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OTTO RAUBENHEIMER.

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OLD-TIME MAKERS OF MEDICINE. The story of the students and teachers of the science related to medicine during the middle ages. By Dr. James J. Walsh, Professor of Nervous Diseases and of the History of Medicine at Fordham University, School of Medicine. One vol., pp. VIII, 446. Fordham University Press; New York; 1911.

The appearance of the above title in a pharmaceutical journal might suggest that the "Old-time Makers of Medicine" is a history of early pharmacists. But such is not the case. Again, it might be supposed that reference is had in the volume to the early physicians as the compounders of their own medicaments. But such, too, is not the case. The "makers of medicine" referred to are not the makers of medicaments, but the founders of the science and profession of medicine. Yet there is sufficient pharmaceutical material between the two covers to justify a brief review in a pharmaceutical journal.

To begin with, the outward appearance of the volume and the printed page are attractive. When one begins to read, the style is likewise found attractive. The author disclaims originality, giving credit to German and French medical historians as the sources of his information. The style is rather that of the popular essayist than that of the erudite student of medical history. One might well quote Hoefer's "Avant-propos" to his "La chimie enseignée par la biographie de ses fondateurs," with which Welsh's tome is comparable in other respect as well, viz: "Instruire, plaire et donner à penser, tel est le problème que nous sommes proposé de résoudre en érivant ce volume."

While it cannot be said that the author has made any special effort to please, it becomes apparent from almost every page that he desires his readers to think. The themes to which he directs their thoughts most are these: that the scientific spirit is not a psychological development of the nineteenth century, that much of what is supposed to be new in medicine is not original, but rediscovered, and that even the dark ages were not as dark as they are often thought to have been. He points to a sufficient number of isolated instances of enlightenment that go back far enough so as not to come in conflict with any stereotype notion of when the dark ages ended and the renaissance began.

From what has been said the pharmacist cannot go amiss expecting to find pharmaceutical history in this volume. Yet the "story" of the old-time makers of medicine is told in so non-technical a style that the pharmacist as well as the general reader may find much of interest between the two covers. However, here and there one gets glimpses even of pharmaceutical history. Inasmuch as Italy was the home of the modern European apothecary shop, the following paragraph from the chapter on "Mondina and the Medical School at Bologna" may here be quoted:

"Mondino came from a family that had already distinguished itself in medicine at Bologna. His uncle was a professor of physics at the university. His father, Albizzo di Luzzi, seems to have come from Florence not long after the middle of the thirteenth century, for the records show that, about 1270, he formed a partnership with one Bartolommeo Raineri for the establishment of a pharmacy at Bologna. Later this passed entirely under the control of the Mondino family, and came to be known as the Spezieria del Mondino. In it were sold, besides Eastern perfumes, spices, condiments, probably all sorts of toilet articles, and even rugs and silks and feminine ornaments. The stricter pharmacy of the earlier times developed into a sort of department store, something like our own. The Mondini, however, insisted always on the pharmacy feature as a specialty, and the fact was made patent to the general public by a sign with the picture of a doctor on it. This drug shop of the Mondini continued to be maintained as such, according to Dr. Pilcher, until the beginning of the nineteenth century."

Though not a contribution to the history of medicine in the sense of historical research, it is a valuable contribution in this respect that it will turn the attention of thousands of readers to the historical development of medicine. Even if the style of presentation were not as pleasant as it is, the author's controversial writings on the subject of the history of the medical sciences would be certain to secure for himself and his book an audience of no mean size.

EDWARD KREMERS.



REPORTS OF THE CHEMICAL LABORATORY OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. Volume 4, January-December, 1911. By W. A. Puckner, Director of the Laboratory. Press of the American Medical Association (Chicago).

This 8vo volume of 127 pages includes the reports of the work done in the Chemical Laboratory of the American Medical Association during the year 1911 and should be of special interest to drug analysts and druggists generally. The contained material is grouped under three headings: I. Reprints of contributions; II. Reports abstracted from the Journal; III. Reports not previously published, and varies in nature from a general discussion of the proprietary medicine business in the United States to reports of analyses of secret remedies on the one hand and to the establishing of standards for little used medicaments on the other.

Even a cursory review of the contents of the book evidences the fact that it represents the character of work that should be done by the pharmaceutical associations of this country and, with the preceding volumes, it may well serve as an incentive for the future development of pharmacy along professional lines.

It is to be regretted that with our present day lack of appreciation, in pharmacy, of Association work along professional lines, considerable time must elapse before we can expect to do work along the lines fostered by the "Apotheker Verein" in Germany or by the American Medical Association as reflected in the report under discussion. For the more rapid development of the professional spirit in American pharmacy it is sincerely to be hoped that this little volume will be studied by all members of the American Pharmaceutical Association who are in any way interested in the professional side of their calling.

M. I. WILBERT.