

Book Reviews

half-forgotten figures. The mention of the names and characteristics of the men and women who made the hospital famous will help maintain tradition now buffeted by the onslaught of the National Health Service. But for those who do not know Edinburgh the book is disappointing. There has not been sufficient space to give in logical sequence the story of the emancipation of paediatrics from obstetrics, its apprenticeship under the guardian wing of medicine and its evolution as a speciality in its own right.

Four interesting biographies, two of physicians and two of surgeons, lift the book from the dull and factual to pulsating interest as we see momentarily, not just the bricks and mortar of the hospital but something of its vital life. Unfortunately there is some needless repetition. On page 28, nineteen lines are devoted to Dr. John Thomson whereas a fuller biography is given on pages 39 to 42.

The illustrations are interesting and varied, but the crude colouring of the frontispiece is not worthy of the excellent production of the rest of the book.

JOHN RENDLE-SHORT

A History of Embryology. JOSEPH NEEDHAM, F.R.S. 2nd edition. Revised with the assistance of Arthur Hughes. London: Cambridge University Press, 1959; pp. 304. Illustrated. 52s. 6d.

In the early nineteen-thirties Dr. Joseph Needham gave a series of lectures at the University of London entitled 'Speculation, Observation and Experiment as illustrated by the History of Embryology', and, in amplified form, these were published in 1934 as *A History of Embryology*. This has been out of print for a number of years and now a second edition has been published, in the revision of which the author has been assisted by Dr. Arthur Hughes, Lecturer in Anatomy in the University of Cambridge. The present volume also includes a concluding chapter by Dr. Needham which summarizes the influences which have operated in the history of embryology from the speculations of the ancients to the birth of the science of experimental embryology as we know it today. Although the present book is entitled *A History of Embryology* it only brings the story to about 1800. The continuation to the end of the nineteenth century is hinted at as a project for the future.

To have produced a second edition of this well-known book is of course a great service to the history of medicine and biology in general but most readers will regret the rather abrupt ending. It is painfully reminiscent of the familiar phrase 'to be continued in our next', which punctuated the monthly instalments of the riddles of Sherlock Holmes. In what has already been printed we are told a great deal about the speculations of the ancients and of the restricted observations of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but the story breaks off just as we approach the age of experiment. We are left waiting for the continuation of the exciting story of the consequences of 'seeing what would happen if . . .' and all that developed from this attitude in the nineteenth century.

CUTHBERT DUKES

Notable Names in Medicine and Surgery. HAMILTON BAILEY and W. J. BISHOP. 3rd edition, London: H. K. Lewis, 1959; pp. 216. Illustrated. 35s.

It is a real pleasure to welcome a new edition of this useful and lavishly illustrated book. Eponyms are frequently used in wards, operating theatres, out-patients