

provoking than this. Major Urwick emphasises industry's responsibility for collaboration in completing the training of its recruits; he directs attention to the dangers of departmentalism and suggests that the naval and military practice of requiring those aspiring to high command to devote one or two years to advanced theoretical work at a staff college at an intermediate stage of their career might be studied in industry. Courses of instruction in industrial administration may well find their natural place in industry at some such stage as this. Major Urwick's most readable book abounds in constructive suggestions for the utilisation and development of that capacity for leadership in the best sense which is too rare and valuable to be neglected wherever found.

R. BRIGHTMAN.

### A Digest of Clinical Medical History

*A Short History of some Common Diseases.* By divers Authors. Edited by W. R. Bett. (Oxford Medical Publications.) Pp. vii + 211. (London: Oxford University Press, 1934.) 10s. 6d. net.

SOMEONE has said that to know the history of a subject is already to know more than the half of that subject, or words to that effect. Mr. W. R. Bett, formerly honorary secretary of the Section of the History of Medicine, Royal Society of Medicine, has saved all future inquirers into the development of knowledge regarding common diseases a great deal of labour by editing the volume just published. Each chapter is written by a different author, someone specially qualified to write on the subject assigned to him, as the following list of contents will show:—Acute infectious diseases by Sir John Broadbent, Bt.; tuberculosis by Prof. John Fraser; venereal diseases by Sir D'Arcy Power; pneumonia by E. M. Brockbank; rheumatism by F. J. Poynton; rickets by Leonard Findlay; endocrine disorders by Sir H. Rolleston, Bt.; Bright's disease by Prof. J. A. Nixon; heart disease by Robert O. Moon; epilepsy by James Collier; arthritis by John D. Comrie; gall-stones by Prof. D. P. D. Wilkie; tonsils and adenoids by Lionel Colledge; malignant disease by Harold Burrows; and malingering by Sir John Collie.

Mr. Bett assigned to himself the subject of appendicitis, though, in truth, he might have taken any of the other topics under his wing, of whose quills for literary purposes he has an inexhaustible supply.

It is an immense convenience to be able to have condensed within the compass of a few pages, in each case respectively, a complete synopsis of the references to a disease or a function from the earliest mention to the present day.

The essays on rickets, epilepsy, gall-stones and malignant disease may be singled out for special praise. Much of the ground traversed in these articles is far from the beaten tracks of medical history, and they must assuredly have given their authors no little trouble to compose.

Sir Humphry Rolleston's chapter is characterised by a meticulous regard for the earliest occasion on which a particular term was used, and it is conspicuously well provided with dates and with the Greek roots of physiological and medical terms. Amongst many other things, we learn from this valuable summary of knowledge that Pierre Marie, who first described acromegaly, is now eighty-one years old, and that the status lymphaticus is no longer considered to be a pathological entity.

Some of the chapters bring home to us vividly the unsatisfactory nature of our knowledge concerning the real source or cause of certain common clinical conditions, for example, rheumatism. The absence from this discussion of the rheumatic diseases of the name of R. Llewellyn J. Llewellyn is difficult to understand. Llewellyn, the writer of widely-known works on rheumatism, arthritis, gout and fibrositis is an authority of international reputation who has lately introduced the vitamin-cum-sunlight deficiency theory of rheumatic conditions. Dr. Poynton does not once quote from him nor does Dr. Comrie in his chapter on "Arthritis". What is still more inexplicable is that Llewellyn's name is omitted from the index, otherwise a very full one. As is right, Llewellyn is quoted on "Malingering".

Further, when lactic acid as a possible factor in the etiology of rheumatism is being referred to (p. 66), no mention is made of the late Dr. Percy Wilde of Bath, who devised a valuable 'pyretic couch' for the cutaneous elimination of the (hypothetical) lactic acid.

On page 148, and again in the index, the name of Vallisnieri is misprinted.

The statement on p. 192 that Galen in 1538 narrated the instance of an orator who simulated an attack of colic to avoid making a speech is interesting in more ways than one. Either the date should be A.D. 153 or Galen is, in a certain sense, still with us.

D. F. F.-H.