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Book Review

Modern Miraculous Cures

Francois Leuret, M.D. and Henri Bon, M.D.

(Translated by A. T. MacQueen, M.D. and Rev. John C. Barry)

Review by

NORMAN M. MACNEILL, M.D.

This seems unquestionably the best medical treatise on miraculous cures written up to the present time; and, if most of the cases reported are from the Lourdes' Shrine, it is because Doctor Leuret is former president of the Medical Bureau and Scientific Studies at Lourdes. His co-author, Doctor Henri Bon, is a noted contributor to French medical literature.

By happy chance, this book, as well as the outstanding one on Lourdes by the late Ruth Cranston, a non-Catholic, appears on the eve of the centenary celebration of the Lourdes' apparitions in 1858, a phenomenon which more and more, as time passes, seems to have been the providential antidote to the misapplication by materialist and determinist nineteenth century biologists of the evolutionary theory of man, sparked by Darwin's "Origin of Species," published one year later (1859).

The translators have succeeded admirably in avoiding the "bugs" and translational nuances which so often mar medical translation into English.

The many case histories of miraculous cures are well and technically described. Chapter X, regarding the etiology and physiology of miraculous cures, deals at length with the method by which the diagnosis of a miraculous cure is arrived at, both, from the scientific as well as the theological point of view; as an earlier chapter explains, the Church's procedure in the investigation of the cures. Examples are also given of false cures.

The book presents a fascinating technical study of its subject and suggests that the examination of great — we may say, classical — miracles has helped to show that the study of miracles demands that we raise and broaden our views beyond their present anthropomorphic limits and rise above the level of the sort of laws laid down dogmatically by the nineteenth century scientists, which are now out of date."

Physicians, medical students and nurses will enjoy this book and profit by it. It should find a place in every medical and college library.

Its factual descriptions of occurring phenomena, which are as often misrepresented as they are misunderstood make it an invaluable adjunct to our necessarily imperfect understanding of the miraculous.

Modern Miraculous Cures

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