Book Reviews

ESSAYS IN SURGERY. Presented to Dr W. E. Gallie on the occasion of his retirement from the Chair of Surgery in the University of Toronto. With contributions by C. H. Best, A. E. Le Mesurier, H. M. Coleman, J. H. Couch, G. R. Walker, H. S. Coulthard, W. G. Carscadden, G. M. Dale, J. A. Dickson, A. W. Farmer, J. C. Boileau Grant, C. G. Smith, D. R. Mitchell, S. J. Shane, W. T. Mustard, J. E. Bateman, R. V. B. Shier, A. W. M. White, C. W. Harris, H. Wookey, F. R. Wilkinson, S. A. Thomson, R. M. Wansbrough, F. Turnbull, G. E. Richards, R. M. Janes, V. Peters, C. Ash, S. Gordon, A. Ham, F. G. Kergin, J. W. Ross, K. G. McKenzie, W. D. Stevenson, J. Gray, R. C. Laird, W. Boyd, G. E. Wilson, R. I. Harris, R. R. Graham, W. R. Campbell, W. L. Robinson, J. D. Mills, C. H. Watson, D. W. Pratt, J. L. McDonald, J. C. McClelland, K. H. Davis, E. Massig, E. B. Tovee, L. R. Dragstedt, W. K. Welsh, I. Macdonald, R. Pearse, R. A. McComb, N. C. Delarue, H. G. Armstrong, C. Aberhart. 9×6 in. Pp. xxiv + 584, with 337 figures and 50 tables. Record of Gallie's degrees, honours and appointments; bibliography of his writings. 1950. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Price \$9.50.

If in his lifetime a surgeon is not excelled by his own pupils he is not a great teacher. To believe other than this is to pay reverence to the masters who demanded blind homage from their disciples and discouraged independent thought; it is indeed to deny advance in the science and art of surgery. No such criticism can be applied to William Edward Gallie. Not only did he inspire the spirit of investigation in colleagues and pupils and stimulate them by precept and example, but he took even greater pride in their achievements than in his own great contributions to surgery. He once said that there was no original thought after the age of thirty—and that the urge for personal advancement was then replaced by endeavour for the success of younger men. The particular age that he chose was possibly wrong, but the principle behind his thought was undoubtedly right; and thus it is that Gallie has achieved perpetual youth and been rewarded by the esteem and affection of every contributor to *Essays in Surgery*, which surely will take its place beside the *Birthday Volume* of Robert Jones.

Gallie's clinical experience and experimental researches have been directed particularly to bone and joint surgery, and it is natural that the *Essays* should include contributions by Bateman on peripheral nerve injuries, Dickson on ununited fractures of the femoral neck, Gordon Dale on end-bearing amputations, Gordon and Ham on the fate of transplanted cancellous bone, John McDonald on fractures of the elbow joint, Robert I. Harris on spondylolisthesis, and Coleman on the Gallie operation for recurrent dislocation of the shoulder. Pioneer work on fascial transplantation is reflected in the article by Mills and Watson on fascial suture of hernia. There is an important contribution by Charles Best on heparin in blood clotting and thrombosis, and by W. T. Mustard on arterial contusion and thrombosis. But the great leader to whom these pages pay tribute was essentially a general surgeon, and the breadth of his inspiration is demonstrated by contributions on the spread of tumours by William Boyd, hyperinsulism by Roscoe Graham, recurring pancreatitis by Keith Welsh, congenital hypertrophic pyloric stenosis by Wansbrough, surgery of the jaws by Harold Wookey, pre-frontal leucotomy by Frank Turnbull, cleft palate by Le Mesurier—and a host of other contributions that are breathtaking in their scope and interest.

Insistent as Gallie has always been on the importance of broad training in general surgery before embarking upon a specialty, and soundly as he has trained every "Gallie student" now practising throughout the Dominion, there is none more ready than he to recognise the merit of

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specialisation. A few months ago Gallie arranged a Saturday luncheon for some of his former pupils who now represent every special branch of surgery—plastic surgery, traumatic surgery, thoracic surgery, neurosurgery, and so on—to meet the Sims Commonwealth Travelling Professor of Surgery and discuss the part to be played by specialists in training undergraduates. How I wish that all said that afternoon could have been incorporated in this volume of dedication. How characteristic it was of the great man that after a lifetime devoted to the claims of general surgery he could acknowledge the inevitability, and indeed the desirability, of training undergraduate students of medicine by specialist surgeons, while at the same time agreeing with fervour that specialist surgeons needed special training in undergraduate teaching.

When the historical and scientific merit of this publication is recognised, and the production is acknowledged to be so excellent, one criticism will surely be accepted in a generous spirit. Why does the University of Toronto Press, in a series of three-hundred-odd illustrations, arrange that one hundred and twenty-five of them should be produced sideways—so that the reader is perpetually twisting the volume this way and then that, being no less anxious to avoid dropping it on the floor than to follow the argument of the contributor? Is this a carping criticism?

Gallie has now retired from the Chair of Surgery of Toronto, having graduated as Bachelor of Medicine in 1903 and been honoured as Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* in 1949. The volume includes a list of his degrees and honours together with a complete bibliography. It is recorded that he is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, a Moynihan Lecturer, and recipient of the Gold Medal of the College—the mark of distinction guarded so jealously that it has been conferred only twenty-three times in one hundred and fifty years. His honours have been great indeed; but none is greater than the publication of these Essays in Surgery.

I have written it before of Hugh Owen Thomas and Robert Jones, but say it now again of William Edward Gallie: "They, whose work cannot die, whose influence lives after them, whose disciples perpetuate and multiply their gifts to humanity, are truly immortal."—Reginald WATSON-JONES.

POST-GRADUATE LECTURES ON ORTHOPAEDIC DIAGNOSIS AND INDICATIONS. Volume I. Section A: Propedeutics in Orthopedic Diagnosis. Section B: Congenital Deformities and Disabilities. By Arthur STEINDLER, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. 10×7 in. Pp. xx+289, with 290 figures. Index. 1950. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, Publisher. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. Price 55s.

Professor Arthur Steindler, who during the past thirty years has been one of the most famous of living teachers of orthopaedic surgery, has been persuaded to publish the lectures enjoyed by large numbers of his postgraduate students. Volume I, which has now appeared, consists of two main sections. In the first section Steindler deals with the problems of diagnosis in affections of the locomotor system from the biophysical aspect, a method of approach which he has made his own. The first lecture is appropriately a study of the significance of symmetry and asymmetry of the body. Equilibrium and causes of disequilibrium are analysed, and the range of movement in joints is expounded in terms of kinetics. Other lectures in this section deal with the genesis of contractures, the interpretation of pain patterns, and the physiological and pathological mechanics of normal and abnormal gaits. The second section presents a study of congenital deformities and disabilities, beginning with a critique of the theories of pathogenesis. Steindler describes in turn all the well-known failures and growth disturbances of the skeletal and articular systems, both in their generalised and localised manifestations. In each clinical type of deformity he leads up to the principles of rational treatment from a consideration of its essential pathogenesis.

This series of lectures reflects the author's own perspective view of the problems under consideration. Other teachers might select from the literature and from their own experience a corpus of facts which would justify a somewhat different approach towards particular disabilities. But it is the personal approach which makes these published lectures a contribution of such outstanding distinction. Orthopaedic surgeons in all countries, and more especially those engaged in the teaching of both undergraduates and postgraduates, will find this volume, which reflects the ripe scholarship of one of the great master orthopaedic surgeons of our time, an invaluable addition to their library. We shall look forward eagerly to the appearance of the remaining volumes of the series.—Harry PLATT.