

THURSDAY, JULY 3, 1919

## SIR WILLIAM TURNER.

*Sir William Turner, K.C.B., F.R.S., Professor of Anatomy and Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh. A Chapter in Medical History.* By Dr. A. Logan Turner. Pp. xv+514. (Edinburgh and London: William Blackwood and Sons, 1919.) Price 18s. net.

OF all the distinguished men who have passed away during the years of the war, few or none have shown more devotion to, and done greater service for, the institution and the profession to which they belonged than the late Sir William Turner.

The life-history of a man who, without money or influence to facilitate his progress, became demonstrator, professor, principal, and vice-chancellor in a great university, and president of the General Medical Council, is naturally an attractive subject for a biographer, and, provided that the writer of the history has had an intimate acquaintance with his subject and has a thorough appreciation of the circumstances of the period in which the events dealt with took place, the biography is likely to be both interesting and instructive.

Fortunately the conditions have been adequately fulfilled, and Dr. Logan Turner's history of his father's life and of the circumstances of the time in which it was lived shows that he has inherited two at least of his father's characteristics—full grasp of the subject to be dealt with, and the faculty of clear exposition which renders prominent and comprehensive all its chief features.

Sir William Turner was a many-sided man; he was interested in teaching, government, administration, and research; he dealt, therefore, with many problems, and left them all in a clearer position than that in which he found them; but, since his researches commenced in his early days as a teacher and ended only with his life, and as his work as a developer, organiser, and governor extended over the greater part of the time that he was connected with the University of Edinburgh, his many activities in the various spheres overlapped one another to a very large extent. This has been recognised by his biographer, who has dealt with the events of the history, not in strict chronological order, but, to quote his own words, "rather in the form of a series of sections, each more or less complete in itself."

The book commences with an account of the boy, William Turner, following him from Lancaster to London, and from London to Edinburgh; then it touches upon his early difficulties, anxieties, and successes as a demonstrator under Goodsir; afterwards comes the period of work as professor of anatomy, and in that section the author discusses the reasons for the rise and fall of the number of the students in the anatomy class in three decennial periods. The succeeding section deals with Sir William's scientific work, which

covered very wide and varied ground, though the greater part of it was in connection with marine mammals and anthropology.

The remaining half of the book is devoted to Sir William's work in the *Senatus Academicus*; his association with the Medical Act of 1886 and the Universities (Scotland) Act of 1889; the progress and extension of the Medical School of Edinburgh during his periods of office as professor and principal; and it concludes with a summary of his character in relation to his administrative work.

Such a bald outline of the plan on which the biography is written gives no idea of the entrancing history of the times during which the work was done, which the author has made the setting for the life-history of his subject, and into which he has introduced a series of letters which passed between Sir William and the numerous distinguished men with whom he was associated in connection with all the various branches and phases of his work. The letters carry the reader back to 1854, when John Goodsir first wrote to Mr. William Turner, and thence onwards to 1908, and they include several from Charles Darwin which are now published for the first time.

It is possible that the reader will not agree with all the author's opinions and conclusions, but he will be bound to admit that they are fair and tenable, and he will find the book interesting, illuminating, and eminently readable from the beginning to the end.

## APPLIED PHYSIOLOGY.

*The Physiology of Industrial Organisation and the Re-employment of the Disabled.* By Prof. Jules Amar. Translated by Bernard Miall. Edited, with Notes and an Introduction, by Prof. A. F. Stanley Kent. Pp. xxv+371. (London: The Library Press, Ltd. 1918.) Price 30s. net.

PROF. AMAR displayed, in the research which formed the subject of his doctoral thesis of 1909, much ingenuity in applying the somewhat difficult technique of indirect calorimetry to the study of human energetics under unfavourable conditions. Later, in various researches which are described in his treatise "*Le Moteur humain*," the same resourcefulness was manifested; in particular, his measurements of the respiratory metabolism of metal workers deservedly attracted attention to a line of inquiry which was, and is, of considerable practical importance. Since then the French Government has utilised Prof. Amar's talents in a wider field, and the present volume contains a general account of his recent work.

No reader of this book can fail to be impressed by the mental acuteness, mechanical ingenuity, and enthusiasm displayed by its author, particularly, perhaps, in the concluding section, which treats of the re-education of war cripples, expounds the principles of prosthesis, and describes, with numerous diagrams and photographs, a large number of valuable devices.

Had Prof. Amar restricted the scope of his