

Book Reviews

IAN SHINE and SYLVIA WROBEL, *Thomas Hunt Morgan. Pioneer of genetics*, Lexington, Kentucky, University Press of Kentucky, 1976, 8vo, pp. xv, 160, illus., \$7.50.

In 1933 T. H. Morgan (1866–1945) was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in recognition of his outstanding contributions to genetics, a science born during his lifetime. It was he who introduced the well-known *Drosophila* into genetic research and, together with his group, he led the way to what we now recognize as a revolution in biological understanding, implicating medical science and biochemistry as well as biology. Morgan's work on embryology and regeneration is also significant, and he was able to plan a new interdisciplinary type of department of biological science at the California Institute of Technology, which has produced a number of distinguished scientists, including the Nobel prizeman, George W. Beadle, who has written a brief 'Foreword' to this book.

Dr. Shine is a medical geneticist and gives us not only a detailed survey of Morgan and his work, but in so doing provides a history of genetics. His book is claimed to be the definitive biography and it certainly will remain for some time the main authoritative source. It is a pity, however, that documentation is scarce and that there is no bibliography of Morgan's writings. It can nevertheless be warmly recommended.

ARCANGELO R. T. D'AMORE (editor), *William Alanson White. The Washington years 1903–1937*, Washington D.C., U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1976, 8vo, pp. xv, 189, illus., [no price stated].

White (1870–1937) was Superintendent of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington D.C. for thirty-four years and this book is a collection of thirteen essays given by contributors at a symposium on 26 October 1973, together with an introduction, a biography, and an account of discussions held. His contributions to psychiatry, psychoanalysis and mental health are dealt with, and a final section gives accounts of his library, his writings, his correspondence, etc.

The approach White made to psychiatry was an elective one, which in part was due to his personality. He was friendly with Kraepelin, Jung, Freud, Jelliffe, and others, together with a large spectrum of administrators, neurologists and other specialists. He clearly had an important influence on the development of American psychiatry and is said to have been at his death probably the best known of the almost 3,000 psychiatrists in the country. Elsewhere he is not so well known and this book will help to reveal him to those who are unaware of his pioneer work.