

BOOK REVIEWS

WALTER REED—A BIOGRAPHY. By William B. Bean, M.D. 1982. University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville, VA. xiv + 190 pp. \$12.95.

It has been almost 40 years since a biography of Walter Reed has been published and it is to the credit of a noted medical historian that we now have a new biography. Dr. Bean has painstakingly sought the original papers, letters and works of Walter Reed for over a decade. During this process, he visited all the forts, posts and camps that Reed was stationed at and interviewed the living descendants of Walter Reed, including his granddaughter.

Although Dr. Bean intended to publish the above source material in its entirety, he has not been able to accomplish this task. The new biography is a distillation of these studies and virtually every page reveals some previously unpublished facet of the life and era of Walter Reed.

This biography, more than any other, portrays Walter Reed as an individual. We learn that he applied for admission at the age of 17 to the medical school of the University of Virginia, not due to an overriding desire to study medicine, but because the M.D. could be acquired in a much shorter time than the M.A. degree. Since Reed was the impoverished son of a parson, he followed the shorter path to an academic degree.

Details are given of his early life in the Army Medical Corps with a new bride at Fort Lowell (near Tucson, Arizona) in 1877. These were difficult times, as Congress did not appropriate funds for military salaries during the first 11 months of 1877. Throughout his life, Reed kept detailed account books and we learn that at intervals, he delayed visiting a barber for as long as five months due to his impecunious condition.

The turning point in his career was during 1890-1 when he attended a seven-months' postgraduate session in pathology and bacteriology at Johns Hopkins Hospital under the aegis of William Henry Welch. There he was exposed to the discoveries of Pasteur and Koch, and conducted experiments clarifying a problem in the pathology of typhoid fever. After the training at Hopkins, he anticipated an assignment to the Army Medical Museum in Washington, DC, but with dismay was given further tours of duty in the far West at Fort Keogh, Montana. One of his first duties there was to care for the survivors of the infamous

Battle of Wounded Knee. These western assignments came to an end when the newly selected surgeon general, George Miller Sternberg, appointed the recently promoted Major Reed to the dual positions of curator of the Army Medical Museum and Professor of Clinical and Sanitary Microscopy at the Army Medical School, both in Washington. In his spare time, to augment continuing financial problems, he served on the faculty of the Columbian University Medical School for the sum of \$500 a session. (At that time Army medical personnel were allowed to conduct private medical practices after normal duty.)

Approximately half of the book is devoted to Reed's involvement with yellow fever studies, the cause for his renown today. Although more than 80 years have elapsed since Reed worked in Cuba, we now learn that contrary to popular belief, he was not initially sent to study yellow fever. The orders on record commanded him "to set up a board of medical officers . . . to meet at Camp Columbia, Quemados, Cuba, for the purpose of pursuing scientific investigations with reference to the infectious disease prevalent on the Island of Cuba." As known, the board was to include James Carroll, Aristides Agramonte and Jesse Lazear. Additional details of the yellow fever saga are presented, some of which are at variance from those traditionally presented.

The book is well designed with a sturdy yellow and black binding. Reproductions of four photographs of Reed are included. Unfortunately, they represent the majority of the pictures of Reed that exist. (L. H. Howard once mentioned, "He was always very loath to have his picture published . . .")

This book deserves a prominent place in the library of any individual interested in the early history of yellow fever and its control.—R. A. Ward.

MANUAL OF MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGY, 4th edition. Illustrated. By Deanne P. Furman and E. Paul Catts. 1982. Cambridge University Press, 32 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022. 207 pp. \$11.95.

A *Manual of Medical Entomology*, 4th edition by Deanne F. Furman and E. Paul Catts certainly represents an advance for both students and instructors over previous offerings on the subject.