

studies by its working party on diabetes are considered in relation to other relevant work.

Whether this book is regarded as a source of reference for factual information at time of need, a stimulus to thought and interest, or gratification by one who likes to read clear fresh descriptive narrative, it will not fail the reader. The personality and philosophy of a medical thinker show through its pages so that the acquisition of information is made doubly enjoyable.

World Health and History. W. HOBSON, M.D. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1963. Pp. xii + 252. Price 45s.

It is a truism to say that health and disease have no boundaries. None the less, world communications have become so rapid that unexpected disease may be spread anywhere from any quarter of the globe, and the family doctor needs, more than ever, to understand the ecology of communicable illness.

Dr Hobson who was formerly professor of social and industrial medicine at the University of Sheffield and is now the chief of education and training for W.H.O.'s regional office for Europe writes for an educated public on the history of diseases and their effect on world health. The ground he covers is enormous and he writes with great authority in an easy style. His method is to take various diseases, and trace their history to the present day. A more pleasant way of bringing one's knowledge up to date is difficult to imagine. This work is thoroughly recommended. It is copiously illustrated, contains many little-known facts; in particular, his description of the cholera epidemics in Sheffield and Exeter and the various outbreaks of enteric fever between the wars are very well described. There is a good list of references and further reading.

A History of The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. 1654-1963. J. D. H. WIDDESS, M.A., L.R.C.P. & S.I. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963. Pp. xii + 255. Price 40s.

The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland deserved an up-to-date history. The College had its beginning in 1654 as a fraternity of physicians and was granted its Royal Charter in 1667. It is interesting to read how its troubles with the apothecaries so closely followed the same pattern as the troubles which the Royal College of Physicians of London had had a few years earlier.

Ireland has produced some great doctors. The names of Stokes, Graves and Corrigan are well known to all. Dr Widdess has devoted considerable space to them.

This is a well-written study of a difficult subject. The reader is not, as so often happens, confused by long descriptions of the purchase and sale of buildings, of furnishings and financial transactions, but is given a peep into the life of the College during its 300 years of active life, and