APOTHECARIES AND THEIR PAST

The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London
A History, 1617-1967. By W. S. C. Copeman. Pp. 112 + 19
plates. (Oxford, London and New York: Pergamon
Press, 1967.) 63s.

LAST year members of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London celebrated the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of their foundation as a City Livery Company. In 1617, James I granted them a Royal Charter and Dr Copeman's book commemorates this foundation and gives a very brief, but attractively illustrated, account of the society's history. The development of the society from activities such as the growing and compounding of drugs to a body which after 1815 was made responsible for the training of the general practitioner is engagingly retold. There are also potted biographies of a few of the more famous apothecaries, such as the founder of the society, Gideon de Laune, the poet John Keats, John Hughlings Jackson, Sir Charles Dodds, Sir Arthur Porritt and others.

The present Apothecaries Great Hall which was built during the period 1668 to 1670 is itself of note, for it is claimed to be the only Livery Hall out of thirty-six existing in 1939 to escape unscathed the ravages of the Second World War; it is said to be "the oldest surviving hall of any City Livery Company and the oldest medical building still in use in the country" (page x). Dr Copeman has included a list of the paintings it possesses as well as a roll of past masters of the society. The superb photographs demonstrate the hall's beauty and elegance, as well as showing some of its possessions.

This book will serve as a useful résumé of the authoritative and scholarly history of the society compiled by C. Wall, H. C. Cameron and E. A. Underwood, the first volume of which appeared in 1963. It will also help to emphasize the important part that the apothecaries have played in the creation of our medicine of today and the part they will continue to take in the prevention and cure of disease in the future.

EDWIN CLARKE

HOW TO FIND A SCIENTIST

Who's Who in Science in Europe

A New Reference Guide to West European Scientists.
Vol. 1: Pp. 1-560. Vol. 2: Pp. 561-1144. Vol. 3: Pp.
1145-1747. (Guernsey, C.I.: Francis Hodgson, Ltd.,
1967.) 200s.; \$29 each volume.

At first glance, intending users of this new reference book may be misled into thinking that it covers scientists in all European countries. A second look will confirm that it does in fact cover only West European scientists to the exclusion of all those in the "eastern bloc". Nevertheless, it is the first guide to West European scientists to be published, and as such should serve a useful purpose in libraries, particularly now that there are several joint scientific organizations in Europe and more and not less co-operation is likely in the future.

It is stated in the introduction that there are more than 30,000 entries covering all the "more important European scientists and technologists and those who have interests in the field of research or who are interested in encouraging or promoting science and technology". It is not clear what criteria were used in the selection of entries. Help was apparently sought from various international and national organizations, government departments, universities and science-based industrial firms. Questionnaires were also used. This claims to be a "Who's Who", rather than a "Directory", and so one can hardly expect the comprehensiveness of the national directories of scientists, for example the *Directory of British Scientists (DOBS)* and its equivalent in other countries. *DOBS*, for example, includes school teachers and research students

—categories obviously excluded from the book under review. The scope of *Who's Who in Science in Europe* appears, however, to be wider than *DOBS* in some respects, for it includes important doctors, technologists and industrialists—which *DOBS* appears not to do, perhaps because these persons are covered sufficiently well in other British directories.

The British representatives in the book appear to be of the level of those in *Who's Who* [in Britain]—professors, Fellows of the Royal Society, and so on. Readers in university departments do not appear to be included, but heads of industrial and government research departments, chairmen and council members of the important scientific societies are. The comprehensiveness of a book like this, however, can only really be discovered through use. It is also not easy to judge the representation of scientists in countries other than Britain, although superficial examination shows no very marked British bias. There must have been difficulties in the selection of entries just on the grounds that titles and status of, for example, professors vary from one country to another.

Biographical details given vary in length from name and address only, to details of degrees, subject interest, higher education, recent appointments, society membership, and scientific interests. Publications have not been included, but it is useful to have the person's year of birth in some (but not all) of the entries. The entries are easy to read—a minor fault is the lack of bold type to distinguish each name. An unfortunate omission is that there is no explanation of abbreviations used. Not many are used apart from degrees, but a scientist overseas might want to know what FRCS, ACORD and MRS mean.

SARAH BUNNEY

OBITUARIES

Dr Shuhei Fujitaka

DR SHUHEI FUJITAKA, who died in Tokyo on November 26, 1967, at the age of sixty, was a brilliant high voltage engineer and educationalist.

Fujitaka was born in 1907 at Nara, Japan. In 1931, a year after graduating in electrical engineering from Tokyo Imperial University, he became assistant professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology at Ookayama. In 1943 he became a full professor of Tokyo Imperial University and was attached to the second engineering department.

Early in his career Fujitaka was involved in high voltage engineering, and worked on transmission problems. After the end of the Second World War the power shortage in Japan was at its worst—the domestic electricity supply dropped to seventy-five volts—and the national policy was to reconstruct the power industry. Fujitaka was involved in the development of the 215 kV Shinhokuriku line, from Shinaimoto to Hirakata, which was one of the most important power sources in the town of Kurobe.

Fujitaka also participated in national electrification schemes, notably the Jyoetsu line, from Ueno to Niigata. He was the first to employ a one step transformer connexion from 66 kV to 1.5 kV, a system which is economical in railway electrification and is now employed by the Japanese National Railways at their substations. Fujitaka had recently been working on the new 500 kV line which crosses Japan from east to west.

Fujitaka had taught high voltage engineering since joining the Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1931. He also held positions as vice-chairman of the Institution of Electrical Engineers of Japan, as a member of both the regular committee of the International Conference on Large Electric High Tension Systems and the Japanese National Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission.

SUEO YAMAKURA