

THE LIVERPOOL BED SLIPPER

WITH reference to the note on 'The Bed Slipper of the Liverpool Northern Hospital' by John A. Ross (*Med. Hist.*, 1960, iv, 349), it has recently come to light that the inventor of the bed slipper was Benjamin Blower and a reference is made to this fact in *A Medical History of Liverpool* by T. H. Bickerton (John Murray, London, 1936).

Benjamin Blower was a House Surgeon to the Northern Hospital from 1835 to 1838. From a perusal of the minute books, it seems that he filled his office with considerable efficiency, being consulted by the Committee, although only a House Surgeon, on such matters as the furnishing of hospital extensions. Blower applied for the appointment of surgeon to the hospital but was unsuccessful, a more senior man obtaining the appointment. Blower became interested in obstetrics and served on the staff of the Lying-in Hospital and Dispensary for Diseases of Women and Children from its early days when it was established in 1841.

CHORLEY: A TREATISE OF THE NATURE OF MAN

MISS ELIZABETH MARTLAND (164A, Palatine Road, Manchester 20) asks if any reader of *Medical History* can help to throw light upon 'Charlie Chorley His Book,' written in manuscript in 1716 and 1717 with a title-page printed in Manchester in 1718.

The full title of the work is *A Treatise of the Nature of Man. Explaining the Rudiments of Physical Knowledge according to the latest discoveries for all Young Students in Physick with useful observations never yet published.*

Any information regarding Charles Chorley, the presumed author of the work, will be much appreciated.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE RED CROSS

DR. T. D. WHITTET (Department of Pharmacology, University College Hospital, Gower Street, W.C.1) would be grateful for any references to the use of the Red Cross as a symbol in connexion with the practice of medicine, surgery or pharmacy prior to its adoption by the Geneva Convention in 1864.

SIR ROBERT PHILIP

Erratum

It is regretted that fig. 2 in Dr. A. T. Wallace's paper on Sir Robert Philip (*Medical History*, January 1961, p. 56) was described as being a picture of Craighleith House, Edinburgh. The house shown is actually Southfield, the institution described on page 62 of Dr. Wallace's paper.