BOOK REVIEWS

A Decade of Progress. The United States Army Medical Department 1959-1969. Rose C. Engelman. Office of the Surgeon General. Department of the Army. 1971. Pp. xv + 214. $2.25. Illustrated. Although the Foreword of this slim volume declares that it was not written to emphasise the achievements of any one individual the reader may more readily accept the explanation given in the Preface. This study was prepared by the Historical Unit to honour Lieutenant-General Leonard Dudley Heaton the Surgeon General United States Army 1859-1969. A manuscript copy was presented to him on retirement; publication was a later consideration. The volume is therefore an unindexed catalogue of achievement, a magnificent testimonial to one of America's greatest sons, but a work not likely to satisfy the student of military medicine. Many projects, programs and plans are mentioned only by name and the significance of much of the statistical information is lost to the uninitiated since the figures are quoted in isolation. Such was the scale and scope of General Heaton's undertakings that little or no detail can be given in a book of this size. In due course the Historical Unit will doubtless produce monographs on the more important topics. These and perhaps more particularly a biography of General Heaton or a collection of his Memoirs would be more acceptable on any bookshelf.

R. F. Blackburn

Medical Support of the United States Army in Vietnam 1965-1970. Major-General Spurgeon Neil. Washington, D.C. Department of the Army. 1973. Pp. xv + 186. $3.35. Illustrated. This collection of monographs by Major-General Neil is presented as an interim record of the achievements of the medical department support of the United States Army in Vietnam. This volume contains a wealth of information based on official records which is authoritative and detailed. Future medical commanders and planners will find much of value in its chapters each worthy of study on its own. The emphasis on perspective rather than detail gives insight into the medical problems and lessons learnt in Vietnam which must be considered in future medical planning. Each chapter examines a major sub division of the medical service in depth. The chapters on Hospitalisation and Evacuation, Aviation Medicine and Care of the Wounded merit special attention. There are many areas that can be recognised as capable of direct interpretation as problems which must be faced by the United Kingdom Army Medical Services. This book is recommended to all military medical officers both regular and T.A.V.R. Its pages contain a wealth of information, guidance to the future and much to stimulate thought and discussion.

W. R. Short

The British Army in North America 1775-1783. R. May and G. A. Embleton. Reading. Osprey Publishing Ltd. 1974. P. 40. £1.95. Illustrated. We greatly enjoyed "Wolfe's Army" by the same team so that when their latest achievement arrived we picked it up in eager anticipation. Nor were we disappointed for all the ingredients of success (as noted in our previous review of "Wolfe's Army") were here—excellent text, superb plates, good production, and low price. This is all the more creditable—especially to the author Robin May—because the theme (the Organisation of the British Army with special reference to the redcoat) is a very much more difficult one to handle than the success story of Wolfe in Canada. Yet such is Mr. May's narrative skill and historical sense that this difficult theme is treated superbly and one's interest and sympathy are captured and one reads his account to the very end with no desire to skip the dull bits because there aren't any. He again shows his gift for the apt phrase—he concludes his account with an epitaph on the Redcoat written by an American at Concord which reads:—

"They came three thousand miles and died,  
To keep the past upon the throne;  
Unheard, beyond the ocean tide,  
Their English mother made her moan."

Could any ending be more fitting? Mr. Embleton likewise maintains his skill and his pictures of soldiers are superb. He is quite without equal in this field. This is a splendid book which we can recommend as wholeheartedly as we did Wolfe's Army. While we in no sense imply that the "Men-At-Arms Series" are light puffs we do feel that the outstanding skills of Mr. May and Mr. Embleton are worthy of more ambitious work and can but hope that some publisher will endorse our views and give them the opportunity which they so richly deserve.

A. MacLennan

Immunology for Undergraduates. 3rd ed. D. M. Weir. Edinburgh & London. Churchill Livingstone. 1973. Pp. ix + 181. 90p. Illustrated. The appearance of a third edition since 1970 is an indication of the popularity of this excellent small book—one of the best introductions to fundamental immunology currently available. This latest edition has been up-dated (as much as the continuing explosion of knowledge in this field allows), new figures have been introduced, existing drawings improved and certain material has been revised, particularly the chapter which deals with immune mechanisms and their relationship to infection, especially the virus diseases. The book covers essential theoretical immunology and is primarily intended for undergraduates, although established practitioners who need to acquaint themselves with an elementary
knowledge of "lymphocytology" and related immunological principles will also find this is a digestible introduction to a difficult subject. It is produced in handy paper-back form and is reasonably priced at 90p.

J. B. Stewart


Dr. Charles Seward's book on Bedside Diagnosis has reached a tenth edition in twenty-five years. It provides for the student, a bridge between the symptoms and signs, which have been obtained from the patient and the standard descriptions of the diseases, which may be afflicting the individual under clinical scrutiny.

The emphasis on clear thinking regarding the main problem which is being presented and the priority in investigation enable the student to lean on the experience which Dr. Seward has accumulated over the years.

The tenth edition has been considerably re-written and includes a new chapter on the causes of coma.

J. D. Cormack


This is a jumbo report of a jumbo pilot study; at that a report of the initial assessments of the second of four parts of a World Health Organisation long-term programme in psychiatric epidemiology and social psychiatry. The introductory chapters contain a useful discussion of the history of the problems of diagnosis and aetiology of the difficulties of international co-operation in the field, leading one to the rather depressing conclusion that there had been precious little progress in the understanding, as opposed to the empirical treatment of schizophrenia since Kraepelin and E. Bleuler. This is followed by the mass of epidemiological research material which is no gentle evening reading though it is probably an essential duty for anyone interested in psychiatric research in general or in schizophrenia in particular.

T. B. Stephens


This volume consists of articles published in the British Medical Journal. Each article has been written by individual authors and there is some variation in the approach and emphasis. This editorial attitude has allowed authors to write with enthusiasm from their individual points of view, but impressed as having produced an imbalance picture.

The range of articles is wide, with reference to problems affecting most systems of the body and to special aspects of drug therapy in the elderly as well as problems of interpretation of laboratory findings in the older patient.

The result is felt to barely justify the separate publication of the book. The journal articles served to interest and introduce some aspects of Geriatrics. It is doubtful whether the book carries the position further and it does not provide an authoritative standard for reference.

J. D. Cormack


This is an extremely good little paper-back which remains true to its title and which deals with the subject of head injury with great competence and commendable brevity. It is logically set out and easy to read in the course of a few hours.

The author has the great gift of writing clearly and without ambiguity and one scarcely notices that there are few illustrations. The system of sub-headings in the margins is of great assistance to those who wish to read selectively or quickly checking their knowledge.

All through the book one feels one is given sound guidance and advice on the practical management of real patients by a man with great experience and authority. To all those who may have to deal with head injury in earnest this book is highly recommended.

W. C. Moffat