

To any doctor qualified over ten years, not obtaining 1st Class Honours, and interested in the physiology of exercise, I think this book should prove valuable, interesting, and enjoyable to read. It will also have value to the lecturer in physical education, and might well become a standard book for 4th year Bachelor of Education courses in physical education. After reading it, I feel I shall be better able to understand our guest lecturers from the Physiology Division of the M.R.C.

"WHY WAS HE BORN SO BEAUTIFUL" AND OTHER RUGBY SONGS. Edited: H. Morgan.

1967. Published by Sphere Books, Ltd. London. Pages 187. 5/-.

The collection of some 140 songs in this paper-back book is extensive, and includes almost all the songs doctors learnt as students, as members of University or other clubs, and as members of the Services in war time or afterwards. The songs are hardly fit for the drawing-room, even in this permissive society, but many have become firmly embedded in the folk-lore of this country and its Commonwealth. They will awaken much nostalgia amongst the more honest of our members, though others may be shocked, at least publicly. Memories have been evoked of a Welsh tenor singing the solo of Cathusalmé, accompanied by a thousand voices whispering the chorus pianissimo whilst waiting in the darkness to move up to El Alamain (Archer, J. 1968 - personal communication).

In the Forward, Michael Green suggests that this book might fill a gap somewhere between Smollett and Henry Miller, and feels that "there is something for everybody, providing they can drink enough beer to dull their finer senses". The use of the book in mixed company is more a matter of dispute. No doubt most Rugby Wives and Girlfriends are already familiar with many of the songs. It has been noticed that, when the evening advances, and the "singing" starts, we can divide the girls into three clear groups: those that walk out in shocked dudgeon; those that carry on drinking as if unaware of what is taking place; those that gather round the piano and join in - and it is rarely that this last group have to brush leaves from their coats when the evening ends. I think I shall lend this book to my daughter.