Books in Review

READERS ARE REMINDED THAT SUGGESTIONS OF TITLES FOR REVIEW HERE will be gratefully received. Publishers are invited to send copies of Canadian works of bibliographical interest to the Review Editor. Reviews will be printed, whenever possible, in the language of the book under review: French or English. We shall be especially pleased to hear from subject specialists who are willing to review new publications in their field as they are published, for we are concerned that our reviews be authoritative. 'Notes for Reviewers', a guide to the length and format of reviews, will be sent to reviewers with a copy of the work they have undertaken to appraise. In general, single reviews should be about 300 words in length; more substantial or controversial works, or multiple reviews, may be extended to about 500 words. Please sign reviews in the form in which you wish your name to appear in print and include a biographical note. Consult past issues of these *Papers* if in doubt.

I should like to thank our reviewers for their contributions to the *Papers*, but opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Bibliographical Society of Canada.

WILLIAM F.E. MORLEY, Review Editor
Bibliographical Society of Canada *Papers*
Douglas Library
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario K7L 5C4

An Annotated Checklist of Osleriana. [By] Earl F. Nation, Charles G. Roland, John P. McGovern. [Kent, Ohio] Kent State University Press, 1976. xii, 289 p., \$27.50. ISBN 0-87338-186-6

Here is a large and interesting collection of information about Sir William Osler (1849-1919), one of the country's best-known nineteenth-century figures, whose fame and reputation as a teacher, friend, and inspiration to English-speaking physicians has hardly diminished since his death nearly sixty years ago. With what must have been enormous labour, Doctors Nation, Roland, and McGovern have gathered together and

annotated citations to articles and books about Osler. Their efforts will ease the work and further the interest of the many people drawn to him.

The scope of the checklist is admirably wide. It includes citations to articles and books, selected news stories (including many published in Osler's lifetime), at least one novel, an appearance on a journal cover, a crossword puzzle, book reviews, articles and books about Osler's students and followers, and articles about McGill University's Osler Library. I do miss, however, *W.W. Francis: Tributes from His Friends on the Occasion of the 35th Anniversary of the Osler Society of McGill University* (1956) and reviews of Osler's *magnum opus*, *The Principles and Practice of Medicine* (1892).

Although the checklist is concerned with works about Osler (reference bibliography), the inclusion of books by Osler (Appendix 1) would seem to indicate an intent to produce at least a partial physical bibliography, an undertaking of quite another sort. The book is arranged in alphabetical order by author. I would be interested to know why this arrangement was chosen rather than a chronological or classified one, which would have been a more obvious choice. I am also puzzled by the abbreviation, *N.A.P.T. Bull.*, in entry 101.

With its citations and annotations, the checklist will be helpful for a long time. Indeed, extensive use of it in the Osler Library has already proved it so. In addition, it is full of interesting facts, for example that Osler was 5 feet 4 inches tall; and of good humour, as in this ghost (1033): E.Y. Walker, 'An Idol Fallen: William Osler', *Ann. Roy. Hibern. Hagiog. Soc.*, 70:18-49, 1919.

PHILIP M. TEIGEN

(Dr. Teigen is the History of Medicine Librarian at the Osler Library, McGill University; he also lectures in the History of Medicine Department at McGill.)

Between Boards: New Thoughts on Old Books. By Leona Rostenberg & Madeleine B. Stern. Montclair, N.J.: Allanheld & Schram; London: George Prior, 1977. 209 p., cloth, \$13.50 (US) ISBN 0-8390-0208-4

The first volume of the reminiscences of the two partners of the well-known New York firm of Leona Rostenberg Rare Books, Leona Rostenberg and Madeleine B. Stern, was reviewed in volume XIV (1975) of the *Papers* of the BSC. Published in 1974 under the title *Old & Rare: Thirty Years in the Book Business* (New York: Abner Schram; London: George Prior), it described the beginnings of the firm, the partners' experiences on buying trips to Europe, their encounters with people and books. In *Between Boards: New Thoughts on Old Books*, Mmes Rostenberg and Stern continue to enlighten and entertain us with their bibliographical activities and 'adventures'. They discourse learnedly on the books and pamphlets they have handled, and again offer us many reflections on their chosen profession which, over the years, has brought them 'a *summa* of joy in the endless world of books'. They prove again that the antiquarian book trade is 'incorrectly regarded as a serene sedentary profession' and that it can lead those who exercise it into many 'perils and pitfalls' in the unceasing search for books for stock and clients. While of course most of the episodes are based on the authors' personal experiences, one of the highlights of the book is the brilliant imaginary account of the peregrinations of a rare edition of one of Erasmus' works from owner to owner, from the 16th to the 20th century ('*Mistress Folly's Life Cycle*'). An entertaining chapter deals with books that for