

Book Reviews

evidence has been rejected, and has such rigour been applied to all other identifications? The form of presentation makes it impossible to tell which authority backs which facts without checking every one individually. Similarly, is the complete omission of many other practitioners deliberate? For example, the Rutland MSS which are cited in the case of Athall (p. 24) have references to at least three other practitioners who do not appear in the *Directory*. There is also a vast amount of work still to be done, apparently, in checking published material; in Devon, for example, the Marriage Licences give us Dr. Frederic Wanhop, Clement Cheriton and John Punten, and Parish Records John Newton and Richard Dewe. A study of wills would add many more, such as John Lees 'physician' in Cheshire, and in revealing such humble men as these and Nicholls and Peryam (in the article above) would, I think, correct Raach's picture of a profession in which three-quarters had been to university. The converse of this question, of course, is what evidence indeed is there that all those in the *Directory* with degrees did in fact ever practise? The strict academic requirements for the study of medicine had been somewhat eased at Oxford and Cambridge so that Medicine there, like Law in London, may have been a fashionable study for gentlemen who hoped never to be so badly off that they would actually have to practise. This point is particularly relevant to the case of the seventy odd men listed here at Cambridge and Oxford. In that such wider questions have been raised this book, then, may serve a valuable purpose, and if used with caution it could provide a convenient starting point for further inquiry, preferably a series of co-ordinated searches on a local basis, county by county. Until we can answer such basic questions about the personnel of the medical profession in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, discussion of medical practice at that time is bound to be inaccurate.

R. S. ROBERTS

Funfzig Jahre Neuropathologie in Deutschland, 1885-1935, edited by PROF. DR. W. SCHOLZ, Stuttgart, G. Thieme Verlag, 1961, pp. 123, illus.

Between 1885, when Weigert became Director of the Pathological Institute in Frankfurt, and Spielmeyer's death in 1935, German neuropathology had great achievements to its credit. In recognition of such a notable half-century, the World Federation of Neurology has recently commissioned this account of the men who in Munich, Heidelberg, Frankfurt and Hamburg so impressively advanced our knowledge of cellular pathology in the nervous system. Successive chapters are concerned with Carl Weigert, Ludwig Edinger, Franz Nissl, Alois Alzheimer, Alfons Jacob and Walter Spielmeyer. There are also chapters on the Berlin group (who include Oskar and Cecile Vogt, Max Bielschowsky and Korbinian Brodmann) and on Kraepelin's role in advancing neuropathological studies.

The scientific work of these men is the more remarkable when it is considered that the majority of them, and of their most productive pupils, were at the same time busy clinicians and clinical teachers. Nissl is the outstanding example of this—hence his predilection for the night hours if research was to be done or discussed. As Spatz points out in his biographical notice of Nissl, fewer substantial contributions came from morbid anatomists and other non-clinicians during that period than from psychiatrists and neurologists. Gudden had set the pattern, which fitted the circumstances of the time.

Many of the men commemorated in this little work evidently had hard, struggling lives, chequered with personal hardships, unjust discrimination, academic disappointments, and restricted facilities. Nevertheless they accomplished so much that

Book Reviews

their abilities and their devotion to research in neuropathology must indeed have been rare: Prof. van Bogaert not inaptly speaks in his foreword of '*la pleiade de chercheurs allemands*' who constructed '*une pathologie cytologique dont sont nourries jusqu'à ce jour toutes les écoles neuropathologiques du monde*'.

AUBREY LEWIS

La Storia della Medicina Maya, by TEODORO PENNACCHIA, Pisa, Scientia Veterum, 1960, pp. 160.

Among the studies on the history of medicine, directed by Professor Georgio del Guerra at the University of Genoa Medical School, has recently appeared this monograph by Professor Pennacchia. The subject had a special appeal for a man who has recently studied the history of tropical diseases and syphilis. However, the real motivation behind this monograph on Mayan medicine has been its knowledge of the archaeological collections gathered in Honduras by Monsignor Frederico Lunardi. In 1948, while Lunardi was the apostolic representative in Honduras, his book, *Honduras Maya*, which contained several studies on archaeology and ethnology based on his private collection, was printed. Professor Pennacchia has taken upon his shoulders the noble, but difficult, task of surveying the pathology, therapeutics and surgery of the Maya based upon the materials gathered by Lunardi which are at present preserved at Genoa, and a comprehensive bibliography. Possibly the greatest value of this monograph lies in the reproduction of the original pieces at the Lunardi collection which appear in thirty-five plates and give an excellent idea of its wealth, therefore rediscovering for the Americanist an excellent repository of Mayan material.

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