

Book Notices

HEIRS OF HIPPOCRATES. *The development of medicine in a catalogue of historic books in the Health Sciences Library, the University of Iowa*, Iowa City, Friends of the University of Iowa Libraries, 1980, pp. xiv, 474, illus., \$50.00.

This sumptuous volume describes 1,196 of the 1,600 books in the John Martin Rare Book Room of the University of Iowa Health Sciences Library. Most of the books – and virtually all of the rarer items – have been donated to the Library by Dr. John Martin, an Iowa neurosurgeon and bibliophile. The collection is impressive in the best tradition of American rare book libraries: filled with individual treasures selected for their fame, rarity, or beauty. Early anatomy is well represented, with the inevitable first edition of Vesalius's *Fabrica*, but also several selections from pre-Vesalian anatomists like Achillini and Berengario da Carpi. William Harvey merits no less than two dozen items, but, sadly, no first edition of *De motu cordis*. Surgery is generously included, ranging from an early sixteenth-century edition of Guy de Chauliac to Harvey Cushing and Josep Trueta. The works are listed chronologically by the author's date of birth. Thus, Item 52 is an incunabulum by Pietro d'Abano, the next one a late nineteenth-century edition of Henri de Mondeville. Each entry fully describes the volume, locates it in standard bibliographical works, gives an account of its relevant printing history, and briefly assesses the intellectual significance of its contents. The result is not just another bibliography, but a synoptic history of medicine. There are a few oddities: Mary Baker Eddy's *Science and health* gets a listing, but there is virtually nothing on public health (no Johann Peter Frank, no Chadwick, no Pettenkofer). The illustrations, although mostly familiar, are exceptionally attractive. The University of Iowa Libraries are fortunate indeed to have Dr. Martin as one of their Friends!

EDMOND A. MURPHY. *Skepsis, dogma, and belief. Uses and abuses in medicine*, Baltimore Md., and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981, 8vo, pp. x, 176, £10.50.

Dr. Murphy's book demonstrates so clearly what Eliot Freidson has described so lucidly and summed up so tersely as the "clinical mentality". That is the belief that the practice of medicine singularly equips the doctor to cast pearls of sagacity in all areas. This work is intended as a sustained, but friendly criticism of medical thought. It is undertaken to refute dogmatism in the name of scepticism. The argument is embroidered with oblique referrals to not very obscure references in science, classical philosophy, poetry, and literary criticism. One of Dr. Murphy's principal targets is what he has recognized, with Whitehead's help, as "unidentified assumptions". This would have been a much better book if Dr. Murphy had discussed his own variety of this myopia, notably that the history and philosophy of science, unlike the study of hypertension or genetics, is fair game for anyone who has read C. P. Snow and Karl Popper.

WILLIAM COLEMAN and CAMILLE LIMOGES (editors), *Studies in history of biology*, Baltimore Md., and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980, 8vo, pp. 198, £12.00.

The high standard we have come to expect from this annual hardback publication has been maintained in the fourth volume, which contains three long essays. Ruth Leys examines the intellectual and philosophical background to Marshall Hall's theories of reflex action. Although concentrating on William Alison's views on the notion of sympathy, her essay ranges widely in British and French medical and physiological literature of the early nineteenth century. David Kohn, associate editor of the *Collected letters of Charles Darwin*, uses his intimate knowledge of the Darwin archives to examine the successive evolutionary theories which Darwin toyed with before hitting upon the principle of natural selection. He emphasizes the importance of reproduction in Darwin's biological thinking in the years before 1838. Finally, Eugene Cittadino's essay looks at the ecological concerns of American botanists during the formative years of botanical professionalization, 1890–1905.

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G. B. MORGAGNI, *The seats and causes of diseases*, trans. by Benjamin Alexander, intro. by Paul Klemperer, Mount Kisco, N.Y., Futura Publishing Company, 1980, 3 vols, 8vo, pp. xxxvii, 868, 770, 604 + index, \$75.00.

The New York Academy of Medicine facsimile reprint of Benjamin Alexander's 1769 edition of Morgagni's classic work on pathology has been out of print for a number of years. It is, therefore, good to see it again available, with Dr. Klemperer's introduction and translation of five Morgagni letters appended. The binding is attractive, the paper of decent quality, and the price reasonable for three stout volumes.

EDWIN R. WALLACE (IV) and LUCIUS C. PRESSLEY (editors), *Essays in the history of psychiatry*, Columbia, S. Carolina, Wm. S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, 1980, 8vo, pp. xviii, 205, [no price stated], (paperback).

