

A History of the Royal College of Physicians of London. Volume Two.

SIR GEORGE CLARKE, F.B.A. London. Oxford University Press. 1966. Pp. xx + 428-800. Price 63s.

Sir George Clarke carries forward the history of the Royal College from the revolution of 1688 to the time of the passing of the Medical Act of 1858. We see the College changing slowly with the years, never leading fashion, often trailing behind, but all the time trying to keep a tone and poise through many vicissitudes. The College in the eighteenth century still had its responsibilities and its duties to the State and the profession; to these it clung. The first blow to its prerogative was the famous case of the apothecary Rose who physicked a butcher named John Seale "with the result that he was never the better but much worse". The large bill that he sent in for his attention caused the butcher to complain to the College and sparked off the court case which the College lost. After this apothecaries were free to prescribe and administer medicine without fear of contradiction: from then on, the way for the development of the general practitioner was easy. The next troublesome affair with which the College had to contend was the influx of practitioners from universities other than those of Oxford and Cambridge; men from Leyden in the earlier years and from Edinburgh in the latter half of the century, who had the advantage of an education far better than could be obtained at an English university and who therefore considered that they were entitled to become fellows of the College and to play their part in its management. By the College statutes they were only allowed to become licentiates with permission to practise, and this only if the College gave them leave. In their fight for the privilege of taking part in the College's affairs, the licentiates behaved so badly that the sympathies of the people were alienated.

With the dawn of the new century, we find the standing of the physicians rising higher in England than in any country in Europe. They were earning large fortunes and, through pressure of work, some were passing from being the general practitioners of medicine amongst the wealthy to purely consulting practice. The physician in London was gaining in stature.

Sir George carries the reader through the intricacies of medical politics with consummate skill and his story is never dull. In describing the provision for the sick poor at the end of the seventeenth century he has perhaps left the impression that some sort of official steps were taken for their care. Although over the years medical relief was sometimes given to the sick poor this was rare at the end of the seventeenth century and was not specifically provided for by statute or regulation until the New Poor Law of 1834.

It is unfortunate that the standard of proof reading is not so high as is usual with the distinguished publishers.

The General Infirmary at Leeds. Volume II: The Second Hundred Years 1869-1965. S. T. ANNING. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1966. Pp. xii + 188. Price 42s.

Dr Anning has now completed his task. Volume I of this work was reviewed in this *Journal* in 1963 (*J. Coll. gen. Practit.* 1963, 6, 317). In that

review we commented on Dr Anning's success in writing a history of a hospital which was of interest to readers who did not know the General Infirmary at Leeds. This second volume carries the story from the middle of the last century to the present day; it deals with matters which are more fresh in our minds; yet these volumes are to be recommended as a means of tracing the progress of hospital practice from the time when nurses of the Nightingale school first began to infiltrate the provincial hospitals, when the administration of the whole building was in the hands of a matron and a powerful house committee, to the present day when the machinery of government is largely in the grip of an army of secretaries and administrators. Inevitably, we have to read of the visits of royalty, of the generous donations of wealthy magnates, and of the financial difficulties, but this does not detract from an account worthy of a hospital which nurtured Clifford Allbut and Lord Moynihan.

Instead of burdening the text with accounts of the distinguished men who served the Infirmary, Dr Anning has made a 'Biographical summary' of the physicians and surgeons who have served the hospital and has relegated this to an appendix. This is a useful addition to the main work for which future historians will be grateful, but at the same time they may wish that references to sources had been included. The illustrations are well chosen, the photograph of a nurse of 1873 loaned by Dr W. N. Pickles is a joy to behold. All old students of Leeds will want to buy this book: many others will want to read it.

The development of the infant and young child. Normal and abnormal.
R. S. ILLINGWORTH, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H. Third edition.
Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1966. Pp. ix + 378. Price 37s. 6d.

It is significant that a medical book dealing with a new approach to an old subject has had a third edition printed within six years of the first. It suggests that the subject with which it deals is changing or expanding rapidly and there is an increasing demand for it. These features apply to Professor Illingworth's comprehensive description of infant and child development and the special form of examination required to assess it.

A good case is made to establish developmental diagnosis as a necessary part of the responsible doctor's care of his very young patients. The text is very amply illustrated with photographs without which the book would lose much of its appeal. Most sections are summarized at their ends which helps for quick reference, whilst for the specialist, an extensive bibliography completes each chapter.

Now that the family doctor is realizing the value to his infant patient of regular observation of development and few of these doctors have been trained to make such examinations, the book should be on the shelf of every keen general practitioner. It is necessary to read it through to obtain a general approach to the problem and thereafter it will be repeatedly needed for reference.

One would hesitate to cavil with any statements made by one who has