

PATRICK MANSON

Patrick Manson. The father of tropical medicine. By Sir Philip Manson-Bahr, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. viii + 192. Illustrated. R1.50. London: Thomas Nelson & Sons. 1962.

This biography of Patrick Manson is one of the first in a series entitled 'British Men of Science'. The publishers, Messrs. Thomas Nelson and Sons, are planning to produce 19 biographies of eminent British scientists from the renaissance to the 20th century. They are designed for the general reader and their purpose is frankly chauvinistic.

In those circles which regard themselves as 'sophisticated', national pride is considered rather naive; the fashionable trend is towards internationalism, common markets and a break with the past. Yet, nations continue to be rivals and their relative greatness is still determined by the destructive potential of their machines of war. It is therefore not surprising that their historic traditions are concerned more with their military heroes and their destructive exploits than with the achievements of their scientists. Every British schoolboy knows about Drake, Nelson, Wellington, Kitchener and

Montgomery; but how many of them have heard of Harvey, Jenner, Lister, Manson or Sherrington? Perhaps this new series will help to foster a pride in their country's scientific heritage, which, in the case of Britain is at least as distinguished as the military record, and may prove to be more enduring.

Patrick Manson fully deserves his place among the great figures of medical history. His most important achievements were in the field of tropical medicine, and he was largely responsible for contributing the concept of 'insect-borne diseases'. As a result, the infective nature of filariasis, bilharzia and malaria were correctly elucidated and rational procedures could be developed for their prevention and treatment. Manson's name is eponymously associated with one of the varieties of schistosomes (*S. mansoni*) and an eponym is usually the most durable of all medical memorials. More tangible are the memorials which Manson built for himself: the Medical Faculty of the University of Hong Kong and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Sir Philip Manson-Bahr, an expert in tropical medicine and the son-in-law of Patrick Manson, is peculiarly well qualified to write this biography. He has been able to provide us with an adequate personal study of Patrick Manson and

with a remarkably lucid account of his scientific discoveries. Sir Philip has also provided us with an up-to-date survey of those problems of tropical medicine in which Manson did his pioneering work. And like every historian worthy of his salt, Sir Philip has used the lessons of the past as a guide for dealing with the problems of the future.

It is a pleasure to recommend this book both as an interesting biography and as a painless refresher course in tropical medicine. It is nicely produced on good paper, with 22 plates and hard covers: in this paperbacked age, it is a bargain at R1.50.

H.G.

VASCULAR SURGERY

Vascular Surgery. By J. B. Kinmonth, M.B., M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), C. G. Rob, M.C., M.A., M.D., M.Chir. (Camb.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.) and F. A. Simeone, A.B., Sc.M., M.D., Sc.D. (Hon.). Pp. vi + 501. Illustrated. R10.00. London: Edward Arnold, 1962.

This book, written by acknowledged authorities with extensive practical experience in this field, must rate high among the now numerous texts on vascular surgery.

The authors cover this wide subject completely, yet avoiding verbiage and stressing the practical clinical aspect, in a manner which makes reading a pleasure.

The pathology of chronic obliterative arterial disease is particularly well described, and the account of wounds of blood vessels is fascinating and vivid.

Arterial hypertension and the modern surgical approach is dealt with at length, and the management of portal hypertension is described.

The chapters on the cryopathies and sympathetic dystrophies leave the reader with a better grasp of these less well-understood problems.

Advances of the past decade in diseases of the lymphatic vessels are well described, and particular emphasis is placed on lymphangiography which has been largely responsible for a better understanding of the mechanisms of chronic lymphoedema.

Despite the mass of literature on varicose veins and ulcers, the authors manage to present even this section in a refreshing manner.

Throughout, details of operative technique (including techniques of angiography) are given in a manner which leaves no doubt as to the practical experience of the authors.

The value of this work is further enhanced by the extensive list of references at the end of each chapter.

Surgeons and postgraduate students will find this most rewarding reading.

L.B.

MASSAGE

Connective Tissue Massage. Theory and therapeutic application. By M. Ebner, M.C.S.P. Pp. vii + 220. Illustrated. R3.00, postage 15c. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962.

The subject is introduced by chapters giving the outline of some basic physiological, anatomical and histological facts. There is evidence of much reading and many references are quoted, extending over a period of many years. The theory of this form of treatment is based on the interaction of nervous, visceral and vascular mechanisms, which present superficial manifestations, especially in the integument of the spinal region. The treatment aims are to lessen palpable fascial tensions and possible congestions resulting from the changes in the deeper tissues, and so effect an associated reaction in these structures. Cases are recorded to illustrate the efficacy of this form of treatment. Some are convincing, i.e. the disappearance of chilblains in the leg in a case of polio, while others with diagnoses such as 'rheumatism' and 'lumbago', and the inclusion of other forms of physiotherapy (to which at least some improvement can be attributed), would seem to obscure the rationale.

Techniques are clearly described and well illustrated by diagrams, but as with all practical skills, personal instruction from an expert would be necessary before attempting to use this form of therapy in practice. The author herself states 'further experience under the guidance of the medical profession should prove very valuable'. This indeed would seem essential before the value of these techniques can be assessed fully.

In conjunction with practical instruction this book should be a valuable asset.

M.H.S.R.

CLINICAL RECORDS

Clinical Records for Mental Health Services. A guide to the study and development of clinical record systems including a manual of model forms and procedures. By R. H. Blum, Ph.D. and J. Ezekiel. Pp. xx + 156. \$7.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1962.

The first section of the book, dealing with a study of record systems, should prove useful to administrators who wish either to review the present status of their hospital records, or who intend starting new clinics.

The second section is merely a report on the investigations of the San Mateo County Department of Public Health and Welfare.

The third section presents a very elaborate set of clinical records which, however, could be suitably modified.

K.H.F.