

with an intense feeling of sympathy for the wounded soldier gashed by gunshot wounds or arrow-heads. His modesty is summed up in his motto, "Je le pansay et Dieu le guarit."

After the exhaustive work of Malgaigne and the charming work of Stephen Paget it is difficult to give a new view of Paré which is equal to theirs. Mrs. Singer set herself a difficult task, and in our judgment she has not been altogether successful. Her book consists of an introduction of 46 pages, in which the main facts of Paré's life and work are set out, while the rest of the book is a reprint of the English translation which Thomas Johnson made in 1634 from the Latin translation of Paré's "Œuvres" in 1582, by Paré's pupil Jacques Guillemeau. A comparison of the original French with Johnson's translation shows that Paré lost somewhat in his English garb, and it would probably have been better to replace the archaic Johnsonian phraseology by a modern English translation of the sections quoted.

A work like that which Mrs. Singer has attempted really requires co-operative editing in the present state of knowledge. A typical example may suffice. With reference to a case, described and cured by Paré, of a certain Guordon, Seigneur d'Achindon, Mrs. Singer gives a footnote (p. 68) which is almost certainly incorrect. She has been unable, she says, to trace Achindon, but there is no difficulty about this, as Auchindoun was the stronghold of the Huntly family, and still exists as a well-known ruin near Dufftown, N.B. The Guordon of Paré was almost certainly not the person suggested in Mrs. Singer's footnote, but Sir Adam Gordon of Auchindoun—the "Edom of Gordon" of Scottish ballad fame. This gay Gordon, after various adventures at Corriche and elsewhere, burned the lady of Towie in her castle in 1574 and fled to France, where he was pursued by one of her kinsmen, Arthur Forbes. A most circumstantial account of Forbes's attempt to assassinate Auchindoun will be found in Robert Gordon's "History of the Earldom of Sutherland," 1830, p. 170, and this agrees exactly with the account of the Seigneur d'Achindon of Ambroise Paré. The matter we have referred to is perhaps trivial, but in works on medical history it is well to be accurate.

Our Bookshelf.

The Moon-Element: an Introduction to the Wonders of Selenium. By Dr. E. E. Fournier d'Albe. Pp. 166+8 plates. (London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd., 1924.) 10s. 6d. net.

DR. FOURNIER D'ALBE's book is chiefly a history of the optophone, the instrument for enabling the blind to read ordinary print. This history claims about one-

third of the volume and deals in chronological order with the development of the device from its invention by Dr. Fournier in 1913 to its present form in which Messrs. Barr and Stroud, and, in particular, Dr. Archibald Barr of that firm, have collaborated. The long eighth chapter is a record of the pertinacity of the author for many years in the face of discouragement and opposition, and is almost a biography. Indeed, a not unsuitable title for the chapter, if not for the whole book, might be "The Triumph of the Optophone." It is natural enough that an author should write at length on the fruit of his own efforts. Here, in so small a volume, the effect has been to curtail too much what could have been written about other important applications of selenium. The optophone is the only instrument described in anything like detail. Most of the other selenium devices are referred to only briefly, and a few get no mention at all.

Dr. Fournier is not afraid to speculate; he does so whole-heartedly in more than one place. In the first chapter entitled "Electricity and Light," he gives himself especially free rein when he pictures "the two kinds of electricity as consisting of living beings of sub-atomic dimensions, divided, like the higher animalcules, into two sexes, and living their life on a scale of time and space removed a millionfold from the latter." The inclusion of this first chapter, much of which bears little relation to the scientific treatment of the subject in hand, definitely marks the book as popular rather than technical. Perhaps, indeed, this has been the purpose of the author, although it is not so defined in the preface. His enthusiasm for his subject sometimes displaces the impartiality proper to scientific description, and he would probably be prepared now to admit that his hypothetical and comprehensive condemnation of all selenium cells, save those of his own construction, as expressed in line 24, page 70, is scarcely worthy of an investigator of his own attainments.

In spite of its scientific defects the book is most eminently readable. Dr. Fournier's wide experience as an author in varied fields is a guarantee of that. He has a way with him in writing that grips the reader; the reviewer himself read the book from cover to cover in a single sitting. Dr. Fournier writes with the authority of a recognised expert, and if, as the title rather suggests, he has aimed at arousing the spirit of wondering interest among the general public, he will without doubt succeed.

A. O. R.

Pulpwood and Wood Pulp in North America. By R. S. Kellogg. Pp. xii+273. (London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., 1923.) 20s.

THE manufacture of paper from wood pulp began on a commercial scale in 1854, as before that date the raw material ordinarily used was cotton and linen rags, esparto grass, straw, and hemp. The first process of making paper from timber was a purely mechanical one, by which the fibres of the wood, after being torn apart by grindstones under a stream of water, were transformed into so-called "mechanical" pulp, which is still the source of the cheaper kinds of paper. Tilghman in 1867 discovered the disintegrating action of sulphurous acid upon wood; and this formed the basis of the invention of the sulphite process, which was started commercially in Sweden