

## Book Reviews

Interesting chapters are devoted to the Naval Nursing Services, Fevers, and 'Other Diseases', the Royal Naval Hospitals, and the Health of the Navy. We are also given an account of the men who won the Gilbert Blane Medal, the highest honour which can be bestowed on a naval surgeon; readers will be pleased to note the name of one of the authors among the medallists.

The saddest chapter in the book is that concerned with the West African Squadron, for that squadron for a long time fought a losing battle against the slave-traders, and while doing it lost a really terrifying proportion of the sailors. As they used to say:

'Beware and take care of the Bight of Benin  
There's one comes out for forty goes in.'

When a naval hospital was built to look after the sick, the mortality 'continued to be higher than anywhere else in the world. It was a joke among the sailors that the standing orders were "Gang No. 1 to be employed digging graves as usual. Gang No. 2 making coffins until further orders".'

Even more tragic was the story of the ship *Rodeur* whose crew and slave-cargo were nearly all blind from ophthalmia and were hailed by a Spanish ship whose crew were also all blinded with the same disease. 'The *Rodeur* reached Guadaloupe with the surgeon and 11 men irrevocably blind, the captain and 4 others blind in one eye'. It is good to know that that by modern methods and remedies that deadly region has been rendered comparatively healthy.

The fourth volume completes naval medical history up to the beginning of this century and must be accounted a splendid undertaking competently, and in parts brilliantly, performed.

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*Paracelsus-Bibliographie, 1932-1960. Mit einem Verzeichnis neu entdeckter Paracelsus-Handschriften (1900-1960)*, by KARL-HEINZ WEIMANN, Wiesbaden, Franz Steiner, 1963, pp. xii, 100, DM. 18.

With the book under notice Sudhoff's bibliography of publications on Paracelsus (*Nachweise zur Paracelsus-Literatur. Acta Paracelsica, Supplement*, München 1932, 68 pp.) has been continued and taken up for a further thirty years to 1960. The result is a fully documented list, running to 1180 items—a figure which in itself provides its justification and indeed the proof of its necessity. The reviewer has found nothing of any importance missing (for the sake of completeness Lluésma-Uranga, E., *Paracelso. Obras Completas. Primera Traducción Castellana*. Buenos Aires. Editorial Schapire 1945; a selection from the *Paramiric* works in 435 pp.; and perhaps the detailed review of Sudhoff, *Bibliografía Paracelsica*, Reprint, Graz, 1958 in *Bull. Hist. Med.*, 1959, 33, 480-2 may be mentioned, however). The list is followed by a census of Paracelsus-Manuscripts which have come to light since 1900. This includes only one of those extant in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library (No. 593 in Moorat's *Catalogue of Western Manuscripts* which should be consulted for the description of those not included). There is also a survey of the Paracelsus-Societies. Particular praise must be accorded to the extensive cross references and the four indices on twelve pages covering all possible fields and aspects of Paracelsus-Research. This is an excellent work of reference which must be made available for scholars in the many fields in which Paracelsus forms a landmark. The author, himself a philologist and Paracelsian scholar and editor of note, as well as Professor Kurt Goldammer, the editor of the *Kosmosophie* series of which this book forms the second instalment, must be congratulated on its publication. It is beautifully produced.

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