

Book Reviews

opposed him. On essential points, however, subsequent events usually justified the attitude he took. The book is divided into two sections only, the first of which deals with the life and work of George Birkbeck, the second being an account of the general development of the mechanics' institutes movement. There are ten appendices, a comprehensive bibliography and a very good index. The nineteen illustrations, including five portraits of Birkbeck, are well produced. Altogether this is a fine piece of work, and a handsome example of book production, but its medical interest is somewhat slight for obvious reasons. The thoroughness of its documentation, with the copious footnotes and the exhaustiveness of its treatment, inevitably make the book somewhat heavy going for continuous reading, but there is no doubt about its great value as a work of reference, and it will probably remain the definitive authority on its subject for many years to come.

CYRIL G. BARNARD

André Vésale Rénovateur de l'Anatomie Humaine 1515-1564. Documents conservés en Belgique et exposés à la Bibliothèque royale de Belgique à Bruxelles, du 22 juillet au 21 septembre 1957. Bruxelles, Editions Arscia, 1957; pp. 88. Illustrated.

In honour of the First International Congress of Neurological Science held in Brussels in July 1957, an exposition of Vesaliana was initiated by Dr. Ludo van Bogaert, Secretary-General of the Congress. The exposition which was brought together through the co-operation of Belgian librarians and archivists was sufficiently large and inclusive to warrant the present elaborate catalogue.

The exposition, as the catalogue indicates, was divided into several parts: anatomy before Vesalius, the more immediate precursors, the works of his teachers, Vesalius's own writings, and finally the works of supporters and successors and opponents. From an examination of the catalogue it appears that there are very few works of significance relative to the Vesalian theme which are not available in Belgian libraries. The *Commentaria* of Berengario da Carpi is notably absent as well as Niccolò Massa's small anatomical treatise of 1536 which was so influential upon Vesalius.

The various sections of the catalogue contain texts relative to the works listed in each and their relation to the Vesalian story. These are helpful in giving significance to the works, and the compilers of the catalogue are to be congratulated for their efforts to give explanation for what otherwise would have been an ordinary and dull listing of titles. Possibly the text was written under the pressure of time since a considerable number of legends and errors have crept into the text. Thus, for example, it is not true that Vesalius studied law at Louvain, nor did he study languages under the direction of Guinter of Andernach. At Paris he was primarily the student of Guintier of Andernach while his relations with Sylvius were extraordinary, in the academic sense, since Sylvius was not a member of the Paris faculty of medicine. There are many such errors which might have been avoided by reference to recent scholarship. A particularly curious error is to be found in reference to Guinter's *Institutiones anatomicae*, published in 1538 with Vesalius's emendations. In the catalogue this is described as a 'completely revised edition of the translation of Galen's *Institutiones anatomicae*' made by Guinter of Andernach. Of course, Guinter made no such translation, if for no other reason because Galen wrote no such book. The confusion has arisen because of the translation of Galen's *De administrandis anatomicis*, which Vesalius was later to revise for inclusion in the Giunta edition of Galen's works.

Despite such errors, and unfortunately many more scattered throughout the cata-

Book Reviews

logue, the work is one which should be possessed by all those interested in the great Belgian anatomist. It contains far more fact than fancy, and the list of Vesaliana is an important one. Perhaps in 1964, which will mark the four hundredth anniversary of the death of Vesalius, a more extended and carefully prepared version of the present catalogue could be issued. It may be recalled that plans for a great celebration in 1914 were never realized due to the outbreak of the First World War, and similar hopes for the year 1943 were likewise frustrated.

C. D. O'MALLEY

National Tuberculosis Association, 1904-1954. RICHARD HARRISON SHRYOCK, William H. Welch, Professor of the History of Medicine and Director of the Institute of History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, New York: National Tuberculosis Association, 1957; pp. 342. \$3.50.

This book is sub-titled as a study of the Voluntary Health Movement in the United States, but it contains more than the titles imply that are of interest to the medical historian. Its early chapters detail the history of tuberculosis in pre-twentieth-century Europe and America. This part of the book is outstanding. Too many short histories of tuberculosis are written with a sad Victorian romanticism giving poetical personalities and bizarre medicaments an unwanted dingy notability. This aspect of medicine is an historian's delight and one experienced too often. Here instead is an outline of the thought determining treatment in the time before Koch's discovery, related of course, to the main advances in the pathology of chest disease.

Of particular interest is the account of tuberculosis, and its social background, in the America of some sixty years ago. In 1904 the National Tuberculosis Association was formed and soon became mainly responsible for the broad principles governing the treatment and the prevention of the disease. There also followed the Sanatorium Society (Trudeau being the first President of the Association), State Societies, close relationship with the Red Cross, and the growth, common to most successful organizations, to international height with attendant conferences and authority. Regard was given to non-medical help for the raising of funds, administration and welfare. Popular then as now was the Christmas Seal; an idea of a Danish Postmaster in 1903, it spread rapidly throughout Europe and later became established as a source of income in America. Similar, but smaller, designs like the "Easter Stickers" were also rewarding.

The latter part of the book is concerned with the policies, plans, theory and practice of the Association. The age of marvel in chemotherapy has put much of this work, some of it only a few decades old, into history; the eradication of the stigma of consumption, tuberculin, collapse measures, isolation of sputum positive patients, preventoria, B.C.G. The great work this organization has done in settling many of these problems does not mark its passing, for new difficulties are upon it, those of bacterial resistance and of changing epidemiology. It is also serving as an example for other voluntary bodies and showing how voluntary, local, and State aid can co-exist in harmony, and more important, when they should act together.

A goodish bibliography and many photographs of the heroes of phthisiology complete Professor Shryock's work. Perhaps a better title for it might have been "An History of Tuberculosis in America" for such it is, and an excellent one at that.

T. MARMION