The author states "it is of primary importance to understand that some of the emotional disturbances are results of hostile society that is discriminating against the epileptic since the dawn of recorded history." He discusses the management of severe behaviour problems and has prescribed tranquilizers, including the phenothiazines, in conventional dosage to hundreds of patients with epilepsy and has not encountered evidence of these drugs adversely affecting the course of pre-existing epilepsy.

Dr. A. Earl Walker has written a succinct and informative chapter on the surgical treatment of epilepsy and stresses that the primary therapy is medical—anticonvulsant medication, psychotherapy, and social and occupational rehabilitation. This is followed by notes about services available to patients in North America.

This is a most scholarly and valuable volume, written from personal experience of some 20,000 patients. It is tempting to quote even more extensively for the book contains so much valuable commonsense advice and information. Certainly every hospital library should have a copy and aspiring neurologists and paediatricians will find it useful and informative. In Britain many deny the need for special clinics for patients with epilepsy, as advised by the Cohen and Reid committees.2 This book is a product of such a special clinic, and is the best possible argument in their favour.

**JAMES BOWE**

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### Contributions to Medical Progress


Correctly to assess a country's overall contribution to the progress of medicine the less well known in addition to the momentous advances must be taken into account. But the former are inevitably overshadowed by the more important events and so a distorted view is likely to result. Dr. Gert Brieger, associate professor of the history of medicine at Duke University, has collected together a series of papers to provide a more balanced assessment of 19th century American medicine.

An unsystematic anthology, with a small amount of connective tissue to keep the chosen extracts in sequence, would be easy enough to produce, and examples have already been published. However, Professor Brieger has selected papers, or parts of them, each of which constitutes a section: education, literature, the profession, medical practice, surgery, psychiatry, hospitals, and public health. Not only are the outstanding reports included, such as Daniel Drake on medical education, Oliver Wendell Holmes on medical literature, Benjamin Rush on death in curable disease, Ephraim McDowell on ovariotomy, Bigelow on ether, Billings on vital statistics, and so on, but sources which shed a less bright and often tangential, although none the less revealing, light. Thus in the section on medical education there is not only Drake's essay but also the *Annual Catalogue of the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons 1849-50* which gives the details of current teaching. The orthodox and unorthodox aspects of the profession are also illustrated. In surgery the main advances are included, but included are the observations of an Englishman, Professor John E. Eriksen of University College London, who visited the United States in 1874. The attempt to make the history of medicine especially apparent in 19th century America, so that this aspect of medicine is of special importance in a book like this, and Professor Brieger's expert knowledge in the area, professional as well as historical, is well deployed. Each section is introduced by a brief but informative note which includes a useful bibliography of additional information or further reading.

Dr. Brieger's volume will be used as a source book by all those interested in medicine of the 19th century, where lie the main roots of our practice today. Its extracts vividly outline situations which existed contemporaneously in other countries, and a comparative study of medical problems is invariably valuable. The momentous scientific advances have not been dealt with here but the book ends with a copy of the most interesting Announcement of the new Johns Hopkins Medical School which opened in 1893 and heralded the beginning of American scientific medicine, a phase which Dr. Brieger plans to illustrate in similar fashion in a further volume.

**EDWIN CLARKE**

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### SELECTED NEW TITLES


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MANCHESTER

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

For attending lectures marked * a fee is charged or entry at the door. Attendance at meetings should be made first to the institution concerned.

Monday, 3 July

Institute of Dermatology.—4.30 p.m., Dr. D. G. James: Sarcoïdosis.

Tuesday, 4 July

Charing Cross Hospital Medical School.—At Fullam Hospital, 11.30 a.m., Professor Donald M. MacFarlane: Pathology of the liver. Westminster Medical School.—At 5.15 p.m., clinical-pathological conference, Dr. L. W. Loughridge.

Wednesday, 5 July

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—2 p.m., Professor N. Gowing: Non-malignant Proliferations of Connective Tissue.

Guy's Hospital Medical School.—At 5 p.m., Berry Lecture by Professor William Sillar, Harvard University: Studies on the Gastric Narcotic Barrier—Its Relevance to Gastric Clinical Disease.

Thursday, 6 July

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—At 5 p.m., Membership exercise by Professor S. R. Ullal; Cardiac, Lymph and Lymphatics: Experimental Observations and Clinical Significance.

Friday, 7 July

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—11 a.m., Mr. I. W. MacPhie: From Here to Eternity (Thoughts on the Treatment of Malignant Disease).

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

GLASGOW
M.D.—G. R. Sharp.

LONDON