

Reviews of Recent Books



A History of Medicine, Vol. 2, Early Greek, Hindu and Persian Medicine, by Henry E. Sigerist. Oxford University Press, London, 1961, pp. 352, \$11.00.

Dr. Henry E. Sigerist was probably the foremost medical historian of our time. He had the happy facility of writing in a clear, natural, and often entertaining style and at the same time weaving into his profound works on the history of medicine many aspects of economics, sociology and culture generally. He had planned to write a comprehensive eight-volume history of medicine, but his work was interrupted by World War II and it was not until 1951 that the first volume, "Primitive and Archaic Medicine," appeared. In later years, ill health slowed the progress of this monumental task. At his death in 1957, only the second volume of the history had been drafted, and this not complete. A group of his friends, all notables in the field of the history of medicine, formed a committee and, among other activities relating to Dr. Sigerist, assumed the responsibility of preparing the second volume for publication.

The unique value of Sigerist's work can best be exemplified by his chapter on the golden age of Greek medicine. He first describes the physical appearance of Athens at that time, the fifth century B.C., and he says: "Before we discuss and analyze fifth-century medicine, we should find out what kind of system the physicians were serving." Then comes a very clearly written account of life in Athens and Sparta together with the hygiene and public health practices of the time.

The next chapter deals with Hippocrates; the third, entitled "Patients and Physician," describes the relationship between the two in the days of ancient Greece; and, finally, the fourth section, entitled "Medical Theories," reviews the concepts expressed in their writings.

Of special interest in this book are a large number of illustrations, some of which deal directly with medical subjects, others with the life and times of the people, without which it is impossible to understand the history of medicine.

Attached to the last page of the typed manuscript of his book, Dr. Sigerist wrote in a note, "Here my legacy ends." Apparently he knew he would be unable to finish this great task, and the cultural world is the loser.

S. O. WAIFE, M.D.

Foetal and Neonatal Physiology. *British Medical Bulletin*, vol. 17, no. 2, May 1961.

This symposium consists of seventeen reviews of current research in the field of fetal and neonatal physi-

ology. It is a "must" for those who are working actively in this field, and is of interest to many others as well.

Particularly noteworthy are the articles on "Protein Transfer Across the Foetal Membranes," by Hemmings and Brandell; "Immunological Tolerance and Immunological Paralysis," by Mitchison; "Foetal Kidney" by Alexander and Nixon; "Mineral Metabolism of the Foetus and Newborn," by McCance and Widowson; "Ability of Young Mammals to Withstand Total Oxygen" by Mott; "Changes in the Circulation at Birth" by Dawes; "Blood Pressure in the Newborn Baby," by Young; "Respiration in the Newborn Baby" by A. W. Cross; "Reaction of a Newborn Animal to Environmental Temperature," by J. R. Hill; "Practical Problems of Neonatal Pediatrics Considered in Relation to Animal Physiology" by Davis and Tizard.

This volume brings together many of the important advances and new approaches in this field.

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BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW

Books received for review by *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* are acknowledged in this column. As far as practicable, those of special interest are selected, as space permits, for extensive review.

Nursing Home Administration, by J. D. Gerletti, C. C. Crawford, and D. J. Perkins. Attending Staff Association, Downey, Calif., 1961, pp. 472, \$6.50.

Ciba Foundation Study Group No. 8, Problems of Pulmonary Circulation, edited by A. V. S. de Reuck and Maeve O'Connor. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1961, pp. 96, \$2.50.

Ciba Foundation Symposium jointly with Committee for Symposia on Drug Action on Adrenergic Mechanisms, edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Maeve O'Connor. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1961, pp. 632, \$12.50.

Essential Hypertension, An International Symposium, edited by K. D. Bock and P. T. Cottier. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Göttingen Heidelberg, 1960, pp. 392.

Ciba Foundation Symposium on The Nature of Sleep, edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Maeve O'Connor. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1961, pp. 416, \$10.00.

Proceedings of the Fourth International Congress on Clinical Chemistry. E. & S. Livingston Ltd., Edinburgh & London, 1961, pp. 212, \$8.00.

Food Additive Control in the Netherlands, by W. Meijer. FAO, Rome, 1961, pp. 41, \$.50.