little but confuse. But the author is right in his method, for these names do adequately represent the birth of experimental medicine, physical diagnosis, cellular pathology, and bacteriology, respectively; our knowledge of heart disease cannot be treated satisfactorily in isolation, but must be regarded against the background of large events; and these were outstanding developments that profoundly changed all branches of medical knowledge.

It is with a sense of relief that we find the early and middle ages, with their mysticism, humoral hypotheses, fantastic 'coctions', and jugglery with spirits—natural, vital and animal—passed over rapidly; for the more closely we study this period the more certainly shall we despair of the emergence of clear and useful thought. From the stagnant morass, following Galen's dogmatism, there was no extrication for fifteen hundred years and more. For most of us, Vesalius's accurate work in anatomy (1543) forms the first real progress, and Harvey's "De Motu Cordis" (1628) is the beginning of the age of reason in physiology. Harvey, physician to Charles I, not only convinces us of the circulation of the blood, his imperishable book begins the substitution of proof for speculation in medicine.

From the time of Harvey's fundamental work, his demonstration and above all the method of his demonstration, progress nevertheless drags slowly over the greater part of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, marked by a few outstanding names of significance to the subject: Lancisi, Senac, Morgagni, Hunter.

But it is not until we approach the year 1800, and pass on into the nineteenth century, that progress becomes sure and swift. That acceleration of progress resulted from the accurate and detailed description of disease and its manifestations, correlating symptoms and signs with anatomical lesions found after death. It is the period of the active study of disease in man, which is the fundamental work of medical science. It is associated with the names of a galaxy of British and French physicians: Heberden, Withering, Jenner, Parry, Hope, Graves, Stokes, Corrigan, and Corvisart, Bouilland, Trousseau, Potain. Soon this company was joined and followed by outstanding names from Germany and North America, as the surge of work spread to these countries: Kreysig, Nothnagel, Traube, Kussmaul, Flint and Da Costa. With accounts of such men we are led by the author to modern times.

While the thread of major discovery is woven through this book, its main chapters deal with men and cannot fail to arrest and hold close attention. For they are comprised essentially of admirable biographical sketches of these and other workers; and there is in these short histories an unusual and attractive human note. As we read, the facts are not infrequently familiar; wherever that is so we become aware, very satisfyingly aware, of the accuracy of the text, and confidence in the author's narrative, assured in large measure from the start because it is Herrick, steadily grows.

Dr. Herrick has devoted a long and very active life to the observation of disease studied clinically, and to historical studies. His matured judgment allows him to maintain an unusual balance in the appraisal of men and their work. He deals generously with those who have gone before us; searching out their contributions rather than their errors, as a historian should, and avoiding the common fault of the hero worshipper who often reads a great deal

more into the old printed words than is legitimately to be found there. But so much is progress in 'cardiology' a modern affair, that he is writing often of men with whom he has had personal acquaintance—ship or friendship.

In the last chapters the author drops the biographical method to treat historically inflammation of the heart, affections of the myocardium, syphilis and coronary arterial disease; essays which cover perhaps the most important advances of modern times. This method of approach has the advantage not only of permitting the author once more to look back, linking the present with the past, but also avoids the biographical approach where it concerns men who are still living. These chapters have their own special value; they are well done and have a directly practical bearing. In the last of them, that on coronary arterial disease, the author has with characteristic modesty omitted any direct mention of his own important work.

We could wish perhaps that he had found space to include the work of some whose names he has omitted; the names Bernard, Fauvel, Peacock, Albrecht, Recklinghausen and Loewy are among those that particularly occur to us.

Dr. Herrick's style is that of the old school, literary, cultured, erudite, meticulous, attractive. It is to be questioned if anyone is more competent than he to write this book; he has produced a history of cardiac diseases of exceptional interest and a notable contribution to the history of our knowledge of disease in general.

T. LEWIS.

MODERN BIOLOGY

An Experimental Human Biology

By Cyril Bibby. Pp. viii+99. (London: William Heinemann, Ltd., 1942.) 3s. 6d.

MR. BIBBY is education officer to the Council for Health Education. His little book should be very valuable in forwarding the objects of this Council. In simple language and with many pictures, he surveys human anatomy and physiology. Reproduction is treated plainly and sensibly, with no more fuss than with respiration. There are chapters on genetics and evolution and the last chapter is entitled "What is the use of Biology?" The title "Experimental" is justified by suggestions for observational and experimental work to be found at the end of each chapter under the heading "Things to do".

The book is on the tide of to-day and to-morrow. It places before the child elementary knowledge which all citizens should have. It relates biological information to human needs. Frog, dogfish and hydra do not occur in the index, but bacteria, beriberi, compost and copulation do.

There remain a few words of adverse criticism. I prefer "Everyone knows what an earthworm feels like" to "Everyone knows how an earthworm feels" (p. 1). The simplicity of sentence construction seems foreign to the concentrated nature of the material. It is too much to hope that any text-book will be suitable for children as young as eleven and others as old as fifteen.

This book is to be recommended as a supplement to the traditional text-book, as an aid "to an over-worked and under-estimated profession" and as a good book for school technical libraries.

D. L. GUNN.