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

given us in 1982 an excellent history of physiology, especially in Michigan. Now he has done an even bigger job describing in 22 chapters the early history of all Ann Arbor medical and premedical disciplines in the decades from 1891 to 1941, so fateful for medicine in general, and US medicine in particular. He begins with the deanship of Victor Vaughan, equally outstanding as a biochemist, bacteriologist, hygienist and administrator. In these years the modest 1850 school became one of the foremost State schools in the US. Men in the preclinical departments are probably the best known pillars of Ann Arbor medical history. We mention here only J. J. Abel and Cushing for pharmacology; Sewall, Howell and Gesell in physiology and the bacteriologists Novy and R. Kahn (of the K. Test). That Sinclair Lewi's friend de Kruif began his adventurous career in this bacteriology department, is the reason why we find it described in "Dr. Arrowsmith". The clinical departments were weaker, though with Osler's disciple George Dock internal medicine had from 1891 to 1908 one of the most fascinating teachers in US medical history. Frank N. Wilson (EKG) and L. N. Newburgh (metabolism) should also be remembered. The urological surgeon Hugh Cabot (of Boston, of course), was from 1921 to 1930 a most dynamic, but also by many strongly disliked Dean. In this period neurosurgery, thoracosurgery and urological surgery crystallised in Ann Arbor. "Full time" was decided in 1919, but never really applied, due to a tendency in many medical practitioners, especially in the smaller surgical disciplines, called "numismatism" by Zurich students. Ann Arbor pediatricians played, of course, a role in the famous Michigan goiter prophylaxis. The colorful Herdmann played not only a role in the development of neurology and psychiatry, but also of roentgenology. The last dean in our period was the ORL-man A. C. Fuerstenberg (remarkable treatment of Meunier's disease!) from 1935 to 1959.

This is not just a well written local or regional history. For everybody mildly familiar with the basic data of US medicine, it is a valuable contribution to the history of medicine, of medical specialties and of *medical education*, a subject given here rightly and in the American tradition, more space than usual. The author avoids with great skill priority questions. Index and bibliography are excellent, but printing errors unfortunately very numerous.

Erwin H. Ackerknecht

Erich Poppe, *Multiplex sane linguarum ac dialectorum varietas*. Zur Quellenrekonstruktion im «Mithridates» (1555) des Konrad Gessner am Beispiel des Keltischen. Arbeitsberichte Nr. 6. Münster, Institut für Allgemeine