

Book Reviews

there until she retired. She attributes a successful way with patients in great measure to her experience in handling horses in the hunting field. How right she is, but riding to hounds will regrettably never be put into the curriculum for all that. She also values a good nurse at true worth and has thought out some interesting plans for nursing education, which unfortunately did not find favour when set out in 1942. Now, twenty years later, the creation of the State Enrolled Nurse, though not quite what she and Miss Ottley had in mind, goes some way towards it and one can only hope that one day their suggestions will be more fully adopted.

Dr. Wauchope has deliberately written a plain tale with few personal disclosures and no indiscretions, but a delicate touch of humour in the writing, and the fact that those two critical masters, Sir Robert Hutchison and Professor H. Turnbull, took her to their hearts, give a clue to her quality. The book is dedicated to them and their spirits were surely at her elbow as she wrote it; perhaps they would have frowned on any such breach of reserve, but to the ordinary reader it seems a pity that there is no portrait of the author.

NORAH SCHUSTER

The First Hundred Years, 1863-1963, of the Launceston General Hospital, Tasmania, by CLIFFORD CRAIG, Tasmania, published by the Board of Management, 1963, pp. vi+162 (no price given).

Never surely in the history of medicine has there been published such a detailed mass of information concerning a hospital as that with which we are presented here. Illustrated with a large number of photographs of buildings and personnel it gives full biographical accounts of the medical staff, past and present (some at great length), and lists of all the matrons, sisters and nurses, and laundry and boilerhouse staff who have been employed.

Nor does it omit to describe the petty squabbles of the nursing staff, the requisitions for minor repairs to the windows and the feelings of nurses at their first operations. Nothing that has happened in the last 100 years has been forgotten.

These invidities somewhat detract from the purpose of the book which otherwise it well fulfils; namely to record the steady growth of the hospital, and its faithful service to the community. Of particular interest is the evolution of its administration. Launceston having been founded as a military post, the hospital was under government control. This it has retained, but with enlightened modification in its management as the years have gone by. A further point of interest is that, incensed by the admission of well-to-do patients the British Medical Association fought the Government for seven years (1917-24) by refusing to allow its members to work in the hospital.

In conclusion let us wish the Launceston General Hospital a long continuance of its devoted work. Let us hope that future archivists will learn to forget as well as to remember.

FFRANGCON ROBERTS

History of Modern Nursing, by LENA DIXON DIETZ, R.N., Philadelphia, F. A. Davis Co., 1963, pp. 365, illus., 56s.

This comprehensive work is arranged on an original plan, widely different from that of the usual nursing history. For American nurses it provides a veritable mine of information, clearly set out both for continuous reading as well as easy reference. The

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book is divided into five 'Units', the first being devoted to the history of nursing. This historical Unit, after an introduction, is subdivided into several chapters, as are all the remaining four Units. The period covered by Unit I is from primitive times to the end of the Second World War and includes, amongst much of interest, valuable sections on such diverse subjects as early American hospitals, the Red Cross, nursing organizations and ethical codes for nurses. The emphasis is throughout on American nursing and hospitals, so there is, inevitably, little space for detail regarding other countries. The remaining four Units are entitled: II—Orientation of the Graduate Nurse; III—Opportunities and Preparation; IV—Organizations, national and international and V—Professional Relationships. Each chapter in every Unit has at the end, following the usual American practice, a long and comprehensive list of references, mostly to American textbooks or to articles in American professional medical and nursing magazines. It would be impossible to enumerate the subjects of each subsection in each Unit, but a few chapter titles such as: 'Registration and Interstate Licensure'; 'General Fields of Nursing'; 'American Nurses' Association and its divisions'; 'Legal Problems' and 'Nursing Publications', will serve to demonstrate the valuable content and wide range of the book. The extent of Mrs. Dietz's meticulous research is evident from the many subjects covered, but the earlier part is marred by avoidable mistakes, perhaps due to hasty revision or careless proof-reading. Although an interesting book, it seems doubtful whether it will have much appeal outside America.

LUCY SEYMER

A History of Nursing From Ancient to Modern Times. A world view, 5th edition, by ISABEL

M. STEWART and ANNE L. AUSTIN, New York, G. Putnam's, 1962, pp. 516, 56s.

The publication of the fifth edition of this well-known textbook is itself an historical event. Originally written by the late Miss Lavinia L. Dock and Miss Isabel M. Stewart in the twenties and entitled *A Short History of Nursing*, it has been widely read and admired. This new edition has as the co-authoress Miss Anne L. Austin whose *History of Nursing Source Book* came out in 1957. In the earliest chapters of the present book the same subjects have been covered as in previous editions, although perhaps unnecessarily amplified. The later portions are full of new material and the sub-title 'A World View' is fully justified. The pre-1945 history of nursing in many countries has likewise already been chronicled in former editions, but the present book breaks fresh ground. Interesting accounts are given of the present-day nursing situation in such widely separated countries as China, the U.S.S.R., the Latin American republics and the new countries in Africa. This latest and particularly valuable portion has obviously involved extensive and painstaking research. All nurses should be grateful to the authoresses, as the information would probably be impossible to obtain elsewhere. The book should have an honoured place in every nursing school library.

LUCY SEYMER

Avicenna's Poem on Medicine, ed. by HAVEN C. KRUEGER and R. H. MAJOR, Springfield, Ill., C. C. Thomas, 1963, pp. 112, \$5.00.

This translation of Avicenna's *Cantica* is the first in English and will therefore be a great help to English students of medical history. The translation is not a direct one but comes through a French effort, corroborated carefully with the German and Latin