

THEOPHRASTUS VON HOHENHEIM GEN. PARACELSUS. *Sämtliche Werke*, Karl Sudhoff, Ed. *Registerband*. Martin Müller, Comp. and Robert Blaser, Ed. Einsiedeln, 1960. 281 pp. S.Fr. 60.

Reviewed by ERWIN H. ACKERKNECHT, *Director, Medizinhistorisches Institut, University of Zürich.*

PARACELSUS is eagerly studied these days by those who hope to find in mysticism protection against the onslaught of eastern "materialist" irrationalism as well as those who want to understand one of the most influential and controversial figures in medical history. The main tool for such studies is the 14-volume edition of Paracelsus' medical works by Karl Sudhoff, which appeared between 1929 and 1933. Probably all those who have had to work with this edition have sighed for an Index. They will be eternally grateful to the late Prof. Martin Mueller of Munich for compiling one during the nineteen forties and nineteen fifties with the help of his thesis candidates, to the Swiss Paracelsus Society for having sponsored its publication, and to Prof. Robert Blaser for having edited it. The index is immensely useful as it is. It is, on the other hand, uneven in its coverage and not comprehensive on many points, as evidenced by its relatively modest size. Those who look up a certain notion in the Index can hope to be guided towards several (often contradictory) Paracelsian views on the subject; yet most of the time they cannot be certain of having seen all of them. This is easily understood in view of the way this Index was compiled.

GEORGE ERNST STAHL. *Four Short Treatises*. B. H. Gottlieb, Tr. and Ed. Leipzig, Joh. Ambr. Barth, 1961. 88 pp., 6 illus. (Sudhoffs Klassiker der Medizin, vol. 36). D.M. 6.30.

Reviewed by ERWIN H. ACKERKNECHT, *Director, Medizinhistorisches Institut, University of Zürich.*

THERE are medical classics which one studies because of the great influence they once exerted. There are others one consults because in form and content they still make superb reading. The Halle clinician, G. E. Stahl (1659-1734), inventor of phlogiston and animism, belongs in the former category. In the first of the four short treatises, which Dr. Gottlieb has translated from the Latin into German, Stahl redemonstrates that passions influence the body. In the second he discusses how the actions of the physician should support the healing tendencies of nature. In the third he claims that organism is not mechanism, and in the fourth he discusses the deontological problem of how often the physician should visit the patient. The texts show that Stahl was not very original, and that he often replaced argument by invective. He was so important because he revived vitalism in the midst of a tremendous mechanist wave.

The translating and editing of Dr. Gottlieb is competent. Dr. Gottlieb is remembered still as the co-author of one of the most notorious Nazi publications in medical history (SS Hauptsturmführer B. H. Gottlieb and SS Obersturmführer Alexander Berg: *Das Antlitz des Germanischen Arztes in vier Jahrhunderten*. Berlin 1942). That he makes his 'comeback' in a series published in the Russian Zone is not without piquancy.

PAUL F. CLARK. *Pioneer Microbiologists of America*. Madison, Wisconsin The University of Wisconsin Press, 1961, xiv, 369 pp., 38 illus. \$6.00.

Reviewed by HERALD R. COX, Director, Viral and Rickettsial Research, Lederle Laboratories, Division of American Cyanamid Company, Pearl River, New York.

ACCORDING to the author's definition, "early" in this book corresponds roughly to the Victorian era, ending with World War I—"when the philosophies and optimistic dreams of that era, many of them, manifestly unfounded, were shattered by Mars and Moloch." The author states that he hopes to "catch something of the spirit and the achievements of the period, the exuberance, the atmosphere of inquiry, the conflict, the suspense, the difficulties, the frontier movement into the 'brave new world' with its immense importance in medicine, in public health, in agriculture, in the dairy and other industries, in the broad field of biology itself, and in the intimate life of each family." The story is carried beyond World War I only in a few instances to complete the histories of certain outstanding individuals and events which had their beginning before or during World War I.

Of the eighteen chapters, the first may be described as an extended preface and philosophical introduction to the beginnings of microbiology, and narrates the early concepts of the origins of life and disease, the rise of the idea of *contagium animatum*, the overthrow of the doctrine of spontaneous generation, the work of van Leeuwenhoek, de Graaf, Swammerdam, Hooke, and Grew in opening the "doors into the new world of microbiology." Chapter 2 briefly outlines the origin of the United States Marine Hospital Service and its growth into the presently existing Department of Health, Education and Welfare; it also deals briefly with the first specific preventive medicine practised in America, namely, the introduction of vaccination against smallpox by Cotton Mather and Zabdiel Boylston of Massachusetts. Chapter 3 outlines critical epidemiological studies carried out before the birth of bacteriology by such workers as Bretonneau on diphtheria, Panum on measles, Snow on Asiatic cholera, Budd on typhoid fever, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Semmelweis on puerperal fever as well as the work of several less known but keenly observing early American physicians such as Austin Flint, L. A. Stimson, Ely Van de Warke, and C. S. Caverly. Chapter 4 gives a good review of some of the great epidemics that occurred before the days of bacteriology—yellow fever, Asiatic cholera,