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ham, sent for Ashmole and asked him to cure his rheumatism (pp. 250 and 1711). Ashmole seeing that he was at death's door declined to do so.

For two things Ashmole's name will be mainly remembered. In 1682 he founded the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, based on his own collections of manuscripts, books, coins and specimens, which are now housed in the Museum of the History of Science at Oxford. He was influential enough to cause the University Authorities to collaborate and he was able to persuade others to contribute from their own collections. The physician Martin Lister, for instance, contributed twenty-six cases of mainly shells, fossils and minerals. But historians of science and medicine owe at least as much gratitude to Ashmole for collecting English alchemical manuscripts from Arthur Dee, John Dee's son, William Backhouse, and others, and publishing them in 1652 in the *Theatrum Chemicum Britannicum*, a unique collection made thus accessible in printed form. It has by no means as yet been fully exploited for the history of Renaissance science and philosophy. Its recent reprint has been reviewed in *Medical History* (1969, 13, 99).

MARIANNE WINDER

- (1) *Radiology in World War II*, ed. by K. D. A. ALLEN *et al.*, Washington, D.C., Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, 1966, pp. xliii, 1087, illus., \$8.25.
- (2) *Army Medical Specialist Corps*, ed. by HARRIET S. LEE and MYRA L. McDANIEL, Washington, D.C., Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, 1968, pp. xxvii, 648, illus., \$5.25.
- (3) *Internal Medicine in World War II. Vol. III: Infectious Diseases and General Medicine*, Washington, D.C., Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, 1968, pp. xxxi, 778, illus., \$8.25.
- (4) *Medical Supply in World War II*, ed. by CHARLES M. WILTSE and ROBERT S. ANDERSON, Washington, D.C., Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, 1968, pp. xxv, 662, illus., \$8.25.
- (5) *Crisis Fleeting: Original Reports on Military Medicine in India and Burma in the Second World War*, Washington, D.C., Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, 1969, pp. xiii, 423, \$3.75.

(1) In the record of the medical services of the U.S. Army in World War II a separate volume is devoted to radiology. Could any testimony to the importance of this specialty in military medicine be more eloquent? It is a volume which amply repays study, as all aspects of military radiology are covered—not only the accounts of experience in the various theatres of war, but the training of personnel, the supply and maintenance of equipment, etc. No reader need be daunted by the size of the book, as, thanks to its excellent layout by sections and its index, it is very easy to consult. As an ex-Army medical officer I was gratified to see the credit given to the pioneering efforts of army doctors in the use of radiology in the Tirah Campaign (1896), Soudar Campaign (1898), and Boer War (1899–1902). Generous tribute is also paid to the help given by British army radiologists in the early days of the United States' entry into the Second World War.

Like all volumes in this series, it is a most honest record, with the mistakes as well

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as the successes noted, which adds partly to its value. The editing, production and illustrations are of the exceptionally high quality one has come to expect in this series. A particularly happy and useful feature is the inclusion of a list of references at the end of each section.

Although obviously this is a volume of most interest to radiologists and surgeons, it yet holds something for all members of the medical profession and can be highly recommended.

(2) To British eyes the title of this volume (*Army Medical Specialist Corps*) tends to be misleading, as it does not deal with physicians, surgeons, and so on, but with a corps of women made up of dietitians, physiotherapists and occupational therapists. The volume is in four parts: Part I covers the activities of the three elements of the Corps up to World War II; Part II deals with World War II; Part III covers the history of the Corps from its inception in 1947 until 1961 (originally as the Women's Medical Specialist Corps, later (1955) the Army Medical Specialist Corps); and Part IV deals with educational aspects. This is an excellent format, as it enables the reader to find quickly and easily any aspect of the Corps' work in which he is interested.

It is a fascinating account which will appeal to all members of the medical and nursing professions, as well as dietitians, physiotherapists and occupational therapists, as there is so much sound and practical information to be found.

