

must be confessed, was equally stringent. It was, however, quite impossible that so small a body of men could hold a monopoly of medical practice in a large metropolis, and its quarrels with the apothecaries and to a lesser extent the surgeons, were inevitable. Credit must be given to these pioneers for the example they set by their standards of medical behaviour and ethics; standards though buffeted by succeeding generations have been maintained to the credit of the profession. To begin with, the College was not concerned with education: for its first 200 years it was never concerned with undergraduate education. This was left to the two universities of Oxford and Cambridge and the universities of the Continent, particularly Padua, Montpellier, and later, Leyden. In Tudor times the examination of the candidates for fellowship was strict and rigorous, consisting of examination before the assembled College in the texts of Galen: four times was the candidate examined at three-monthly intervals and finally was his knowledge of practical procedures in use and practise minutely investigated. Before a candidate could become a fellow, he must have been four years in practice or held a degree of one of the universities.

Much of the work of the College in these early days was in the running down of impostors, and of apothecaries who either dispensed poor drugs or meddled in the doctor's business. To set standards the London *Pharmacopoeia* was published in 1618. Imperfect and incomplete as it was, this was the first real contribution to medicine made by the College. To their own fraternity, their formal lectures and anatomy demonstrations must have been valuable, but the seeking of scientific knowledge was not yet for them.

This history complements in a most satisfying way the first volume of the *History of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries* published under the final editorship of Dr Underwood a year ago. It is a delight to be able to compare the actions and feelings of the members of both camps. One interesting feature arises in the mind of your reviewer. In all the actions of the physicians there runs a small strand of dignity sometimes lacking in the councils of the Worshipful Society. This is brought out well in the two volumes and is fascinating though not entirely unexpected.

St Mary's Hospital, Manchester. 1790-1963. J. H. YOUNG, M.D., D.OBST.R.C.O.G. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1964. Pp. viii + 124. Price 30s.

This is a straightforward account of the St Mary's Hospitals, Manchester from their first abortive start in 1790 to the present day. The story is a chequered one but all the more interesting for that. Dr Young has already written a history of *Caesarean Section* and has brought his considerable skill to this task with great success. This history is readable and well illustrated. Manchester men will welcome it as an addition to the already considerable collection of histories of their school and Manchester medicine in general.

A Time to Heal. The Life of Ian Aird, the Surgeon. HUGH MCLEAVE. London. Heinemann. 1964. Pp. ix + 278. Price 30s.

To read a biography of a person whom one has known in work and in play cannot but raise doubts and criticisms in the mind of the reader.