to the people as a prince, as a king. To those who remember Putti this picture will ring very true.

These were personalities unlikely to be too easily satisfied, and this generation is heavily in debt to their dissatisfaction.—Bryan McFARLAND.

V. Putti e il P. Abate Procuratore degli Olivetani Don Placido Lugano (1936)

SCURVY AS A SKELETAL DISEASE. By H. J. Van WERSCH, M.D. 9½ × 7 in. Pp. xvi + 365, with 182 figures and 52 tables and two colour figures. 1954. Utrecht: Dekker & Van de Vegt N.V. Price \$7.30.

Dr Van Wersch, having correctly diagnosed a prolonged illness seen in general practice as scurvy and cured the patient, devoted several years to a scientific study of the disease, concentrating upon the skeletal manifestations and contrasting them with those of experimental rickets. In scurvy he explains certain observations—scarcity of osteoblasts and diminished alkaline phosphatase activity, and the changes in the cartilage cells of the proliferative zone (suppression of the hypertrophic cells and accumulation of glycogen in the others)—by presumptive blocking of the phosphorylase-phosphatase system and consequently a diminution in phosphate ions and glucose. The converse changes in rickets may be explained by stimulation of this enzyme system. The book, which is well translated and well illustrated, contains an interesting historical section, a bibliography and the results of clinical research on one patient, but is mainly concerned with experiments upon scorbutic guinea-pigs and rachitic rats. It is a record of much patient basic investigation rather than a source of great immediate clinical interest.—H. JACKSON BURROWS.