This collection of fairly traditional essays in the history of psychiatry has appeared as a supplement to the journal *Psychiatric Forum*. Most of the contributions deal with topics which have been treated more fully elsewhere – for instance, Beard and neurasthenia, Benjamin Rush on madness, or the early history of psychoanalysis in America. There are, however, two useful essays on Jung, and above all, a particularly stimulating piece by Erwin H. Ackerknecht on transcultural psychiatry, which shows the old master in good form.

MARY MIDGLEY, *Heart and mind. The varieties of moral experience*, Brighton, Sussex, Harvester Press, 1981, 8vo, pp. x, 176, £16.95.

The author of *Beast and man* continues her explorations of the interfaces between common speech, scientific discourse, and philosophical analysis with lucid accounts of concepts central to each, such as inheritance, instinct, emotion, and reason. She argues that philosophers make fools of themselves if they ignore the evidence of physiology and scientific medicine, while castigating the philistine reductionism of sociobiologists such as Edward Wilson who can understand value-discourse only in functionalist, evolutionist terms. Her essay, 'Is moral a dirty word?', makes real contributions to the history of the concept of the moral. These trenchant and beautifully written essays can be heartily recommended to historians of medicine eager for philosophical clarification, though readers are advised to treat the binding with great delicacy.

DIETRICH VON ENGELHARDT and HEINRICH SCHIPPERGES, *Die inneren Verbindungen zwischen Philosophie und Medizin im 20. Jahrhundert*, Darmstadt, Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1980, 8vo, pp. viii, 190, DM. 29.00.

"The spirit of medicine is difficult to grasp." On the other hand, there is philosophy and "nothing that has not a specific relationship with it". Indeed, no matter of philosophical concern is separable from man (Karl Jaspers) – man acting, hoping, and suffering. Hence medicine as a whole has never been contemplated without the light which contemporary philosophies shed upon it – since the Hippocratic era. This light is derived from a medical anthropology in which man is taken as a whole. This means: with all the subjective and objective polarities, metamorphoses, analogies, and potentialities of which the *Naturphilosophen* held him capable. It is through a renewed medical anthropology that the present collection tries to grasp the "spirit of medicine", and it uses in this task contemporary trends and debates, notably psychoanalysis, marxism, phenomenology, ethical policies, the essence of disease-concepts, causality versus teleology, healing as art and science with its several justifications, as, for example, in neurosurgery. There are somewhat condensed introductory historical sections.

MADELEINE PELNER COSMAN and BRUCE CHANDLER (editors), *Machaut's world: science and art in the fourteenth century*, Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, vol. 314, 1978, 8vo, pp. xiv, 348, illus., \$30.00 (paperback).

This handsome volume contains two essays of relevance to historians of medieval medicine, one on the technological inventions of two famous doctors, Giovanni de'Dondi and Guido de Vigevano, and one on Machaut's medical musical world. The latter is well illustrated but somewhat unbalanced in its belief in the ubiquity of music in medieval medicine.

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SAMI K. HAMARNEH and ERNST W. STIEB, *Pharmacy museums and historical collections on public view in the United States and Canada*, Madison, Wis., American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, 1981, 8vo, pp. 144, illus., \$6.50 (paperback).

This guide covers 135 American and seventeen Canadian pharmacy museums and historical collections, arranged in alphabetical state or province order. Full details of location and opening hours are given, and a brief outline of the history and materials of the collection. All pharmaceutical historians, North American or not, are in its debt, and one cannot but wish that we had an equally useful guide in this country, though it would be but a slim volume.

There is an extensive bibliographic guide covering the history of pharmacy, museum work, antiques, and artefacts. It does not claim to be comprehensive, but it is a pity that the *Transactions* and quarterly *Pharmaceutical Historian* of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy are not included. Also listed are the "historical markers" placed on sites important in the pharmaceutical history of the U.S.A. Nothing of this nature has been instituted in Britain, but the site of the Crown and Anchor tavern in the Strand, where it was resolved to form the Pharmaceutical Society, certainly merits serious consideration.

T. D. WHITTET, *Pyrogens in the modern setting*, (The 1980 Todd Lecture), St. Louis, Mo., Mallinckrodt, 1981, 4to, pp. 17, illus., 50p.

Dr. Whittet's 1980 Todd Lecture gives an overview of classical and contemporary work on the causes and functions of fever. It has an excellent bibliography and is available for 50p from the author, "Woburn Lodge", 8 Lyndhurst Drive, Harpenden, Herts AL5 5QN.

