

## Review of Book

must be distinguished from occipital pain due to sphenoiditis and myalgic headaches.

Of forty cases of headache of nasal origin without sinusitis seen in the author's clinic, ten were due to mucous cysts of the ethmoid ; the remaining thirty were true cases of nasal neuroses.

He goes on to discuss allergic rhinitis, laying stress on the rôle played by disturbances of the ductless glands.

There follows a very complete précis of the literature dealing with reflex disturbances of possible nasal origin causing symptoms in the eye, ear, larynx and alimentary tract.

Finally, he reports the results of personal animal experiments, showing that the cervical sympathetic plays a part in maintaining the tone of the laryngeal muscles.

C. GILL-CAREY.

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*Story of a Great Hospital.* By A. LOGAN TURNER, M.D., LL.D., published by Oliver & Boyd, price 10s.

There is an introductory chapter, "The beginnings of Medicine" which forms "a fitting prelude to the story of the Royal Infirmary and of the Edinburgh School of Medicine". Chapter II is headed "The Rise of the Voluntary Hospital Movement in Britain". It is stated that Thomas Linacre, a classical student at Oxford, who later on studied medicine in Padua, returned to Oxford and was instrumental in obtaining the charter of foundation of the Royal College of Physicians of London.

The Medical School at Leiden is discussed in Chapter III and attention is drawn to the influence of anatomical teaching on Rembrandt's two celebrated pictures. One of the founders of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh in 1681 was Sir Archibald Stevenson, who graduated at Leiden in 1659. He was one of many from Scotland and England who studied at Leiden.

From Chapter IV onwards the book is devoted to the Edinburgh Medical School and its ever growing Infirmary. Alexander Munro was appointed "Professor of Anatomy in the City and College" at the age of twenty-two. He began his lectures in 1720 with a class of fifty-seven students. In 1729 the embryo Infirmary of six beds was opened ; it was eventually to become a great institution capable of accommodating 1,025 patients. The entire domestic staff of this early institution consisted of the matron and a servant. Thirty-five patients were treated during the first year at the total cost of £97 19s. 7d. and "two-thirds parts of a penny sterling". A building to accommodate 228 patients was completed in 1748. As a Royal

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Charter had been obtained in 1736 it was called the Royal Infirmary. It is stated that the operating theatre was built to accommodate 200 students, "the same serving as a chapel". What would the modern surgeon with his views of asepsis say to this?

In the early part of the nineteenth century the course of training for the degree of M.D. occupied three years. There was only one examination which consisted of a thesis in Latin and a viva voce in the same tongue. In the eighteenth century "the Scottish capital became the new Medical Mecca", "Americans and West Indians, Portuguese and Italians, Frenchmen and Englishmen, Irishmen and Dutchmen, Germans and Swiss, Russians and Danes wandered together at one time; at one period the English students apparently outnumbered the Scotch. Operations were sometimes performed on Sundays. On the opposite side of the street stood Lady Yester's church. Some of the more serious-minded students attended the service. When the Infirmary bell announced the commencement of an operation the sermon was discontinued as the students hurried to the operating theatre, which proved to be a greater lure than the eloquence of the preacher. In marked contrast is the following: Charles Darwin was a student at Edinburgh. He relates that he "attended on two occasions the operating theatre in the Hospital, at Edinburgh and saw two very bad operations, one on a child, but I rushed away before they were completed. . . . This being long before the blessed days of chloroform." On the pages of the Night Superintendent's note book (1873), these remarks appear: "20th July, none of the night nurses on duty are found sleeping," and again, "the resident physicians and surgeons were rather noisy from midnight until 3 a.m."

In 1883-4 two special out-patient departments, one for diseases of the ear and throat, the other for diseases of the skin, were established. Peter McBride was put in charge of the former. No provision was made for indoor cases till 1891, when 12 beds were allocated to be shared equally between the two specialities. In 1903 the Ear and Throat Department was provided with accommodation for 28 patients in a special new building, and in 1926 two new wards were added, bringing the numbers of beds in the department to 59.

The book contains interesting descriptions of the various well known men connected with the Edinburgh Medical School. The brightest stars were of course James Young Simpson and Joseph Lister, but there are a host of lesser luminaries; to mention only a few, the four generations of the family of Monro, James Syme, Benjamin and Charles Bell, John Rutherford (uncle of Sir Walter Scott) who discovered nitrogen gas while still a young man, Robert Liston, William Sharpey, William Fergusson, Thomas and Skene, Keith and Argyll Robertson.

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This book, like all the author's contributions to literature, is authoritative and scholarly. His energy must be inexhaustible. What a multitude of hours did he spend in searching records and documents in order to gain possession of the bare facts on which his tale is founded. These facts are strung together so skilfully that the reader passes from page to page with interest never flagging. It is doubtful if anyone else could have written such a delightful book about the origin and growth of a great Hospital. The laborious task must have been lightened by the author's great love for the Institution where he received his training and of whose staff he later on became such a distinguished member. To Logan Turner as fellow specialists we are deeply indebted. We are glad to think that this book will bring his name, which has been always regarded as one of the most prominent among contemporary laryngologists, before a larger reading public to whom an opportunity is given of enjoying his activities in a new field of endeavour.

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