worth investigating, and would prove of extreme practical importance.'

There can be no doubt which of the two sets of words is closer and more comprehensible to us.

Beyond differences of translation dependent on fashion and epoch, there lies the tantalizing question, which is nearer Harvey's real thought? Professor Franklin, as he translated, was imbued with the feeling that he was approaching closer to Harvey's essential meaning than ever before. As he reads, this feeling is conveyed to the reader, and it becomes clear that we have been presented with a translation of Harvey's *De Motu Cordis* which will remain the standard rendering for many years to come.

One cannot put this book down without noticing the additional pleasure it gives by its tasteful production. The coloured reproduction of the Janssen portrait of Harvey, and the inclusion of the original Latin text will both appeal to the discriminating reader and all this has been contrived at a most reasonable price.

KENNETH D. KEELE

The Discovery of the Circulation of the Blood. By CHARLES SINGER. London: Wm. Dawson & Sons Ltd., 1956. Pp. x+80. Illustrated. Price 10s. 6d.

This small book of seventy-five pages on the discovery of the circulation emulates William Harvey's classic on the subject in its brevity. Originally published in 1922, Dr. Singer has aptly chosen this tercentenary year of Harvey's death to have it reprinted, with but little alteration.

Its scheme is didactic, and the first chapter is devoted to a simple outline of the anatomy of the circulation. On this background the views of Galen are imposed. The attempts of Leonardo da Vinci and Vesalius to break away from these concepts are described with that freshness of touch so characteristic of Dr. Singer's writing. The insight into the devious workings of Servetus's mind whereby from a thesis on the spirit of God he reaches the postulate of the pulmonary circulation is also most refreshing. These workers and their successors such as Columbus and Fabricius, serve to provide a