

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

also of the Dublin of olden times.

The plates are well chosen. There is a good bibliography and lists of the past presidents and officers of the College, all gathered together at the end of the volume.

**Care of the Patient with a Stroke.** GENEVIEVE W. SMITH, M.A. London and Wisbech. Tavistock Publications. 1963. Pp. vii+157. Price 17s. 6d.

This book is refreshingly practical. It is intended for "the patient's family and the nurse" but could be studied with advantage by the family doctor and the consulting physician who, nominally in charge of the case, often understand too little of the minutiae of treatment which determine the ultimate fate of the patient, mental as well as physical.

The sequelae of a cerebral catastrophe are dealt with as a whole. They are met with courage, optimism and organization which, helpful in any illness, are sorely needed in one which strikes down a previously healthy man and taxes the whole family in what is often a long and depressing illness.

Physical needs and mental reactions are never divorced. The book is packed with detail of nursing management, simply and clearly illustrated. The patient is not the cog round which the exhausted family revolves but an important individual who must make his own contribution to his welfare.

The good paper and clear print make easy reading and every page combines wisdom and sympathy with practical advice. "Most people would rather have died when they had the stroke . . . the patient's acceptance of his fate will depend largely upon the attitude of his family and friends". The obvious deep personal experience is explained when the author tells of her own feeling of inadequacy when she, a trained nurse, is faced with the care of her own husband. The chapters on "Visiting", "Meeting personality problems" and "Towards happy living" touch on subjects too often neglected.

The book is a challenge to all; patient, family, nurse and doctor. "In rehabilitating the patient, always keep in mind the total aim—to bring him back to happy useful living within the limits of his capacities".

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