

Book Reviews

A History of Parasitology, by W. D. FOSTER, Edinburgh and London, E. & S. Livingstone, 1965, pp. vii, 202, 15 plates, 35s.

Medical historians and parasitologists will welcome the appearance at last of a work devoted to the history of parasitology. Hitherto no modern study of this subject has been available with the exception of R. Hoeppli's *Parasites and Parasitic Infections in early Medicine and Science* (1959), a work designed on quite different lines.

One important limitation must however be mentioned. Professor Foster's book deals only with certain groups of human parasites (helminths and protozoa) and deliberately excludes parasitic fungi and arthropods, so depriving us of a history of the mycoses and above all of scabies, a disease of great interest in the evolution of medical ideas.

Having made this reservation, one has nothing but praise for Foster's work. In fourteen clearly expressed and well documented chapters he gives us a general survey of the evolution of medical parasitology from antiquity up to 1850, then goes back to trace the development of our knowledge of cestodes, trematodes (flukes and schistosomes), nematodes (trichina, hookworm, filariae), and of various groups of pathogenic protozoa (trypanosomes, *Entamoeba histolytica*, *Babesia*, plasmodia) before summing up in a brief conclusion.

It should be noted that, apart from some mention in the first, general, chapter nothing is said of ascarids, oxyurids, *Leishmania*, *Toxoplasma*, *Balantidium*, and several other parasites.

The book has an index of authors cited but no subject index. It is illustrated with fifteen plates showing early drawings of parasites and portraits of parasitologists.

J. THÉODORIDÈS

John Morgan, Continental Doctor, by WHITFIELD J. BELL, Jr., University of Pennsylvania Press; London, Oxford University Press, 1965, pp. 301, 52s.

Benjamin Rush, in his eulogy to his dead teacher said that the name of John Morgan should be linked for ever with that period in America when medicine was first studied and taught as a science. This book is a study of the man and the period.

Morgan's father emigrated from Wales to Pennsylvania about 1717. He prospered as a shopkeeper and John Morgan was born in 1735 in Philadelphia, the city in which he was to found America's first medical school in 1764. In 1750, Morgan was apprenticed to Dr. John Redman, 'sound in theory and cautious in practice', and in 1755 he became apothecary to the recently opened Philadelphia Hospital.

After a brief military interlude, which served as the background to his later controversial Director-Generalcy, Morgan furthered his medical and cultural education in Europe, where he came under the influence of William Cullen, William Hunter, John Fothergill, and others, and met many famous men, from the Pope to Voltaire. The project to found a medical school in America was undoubtedly born during these days in England, fostered and encouraged by John Fothergill, and discussed among the lively group of American students in Edinburgh, who included William Shippen, Morgan's senior by two years.

Morgan returned from his tour in 1764, a Fellow of the Royal Society, M.D. and F.R.C.P. Edinburgh, and L.R.C.P. London. In Philadelphia, Shippen had already