

A largely autobiographic article by Dr. Esmond R. Long, who until he retired in 1955 was—to mention only one of his responsibilities—director of the Henry Phipps Institute of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, which appeared recently in *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* [5 (1961) 24-51], published by the University of Chicago, reviews the progress in knowledge of tuberculosis and its treatment and control over the past fifty years. During his teaching years in the Department of Pathology at the University of Chicago, his research on tuberculins aroused his interest in medical history. As a result, he wrote a “History of Pathology,” later supplemented by a collection of extracts from classics in the field entitled “Selected Readings in Pathology,” now in a new and enlarged edition.<sup>1</sup> About this interest of his he says:

This is a general view with which nobody could rightly disagree.

I have held the conviction over the years that medical students, not to mention their teachers, should be thoroughly informed on the achievements of the past if they are to have any perspective on accomplishments of the present. Indeed, the distinction between past and present is shadowy, and it seems inescapable that all investigators should hold a reserved view of current research and avoid the indulgent retrospect sometimes accorded the labor and concepts of what is often viewed as the benighted past.

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<sup>1</sup>LONG, E. R. *Selected Readings in Pathology*, Second Edition, Springfield, Illinois, Charles C Thomas, 1961, Price \$8.50.

It is one, indeed, which might with profit be extended to more limited fields, with special reference here to a "History of Leprosy"—if anyone in that field had the enterprise, energy, and competence to write one. It would of course not be designed for the medical student, but for men beginning work in leprosy and especially leprosy research. One sometimes gains the impression from the present-day literature that nothing written before the present sulfone era is worth spending time to get acquainted with.

It would be a broadening experience to peruse what some of the Ancients wrote, as for example, Hansen, Unna, Neisser and Babes, many of whom attended the first international conference held in Berlin in 1897. It would doubtless point up some of the progress made since then, and some of the problems that still exist.—H. W. W.