

clinics, all such meetings being held under the auspices of the local medical societies. In many cases doctors gladly drove 100 miles and more to attend these meetings, and the interest manifested was exceptionally keen. Very often the speakers were asked to assist individual doctors with some of their problems. Cases could be cited to show that most valuable help was given in diagnosis, clinical methods, and treatment.

Summarising the work of the past year, under our extramural post-graduate plan, 169 speakers were sent out, giving 513 lectures, besides clinics, to an aggregate of 17,264 doctors, at a cost of \$30,000, or \$1.74 per doctor per lecture.

At the close of the first year's operations reports from every province in the Dominion told of the enthusiasm of the members of the medical profession over the work which had been inaugurated, and everywhere the wish was expressed that the plan might be continued.

A second grant of \$30,000 from our benefactors, the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, has made it possible for us to continue this work during the present year, and we hope to accomplish even greater results than in the initial year of our post-graduate activities.

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## Reviews

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SIR PATRICK MANSON.

*The Life and Work of Sir Patrick Manson.* By PHILIP H. MANSON-BAHR, D.S.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., and A. ALCOCK, C.I.E., LL.D., F.R.S., Lieut.-Colonel I.M.S. (retired), Sometime Professor of Medical Zoology in the University of London at the London School of Tropical Medicine. Cassell and Co., Ltd. 1927. With 12 half-tone plates. Pp. 273. 16s.

ABOUT the middle of March last the Minister of Health, it will be remembered, unveiled a mural tablet in one of the wards of the Albert Dock Hospital to the late Sir Patrick Manson, G.C.M.G., F.R.S., "the Father of Tropical Medicine and Physician to that Hospital, 1892-1922" the tablet sets forth and "one of the great benefactors of the human race" as the Minister styled him. The book before us, "The Life and Work of Sir Patrick Manson," written in collaboration by Dr. P. Manson-Bahr, his son-in-law, and Lieut.-Colonel A. Alcock, I.M.S., his colleague at the London School of Tropical Medicine, describes in a truly charming and inspiring fashion what the man and his work were as pioneer and developer of tropical medicine as the scientific world knows it to-day.

The salient features of Manson's career must be known full well to the majority of our readers. How that he was born in 1844, on Oct. 3rd, at Old Meldrum, Aberdeen; how after an uneventful school life it was decided he should become an engineer; how his health broke down under the physical strain, and that he himself then decided he would be a physician, eventually graduating at Edinburgh. Then, in 1866, he went to Formosa as medical officer to the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs. In 1871 he began medical practice in Amoy, where he had also medical and surgical responsibility for the shipping, a hospital for seamen from Europe, and a mission hospital and dispensary for Chinese. He had hardly time to sleep and yet he began and carried through to a triumphant

conclusion his well-known researches on filariasis, establishing the epoch-making result of the rôle of the mosquito in transmitting disease. His work was carried on wellnigh single handed, against much opposition from the populace, so that it was as much as his life was worth to have been detected in the irreligious crime of making a necropsy and even comparative research with such a subject as the magpie was highly dangerous on similar grounds, for that animal was sacred; and with all this his work was handicapped by ill-health from his twenty-seventh year to the end of his life. At the age of 40, in 1883, he left Amoy and took up private practice in Hong-Kong; still the researcher and the hospital worker, but even beyond these the medical educationist, for he inspired the founding of the Hong-Kong College of Medicine. He knew from personal experience what the lack of educational help meant. We are told that after eight years of work in the tropics he paid a visit to London, principally, as he said later, "to acquaint himself with recent advances in medicine and surgery more especially in their bearing on tropical disease." He found no one, he goes on, to tell him where what he was seeking was to be found or even how to set about finding the educational things he wanted, and finally he "landed" at the Reading Room of the British Museum, and "dreary and profitless enough" was that. It is not too much to say that he himself so far as tropical medicine was concerned, and after no long interval, changed all this for London. And so he came home and found a foothold in the Albert Dock Hospital as the tablet on its walls now tells. Then with the help of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain he founded the London School of Tropical Medicine which, by the assistance of Mr. Austin Chamberlain, was financially established.

One of the most interesting parts of this fascinating book is that which describes, almost as an interlude, how he assisted and encouraged and inspired younger workers in tropical disease, and particularly how he backed up Sir Ronald Ross in his marvellous demonstration of the truth of his own mosquito-malaria theory. How he exhorted to "faith and perseverance under difficulty," asserting that "nature is very dodgy," but that in Nature "nothing walks with aimless feet," And so the thrilling story runs. Much might be written of the courage with which, in spite of indifferent, not to say miserable, health, he carried on, affording yet another instance of how much of the best work of the world has been achieved in spite of such handicap or it may even be, as seemed to competent observers to be so in his case, that the mental reaction to such a handicap has been a positively furthering influence. Fourteen days before his death he visited the London Tropical School for the last time and examined microscopical preparations illustrating the pathology of filariasis. Two days before his death, realising that his end was near, he called for pencil and paper and wrote steadily, though shakily, on till his strength failed. The following was afterwards deciphered from his writing, "I propose to found a Manson Scholarship." What the other deciphered sentences were the post-graduate reader will find in the book. And as to this we rejoice with the authors in having such a subject for portrayal, and we heartily congratulate them on the way they have done their work.

We feel we cannot do better than close this review with the words, once more, of the Minister of Health, "In Manson was to be recognised a patient investigator who greatly enlarged the sphere of human knowledge, a very human gentleman, who was an example to those who worked with him and under him, and would remain an inspiration to those who came after him and one of our great empire builders not by reason of his conquest of other peoples, but by the victories he had won over some of the most distressing plagues which afflicted mankind." As this book restrainedly suggests, he was in a high sense both a seer and a prophet in his own branch of medical science, withal one of the giants of our profession, and a big man outside that. We hope that our readers, each and every one of them, will read and keep by them this admirable work.