Horace W. Davenport. *Doctor Dock*. Teaching and learning medicine at the turn of the century. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick 1987. XV + 341 pp., 14 ill.

George Dock (1860–1951) graduated as MD at the University of Pennsylvania in 1884, studied then for two years in Germany and Austria, became head of the Univ. Hospital laboratory in Philadelphia under Osler 1887. In 1891 Vaughan brought him as Professor of Medicine to Ann Arbor, Mich., where he stayed till 1908. He then occupied the same position at Tulane, La.

Between 1899 and 1908 Dock had a secretary make a shorthand record of his twice a week diagnostic clinics for 4th year students. The transcript fills over 6800 typed pages. Prof. H. W. Davenport, the em. physiologist and historian of the Michigan University Med. School has «distilled» these 6800 pages into this excellent book of 340 pp. As he says, it demonstrates “how medicine was practiced and taught by a good man in a good medical school at the beginning of the twentieth century”. After an introduction on Dock and the school at his time, the main diseases dealt with in the “Clinical Notes”, are discussed in the words of Dock and his students in twelve chapters, from “heart” to “endocrine glands».

The differences in every respect between now and then and the progress achieved are truly astonishing. Whether it is the attitudes of the public and the patients (e. g. the taboo of the naked); whether it is the students: much lower requirements, going immediately into practice after 4 years of medschool; whether it is the prevalence of certain diseases in the region—in 1900 typhoid, tb and malaria stand in the foreground, and there are still smallpox epidemics! whether it is causal explanations, diagnostic techniques (then mostly time consuming and manual), therapeutic armamentarium (still lots of calomel) and quack fashions (“radium water”), all is different, and undeveloped compared not only to 1986, but even to 1924, when I studied medicine.

This book is really an unmatched primary source, even richer than the transcript of Oster’s classroom lectures, and in addition very readable because Dock was not only a knowledgeable and competent man, but outspoken and witty.

Erwin H. Ackerknecht

Horace W. Davenport, *Fifty Years of Medicine at the University of Michigan 1891–1941*. University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor 1986. 525 pp.

The author, a retired, well known physiology professor at Ann Arbor, has