

Book Reviews

J. LAWRENCE POOL, *The Neurological Institute of New York 1909–1974, with personal anecdotes*, Lakeville, Conn., Pocket Knife Press for the author, 1975, 8vo, pp. xii, 154, illus., \$5.00 (Copies available from the author, Box 31, West Cornwall, Conn. 06796, U.S.A.)

The Institute, the first of its kind in America, is now one of the most outstanding centres in the world for the treatment of, and research into, neurological disorders. Its reputation has been built up by a sequence of men whose names are well known in the fields of neurology, neurosurgery, and the neurosciences in general: Tilney, Elsberg, T. J. Putnam, Houston Merritt, Pearce Bailey, Stookey, Foster Kennedy, H. A. Riley, Davidoff, Scarff, Penfield, Bernard Sachs, Abner Wolf, Strong and Elwyn, Dyke, and Mettler amongst others. In thirty years it has produced twenty-eight professors of neurology and twenty-one professors of neurosurgery.

The author tells of its progress using some of his own recollections from his twenty-three years as chairman of the Institute's neurosurgical service. His book is, in fact, a continuation of one by Charles Elsberg who traced the history of the Institute from its founding in 1909 until 1930, a summary of which forms the first chapter.

Dr. Pool has written a fascinating account in an engaging style of a renowned hospital and research centre, which represents an important contribution to the history of world neurology. It can be warmly recommended.

JOSEPH MEITES, BERNARD T. DONOVAN and SAMUEL M. McCANN (editors), *Pioneers in neuroendocrinology*, London, Plenum Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. viii, 327, illus., £11.90.

Neuro-endocrinology evolved between the two world wars and is thus one of the younger neuro-sciences. Moreover, some of those working in this area and still alive lived through its formative years and are ideally placed to recount its history. Admittedly the objectivity and perspective demanded by the purist historian may be lacking or difficult to achieve by this method, but nevertheless the reminiscences and comments of a pioneer of a subject must be of some value, after the application to them of cautious and critical evaluation.

The editors, themselves pioneers, invited twenty-one similar colleagues to prepare accounts of the major contributions they considered they had made to neuro-endocrinology. The end results are of uneven quality and value, as would be expected. Some are highly technical, and constitute reviews of the literature rather than history; on the whole few of the authors place their work accurately in the general flow of scientific advancement. Stricter editing would have removed some of the irrelevant side-issues from the text. There is a brief biographical sketch of each author and a photograph, but the index so essential in a multi-authored book is inadequate.

One name that does not appear in the latter is Geoffrey Harris, although his work and influence overshadows the book and he is cited on at least eight occasions in the authors' references. It is a pity that a general over-view of the evolution of neuro-endocrinology has not been included in this book in order to evaluate the research here reported and to trace more effectively the pervading influence of Harris and of others who have not survived to report their seminal work.