One cannot but make comparison with our own Services and reflect that, until the Bank of England holds as much gold as Fort Knox, there is little likelihood of our creating its counterpart here!

In all volumes in this series, I have noted the inclusion of the photographs of the leading personalities concerned. This happy practice is continued here, and adds markedly to the interest of what is essentially a human story.

(3) This volume, which deals with infectious diseases and general medicine, is the third and last volume of the series devoted to *Internal Medicine in World War II*. It is in effect a summary of much of the ground covered by the two previous volumes and can be read on its own without reference to them. The fact that it has appeared twenty-three years after the end of World War II is no handicap as it has permitted of a mature, balanced and clear presentation.

As was to be expected, the experiences of the United States Army were very much the same as ours. It was heartening to note that a very large section of the book is devoted to dermatology. Because they are not killers skin diseases tend to be overlooked and yet they are major causes of wastage and inefficiency in war. Here their importance is fully recognized.

All the sections can be read with profit as all are well written and clearly presented. There is a pleasant absence of 'hobby-horse' riding so that the conclusions made and the advice proffered are both sound and practical. For such a high standard in all sections the editor deserves the greatest credit as such uniformity is not easily achieved. Obviously the sections which will appeal most to readers will depend on their own personal interests and experiences. I enjoyed in particular the sections devoted to dermatology, heat conditions, heart disease and psychosomatic medicine.

The production, layout and printing follow the same high standard of the previous volumes. In short this is a splendid book in which there is something of value for

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everyone and in consequence it can be recommended most strongly to all doctors be they service or civilian.

(4) When I was asked to review this volume (on Medical Supply) I could hardly imagine a more dreary subject to deal with. I could scarcely have been more wrong as the whole topic is dealt with in so interesting and so intelligent a manner that it becomes alive and absorbing and anything but dreary.

The whole field of Medical Supply is considered—procurement, distribution, transportation, storage and so on. As the story unfolds it is one of many problems energetically grappled with and successfully overcome.

It is a most honest account with mistakes as well as successes recorded. It came as a surprise to learn how very late in the day the Army Medical Department recognized the need for the soldier to be provided, where required, with spectacles from Service sources and not at his own expense.

The Medical Supply in each major theatre of military activity is dealt with in separate sections which adds much to the value of the volume as it is a matter of a few moments to look up and check any particular point one wishes to refer to.

Excellent illustrations help to make this volume alive and interesting. In particular the inclusion of the portraits of many of the officers mentioned is a happy and human touch which adds much to the appeal of this book.

This then is a record of success but a success only achieved by much planning and hard work. It is a record which contains many lessons which can be studied with profit.

On both of the above grounds this is a book which can be recommended to all who have administrative problems to tackle and not just to those who deal with medical supplies.

(5) The title of this volume, *Crisis Fleeting*, I found puzzling, until I opened it and discovered its source: 'Life is short, Art is long: Crisis fleeting, Experiment risky, Decision difficult'— Hippocratic Aphorism.

This particular volume benefits particularly from the editors' policy of supplying photographs and personal details of individuals mentioned in the text, as it is a collection of five personal accounts of military medical experiences on the Burma front. I have no intention of spoiling this volume for others by giving details of its contents, but will merely say that the personal accounts range from 'Chinese Liaison Detail', by Walter S. Jones, M.D., to 'With Wingate's Chindits: A Record of Heedless Valor', by Major-General W. J. Offir. I found it an intensely interesting and stimulating volume, and, in common with all the books in this series, the printing, format, and production are superlative.

A. MACLENNAN

Chinesische Heilkunst, by STEPHAN PÁLOS, Munich, Delp'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1966, pp. 206, illus.

The original text of this work appeared under the Hungarian title *A hagyományos kínai gyógyítás* in 1963 and was written in a lively and lucid style by Dr. Stephan Pálos. It has been carefully translated into German by Dr. Wilhelm Kronfuss who resolved the problem of Chinese transcription with the help of Dr. Rolf Trauzettel