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