The letters of Marsilio Ficino, volume 3, London, Shephard-Walwyn, 1981, 8vo, pp. xiv, 162, £8.00.

This elegantly produced translation of Book 4 of the letters of Ficino, one of the greatest of Renaissance humanists, includes four, nos. 4, 10, 14, 16, on medical themes. The longest, no. 14, in praise of medicine (cf. I.81), is a piece of youthful bravura, in its reference to authors known largely at second hand. The translation reads smoothly, but Ficino must have spoken of Glaucias and Themison, not as is printed here on p. 23. The Greek is badly printed throughout, particularly at letter 14, where the important quotation has its last word mangled – a sad decline from the correct Greek of the 1495 *editio princeps*.

E. MARJORIE WALLACE, *The first vaccinator: Benjamin Jesty of Yetminster and Worth Matravers and his family*, Swanage, [the author], 1981, 8vo, pp. 20, illus., 60p (paperback).

This little pamphlet recounts the story of Benjamin Jesty, a young Dorsetshire farmer who, in 1774, vaccinated his children, twenty-two years before Jenner took up the practice. (Copies are available at 60p + postage from the author, Lobster Cottage, Worth Matravers, Swanage, Dorset BH19 3LQ.)

E. M. MACDONALD, *World-wide conquests of disabilities*, London, Baillière Tindall, 1981, 8vo, pp. xi, 299, £8.50 (paperback).

This breathless dash through the "history, development and present functions of the remedial services" jumbles together the great and the trivial in factual and chronological confusion. Three examples suffice: p. 201, "Rt. Hon. Early of Halsbury"; p. 107, "In 1896 Richard Burton published the *Anatomy of Melancholy*"; p. 114 "Reute produced one [an instrument] and undertood its 'indirect use'. D. Augenspiegel developed an optometer at Cottengen . . .". This presumably refers to the work of Ruete (and Ulrich?) at Göttingen and to Ruete's influential *Der Augenspiegel und das Optometer für praktische Ärzte*, Göttingen, 1852. Although there are three indexes, this farrago lacks the essential one of names.

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ROBERT FORSTER and OREST RANUM (editors), *Medicine and society in France*, trans. by Elborg Forster and Patricia M. Ranum, Baltimore, Md., and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980, 8vo, pp. ix, 176. \$5.95.

This volume in the useful series of translations from *Annales* will be of particular interest to readers of this journal. All of the articles in the present volume originally appeared in a special 1977 issue of *Annales*. They are of mixed quality, some rather long on rhetoric, but others of first-rate importance. Among the latter are Jacques Léonard on 'Women, religion, and medicine', and Muriel Joerger on eighteenth-century French hospitals. Other articles deal with popular medicine, obstetrics, occupational disease, physicians' *éloges*, and discussions of childhood. Most focus primarily on the Enlightenment. The translations read fluently, although there are a few signs of carelessness in editing and translation. For example, pharmacology and pharmacy are confused (p. 26), William Smellie is transmuted to Smellick (p. 75: he was "Smellic" in the original French article), and Daniel Roche's *Le siècle des lumières en Province* is given as "in press" (p. 85), correct at the time the article appeared in 1977 but not by the time the translation appeared.

TREVOR M. COOK, *Samuel Hahnemann. The founder of homoeopathic medicine*, Wellingborough, Northants, Thorsons, 1981, 8vo, pp. 192, illus., £7.95.

Trevor Cook's narrative biography, culled from the standard sources, offers a readable life of the first of the homoeopaths, even if the intellectual and medical foundations of Hahnemann's system are but cursorily treated, and the distinctions between homoeopathic and allopathic medicine too sharply and uncritically drawn. On the social history side, Dr. Cook's account has the merits of stressing Hahnemann's early concern with public health and sanitation, and of showing the intimate and lifelong connexions he has with the mighty and the titled, as patrons, patients, and providers of official positions.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

LUIS S. GRANJEL, *Imprenta medica vasca I*, Salamanca, Catedra de Historia de la Medicina, 1981, 8vo, pp. 94, illus., [no price stated].

RICHARD L. SUTTON jr., *The Suttons' texts of 1916-1975 and etiologic classification of diseases of the skin*, Kansas City, [the author], 1981, 8vo, pp. ix, 108, \$17.50 (available from the author, 3203 West 83rd Terrace, Leawood, Kansas 66206, U.S.A.).