

Book Reviews

company with Charles I and Henrietta Maria is still to be seen in the King's Rooms at Hampton Court. The fascinated respect in which court artists held court dwarfs from the days of ancient Egypt down to the seventeenth century is remarkable. It is exemplified by Velasquez who has at least seven portraits of dwarfs at the Court of Spain hanging in the Prado.

The portrayals of most scenes of sickness represent miraculous cures; one of the richest in medical content is the fresco attributed to Taddeo Gaddi or Andrea da Firenze in the Spanish Chapel of Santa Maria Novella in Florence which contains illustrations of patients with radial palsy, oedema of the legs, blindness, and a cripple, all appealing to St. Dominic. Amongst many vivid illustrations of the plague perhaps the most celebrated is the picture by De Gros of Napoleon visiting the plague-stricken victims of Jaffa.

A final section devoted to artists' studies of death reveals the effect of contemporary tradition and the artists' representation. In antiquity death seems to have come to apparently healthy people, like sleep. In medieval times the dead body of Christ changed through the centuries from the depiction of a clothed, painless departure to the agonised rigor mortis of Roger Van de Weyden's *Descent from the Cross*, or the green putrefaction of the body in Holbein's *Death of Christ*. This trend towards the increasing horror of death reached its extreme in a picture at Seville by Vallès de Leal entitled *Finis Gloriam Mundi*, in which the rotting dead body of a mitred bishop is covered with worms and beetles.

Many of the pictures illustrated and described in this book have been reproduced in subsequent works on Medicine in Art, and of course a very great enrichment of this field has occurred since Charcot opened it up. Particularly noteworthy are Eugen Hollander's volumes on *Medicine in the Classical and Plastic Arts* (1903–1912). It has been greatly advanced too, by the publication of illustrations from medieval manuscripts such as those compiled by P. Giocosa (1901), Sudhoff (1914–18) and more recently, MacKinney (1965).

This reprint will help greatly to maintain the growth of this interesting facet of medical history. Producing them 'unchanged' however, involves one grave defect. A number of the illustrations reproduce the imperfections of 1887 and 1889 so perfectly that it is difficult, if not impossible, to see the detailed features of the disease illustrated. This is tantalisingly so in Murillo's picture of St. Elizabeth of Hungary treating patients for ringworm of the scalp and in some of the illustrations of St. Roche's buboes. Much as one appreciates conscientious historical accuracy in reprinting these works without alteration, it could be made even more valuable by adding in a clearly denoted form (perhaps as an appendix) illustrations the details of which are enhanced by the use of modern processes of reproduction.

Homeopathy in America. The Rise and Fall of a Medical Heresy, by M. KAUFMAN, Baltimore and London, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1971, pp. x, 205, £4.75.

This is not and does not purport to be a full-scale history of American homeopathy but is rather an account of opposition to it. The story is not a pleasant one and contains moments when one is easily reminded of a foxhunt, but with this difference that the quarry, instead of being finally caught and torn to pieces, is invited in to tea

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there to be killed by a surfeit of cream cakes. Above the baying of the hounds rise the conciliatory tones of Osler.

Dr. Kaufman has clearly had to sift through an immense amount of material: just how much is indicated by his bibliography in which are listed two pages of manuscript items, one of official records, over a dozen newspapers and a string of printed pieces. All this he has boiled down into an outline history. The emphases in it are rightly placed on a few *causes célèbres* such as the 'Ann Arbor imbroglio' and on the pugilistic attitude of the American Medical Association, whilst attention is drawn to the repeal of the medical licensing laws during the 1840s and to the effects that naturally flowed from that sequence of events. An introductory chapter on Thomsonianism points up to the popular appetite for novel unorthodox therapies in the pre-repeal period.

Most of the early homeopaths, unlike the Thomsonians, came from the ranks of allopathy. Perhaps they were reacting negatively to the many excesses of orthodox therapeutics; but perhaps also they were attracted by the intellectual basis of Hahnemann's novel and revolutionary ideas. If the latter, this might help to explain why homeopathy was so popular among educated laymen. Even Holmes and Hooker, two of the system's most vociferous enemies, gave it credit for having forced them to rely more on the healing powers of nature and less on potions.

Looking back one is inclined to smile at the spectacle of doctors, themselves groping around in the dark but not prepared to admit it, ready and anxious to accuse others of lacking in science, and it is hard not to look upon their postures and expostulations as a sign of their professional anxieties, jealousies and feelings of insecurity. What makes their behaviour the more discreditable is that the chief loser thereby was often the innocent patient, as was once the case at Chicago when a quarrel between allopaths and homeopaths led effectively to the exclusion of the sick poor from a new local hospital. In the end, of course, Flexner's new broom swept away much of the litter from the stage of American medicine, since which time the fortunes of homeopathy in that country have steadily declined.

There are one or two surprising omissions and mistakes in this competent but not very well written book. First of all the bibliography fails to mention Bradford's *Homeopathic bibliography*, 1892, and Cleave's *Biographical cyclopaedia*, 1873; secondly, Gram (the founder of American homeopathy) is described as a 'Danish immigrant' whereas he was actually born in Boston of Danish parents; and thirdly, there is no reference at all to the Hahnemann monument in Washington which was built in 1900 with the explicit approval of Congress and President McKinley (a homeopathist sympathiser), and paid for by a public subscription of \$75,000. It is also a pity that the author consistently misquotes the famous 'similia' motto.

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Hunter's Lectures of Anatomy, facsimile of MS notes (c. 1752), with a foreword by SIR CHARLES ILLINGWORTH, Amsterdam, London and New York, Elsevier, 1972, pp. iv, 299, Dfl. 35.00 (\$10.25).

The manuscript from which this facsimile was prepared is of particular interest, not only in its content but also for the chance events that brought it to notice in Australia