

Book Reviews

A Bibliography of Dr. Robert Hooke. SIR GEOFFREY KEYNES. Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1960; pp. xix, 115, 12 plates. 50s.

Hooke's *Micrographia* is one of the great classics in the history of science. Among the subjects illustrated in its thirty-eight magnificent plates is figured for the first time the cell as a unit of organic structure, not the least of the revelations which the microscope enabled Hooke to present to his astonished contemporaries in 1665. As 'Curator of Experiments' to the Royal Society in its early days Hooke left his mark on all the work and deliberations of its early Fellows. He not only devised but made the air-pump which enabled Robert Boyle to demonstrate the law which bears his name. Universal joints and spiral springs (including the hair-spring of the watch) were also among the productions of Hooke's fertile brain, and all are beautifully illustrated in the handsome *Bibliography* which Sir Geoffrey Keynes has now added to his classic series of bibliographies of some of our pioneer scientists. In this volume all Hooke's published work, some of it scattered in the books of others, is brought together and expertly described. In addition we are given a summary list of all of Hooke's MS. papers and letters preserved in the archives of the Royal Society; a guide to the letters to be found in printed sources; and a list of books and articles dealing with Hooke and his work. As an intriguing supplement to an already valuable study, Sir Geoffrey concludes by printing for the first time from the holograph notes in Cambridge University Library the voluminous notes which Sir Isaac Newton made on his first and obviously very close reading of Hooke's *Micrographia*.

F. N. L. POYNTER

Selected Papers. SIR GEOFFREY JEFFERSON. Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd., 1960; pp. 563. 105s.

Sir Geoffrey Jefferson has just cause for pride in his consistent output of masterly addresses, and in the delight they have afforded those who have been privileged to hear them. A wider audience is now permitted to gather and to enjoy this harvest of erudition. It was a happy thought to collect some of Jefferson's papers, not a few of which were becoming relatively inaccessible or too readily overlooked. Many of these articles are 'technical' in nature and of special interest to neurosurgeons. There are many papers, however, whose appeal is wider. Some are of a reflective character; others are of a historical or biographical order. These works indicate Jefferson's thoughtful nature, his learning and his philosophic bent. Topics of cerebral localization are dealt with in at least three of his papers, and the impact of phrenology upon medicine and science at the beginning of the nineteenth century is admirably described. The interest shown by George Eliot and her circle in the novel doctrines of organology is well brought out by Jefferson in his Toronto address. We are permitted a number of studies of such personages as Marshall Hall, Macewen, Horsley and Cushing, and in patriotic vein Jefferson has written appreciations of his earlier colleagues at Manchester—Ross, Thorburn and Williamson. As we read and re-read these collected papers we vividly re-visualize the engaging and disarming figure of the author and we note the wholly individual character of his prose-style. This volume