BOOKS AND REPORTS


The tyro at reviewing who has the temerity to rush in upon Teaching Health in Fargo finds two pitfalls—the charm of the writing and the convincing way in which the subject is presented. Let it be repeated, Miss Brown writes. She does not grind out words, and in this respect her book is quite unique in health literature. Colorful expression, delicately humorous critical comments, and amusing illustrations in both words and pictures, all go to make the book a delight to the reader.

Then the presentation seems so rational, so obviously practical that the reviewer is tempted to sling superlatives like a school girl; so we become hypercritical and arm ourselves against the charm and persuasiveness of this little book as we subject it to caustic scrutiny. Is the conception new and worth reporting? Are the proposals sound pedagogy? Are the methods really practical under work-a-day conditions?

Certainly health educational schemes are as numerous as they are various. Projects, devices, concepts have all been tried piecemeal here, there, and everywhere. The outstanding contribution of the Fargo demonstration appears to be the wholesome teacher participation in planning as well as carrying out the scheme, for here was no predigested health educational pap jammed down the throats of mildly protesting teachers by some outside agency. This alone would make the demonstration worth reporting.

That its methods are sound pedagogically, those who have thought about health teaching will be fairly sure, for there will be found few artificial rewards to stimulate cupiditity rather than health habits, and whenever tactful health educators work with normally interested, coöperative, and intelligent teachers, the methods should produce results in a measure comparable to those secured in Fargo. So we admit that caustic scrutiny fails to jar the enthusiasm of first reading. Sanitarians having to do with health teaching will enjoy and profit by this book, and they will want to get it quickly into the hands of those responsible for the health of school children if it is not already there.

RAYMOND S. PATTERSON


In 1927, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, celebrated the 250th anniversary of Stephen Hales, and the author was selected to give the commemoration address. So much material was found that it was impossible to include it in an ordinary address, and the present work was written to complete the story of this remarkable man.

Although a clergyman, the name of Hales will always be connected with early experimental physiology and botany. He studied the ventilation of jails and ships, and devised apparatus for its improvement. His well known experiments on animals were a study of the blood pressure, and he was the first to introduce a cannula into the vessels and observe the height to which the blood would rise in a vertical glass tube. He studied the air, did re-breathing experiments, and concluded that it was through the peculiar properties of air
“that the main and principal operations of nature are carried out.”

His life has particular interest for Americans because of his connection with the development of what is now the state of Georgia, which “was founded in an attempt to remedy the social conditions of England. . . . Georgia was both a philanthropic and an imperialistic enterprise.”

One is somewhat astounded at the variety of his interests and the excellence of his work in each. He was perpetual curate of Teddington, and served that living for more than fifty years. He was a preacher of no mean ability, a plant and animal physiologist, one of our earliest hygienists and sanitarians, but in spite of all this he went wrong on a supposed cure for stone in the bladder, consisting of calcined snails, wild carrot seeds, burdock seeds, ashen keys, hips and haws, all burned to blackness, soap and honey, invented by one Joanna Stephens, though he was severe in dealing with other quacks. In this connection, he carried out a number of experiments in attempting to dissolve stones which had been removed, and in spite of his lack of success fell into the error of backing this particular cure.

As a biography, the work is exceptionally well done. The illustrations are numerous and beautiful, and prove Hales's ingenuity in devising and making such apparatus as well as his genius in working up the scientific problems. The author closes with an adaptation of words of John Wesley: “how well did science and religion agree in this man of sound understanding.”

M. P. Ravenel


Frankness, honesty and clarity are outstanding in this work of Hertzler. He is perfectly honest in stating the deficiencies in our knowledge of the thyroid, our ignorance of the etiology of even the commoner lesions, and the causes of the clinical manifestations. In stating these deficiencies, however, he opens up fields for further and new studies.

The subject matter and the material from which it is drawn are taken up by a master of pathology who in his zeal as a clinician and surgeon does not lose sight of the pathologic background—the cause of the disease, its manifestations, its progress and result. He views the problem from the point of the practical application of his science to the benefit and relief of the patient.

In studies of the thyroid, if the classification and terminology of its diseases were presented as Hertzler has done, in a clear, simple manner, there would be less confusion and misunderstanding. Clinicians and pathologists often lack in agreement of opinion concerning a thyroid, or a particular type or group of thyroids. This often does not represent a real difference, but a lack of proper understanding of these glands, and a common nomenclature and classification. Accurate clinical observations, gross and microscopic studies of the