notes which Mr. Smalley has added make major amplifications and clarifications of the text. Because of the able work of editing and documenting this new edition, it is perhaps the most valuable one for reference purposes.

University of Kentucky Thomas D. Clark

Guide to the Burlington Archives in the Newberry Library, 1851-1901. Compiled by Elisabeth Coleman Jackson and Carolyn Curtis. (Chicago, The Newberry Library, 1949, pp. xxiii, 374.)

The appearance of this *Guide* constitutes something of a milestone in the study and writing of railway history in this country. Although the Burlington does not enjoy the distinction of being the first railroad to have its archives explored or its achievements recorded by students of history, it was the first to deposit its records in a library "for the use of qualified historians." In April, 1943, it placed in the Newberry Library "the bulk of its 19th century central office and land office records, covering the period from about 1850 to 1901."

The materials thus deposited included more than a million letters, 1500 bundles of miscellaneous materials and some 2000 bound volumes of ledgers, accounts and operating books. The volume under review is something less than a calendar of these papers, but something more than a mere catalog of them. This *Guide* represents the first attempt to make known to the scholar the "kinds of information he may expect to find among a great railroad's historical files." It is designed to provide the investigator with a rough indication of the "bundle or volume" in which he is likely to find a given document. In classifying the materials, the compilers have retained in part the arrangement which the railroad had previously employed. They have been careful to preserve the records "in their original groupings, on the well-established theory that those groupings themselves, once done for some purpose, may prove important to the scholar."

Even a cursory examination of the *Guide* indicates the rich storehouse of material made available to the historian through the intelligent co-operation of the Burlington and the Newberry Library. The records here briefly described will reveal far more than the history of a great corporation; they

also abound in data relevant to the social and economic development of the areas tributary to the Burlington system. It is to be hoped that the publication of this *Guide* may inspire other railroads to emulate the example of the Burlington.

Brown University James B. Hedges

Aesculapius Comes to the Colonies. The Story of the Early Days of Medicine in the Thirteen Original Colonies. By Maurice Bear Gordon. (Ventnor, New Jersey, Ventnor Publishers, Inc., 1949, pp. xiv, 560. Illustrations, bibliography, and index. Portrait of Benjamin Franklin frontispiece. $10.00.)

The promise of this title is, unfortunately, entirely unfilled in the actual narrative. The book purports to be "a comprehensive survey" of Colonial medicine and an "evaluation" of its nature; but in reality it is a miscellaneous collection of materials—taken with or without acknowledgments—from well-known secondary works. Random annals and biographical notes fill most of the pages, and it is difficult to discover any system or organization in the whole. The only approach to order lies in the devotion of chapters to particular states, and this is unsatisfactory in that there was often little difference between the medicine of one state and that of another. Expensive and somewhat pretentious, the book adds little or nothing to our knowledge of Colonial medicine.

The Johns Hopkins University Richard Harrison Shryock

Benjamin Franklin and Catharine Ray Greene: Their Correspondence, 1755-1790. Edited and annotated by William Greene Roelker. Volume XXVI, *Memoirs,* American Philosophical Society. (Philadelphia, American Philosophical Society, 1949, pp. ix, 147. Illustrations, introduction, and index. $3.00.)

In the winter of 1754-55, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, on a postal tour of inspection, came to Boston where he conferred with Governor Shirley and appointed his brother, John, postmaster. John had recently married the widow Hubbard and moved into her "mansion," where Franklin naturally stayed during his visit. There he met Catharine Ray, from Block