

Book Notices

CHARLES LICHTENTHAELER, *Das Prognostikon wurde nicht vor, sondern nach den Epidemienbüchern III und I verfasst: zweiter Beitrag zur Chronologie der Echten Hippokratischen Schriften*, Hippokratische Studie 13, Études d'Histoire de la Médecine 7, Geneva, Droz, 1989, 8vo, pp. xvi, 134, (paperback).

In this vigorous study, Professor Lichtenthaeler, arguing against the influential opinion of Karl Deichgräber, offers a cogent series of proofs that the author of the *Prognostikon* knew, and probably wrote, *Epidemics* I and III. But given the very different literary form of the three works, arguments from "development" are not as water-tight as one might like. Besides, even those who accept Lichtenthaeler's chronology and his arguments for unitary authorship may remain sceptical as to whether the author was Hippocrates, particularly in the light of Langholf's rehabilitation of *On breaths*.

LORENZ WELKER, *Das 'iatromathematische Corpus': Untersuchungen zu einem alemannischen astrologisch-medizinischen Kompendium des Spätmittelalters mit Textausgabe und einem Anhang: Michel Puffs von Schrick Traktat 'Von den ausgebrannten Wässern' in der handschriftlichen Fassung des Codex Zürich, Zentralbibliothek, C 102b*, Zürcher medizingeschichtliche Abhandlungen 196, Zurich, Juris, 1988, 8vo, pp. 301, SFr. 60.00 (paperback).

This careful Zurich dissertation is of considerable interest, for it shows the interaction in the late Middle Ages of learned and folk medicine. As well as an edition of the 'iatromathematical corpus', a series of regimina, lunar prognostics, and advice on bleeding, which, in general, follows the arrangement in a Zurich manuscript, Zentralbibl. C 102 b, Dr Welker also provides a text of 'On herbal waters' by Michael Puff von Schrick (c. 1400–73), sometime Dean of the Vienna Medical Faculty. The process of transmission of these writings is complex, but Dr Welker is a clear guide through the many problems, and his exposition of the sources and later influence of these diverse writings is worthy of emulation. The existence of a further manuscript should perhaps be noted; Wellcome 439 is a modern holograph of Wellcome 438, copied, alas, after the removal of most of the miniatures. If the date 1373 at Wellcome 438, p. 497, is a mistake for 1573 (as the script would suggest), the owner would be Hans Jakob von Stall the elder, of Solothurn (1539–1615).

ROBERT WILLIS (trans.), *The works of William Harvey*, repr. ed., with a new introduction by Arthur C. Guyton, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1989, 8vo, pp. 28, xcvi, 624, £31.45.

This reprint makes accessible again Willis's versions of *On the movement of the heart* and *On generation*. The introduction, by a distinguished physiologist, is full of error and misconception, and marks a descent even from Willis's own *Introduction*. Let us hope that there is some improvement in future volumes in this series, which intends to reprint selected seminal works in biology and medicine.

FOCION FEBRES-CORDERO, *Historia de la medicina en Venezuela y America*, vol. 1, Caracas, Consejo de Profesores Universitarios Jubilados, 1987, 8vo, pp. 526, illus., (paperback).

The first volume of Dr Febres-Cordero's history of medicine in Venezuela takes his story to 1815. Although there is a chapter on the medicine of the indigenous people of the area, Dr Febres-Cordero is primarily concerned with the establishment of European medicine in Venezuela and other parts of South America. Consequently, a good deal of his volume merely summarizes medical developments in Europe, beginning with the Hippocratics.

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Quaderni del Raggruppamento Tosco-Umbro-Emiliano di Storie della Medicina, no. 3, 1988, ed. Enrico Coturri, 8vo, pp. 92.

The collection comprises short articles, with English summaries, on 'Syphilis and the Sieneese theatre in the sixteenth century'; 'The "leprous complex"'; the aetiology of scabies in eighteenth-century French and Italian literature, and another on a scabies epidemic in Massa prison in 1819; the microscope and the thermometer; ancient Egyptian dermatology; and the Sicilian poet-doctor Giovanni Meli (1740–1815).

EMIL HEUSER, *Justus von Liebig und der Pharmazeut Friedrich Julius Otto in ihren Briefen von 1838–1840 und 1856–1867: (zugleich ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der Pharmazie in Braunschweig)*, Mannheim, Bionomica, 1989, 8vo, pp. 44, illus., DM 14.80, (paperback).

F. J. Otto (1809–70) is best known for his translation into German of Thomas Graham's *Elements of chemistry* in 1840, succeeding editions of which were known as "Graham-Otto"; and for a toxicology (*Anleitung und Ausmittelung der Gifte*, 1856), which appeared in English in 1857. Trained at the University of Jena as a pharmacist, he worked briefly with Liebig at Giessen in 1838 and, while a Professor of Pharmacy and Technical Chemistry at the Collegium Carolinum in Braunschweig, maintained a correspondence with him. The five surviving letters of Liebig to Otto (1838–40) and seven from Otto to Liebig (1856–67) are transcribed and expansively annotated in this well-indexed edition. The letters reflect the current scientific interests of both men (including research on alkaloids) and Otto's predicament when the Collegium was upgraded to polytechnic status by the government in 1862.

Pike's illustrated catalogue of scientific & medical instruments, facs. ed. with an Introduction by Deborah Jean Warner, and Table of Contents and Index to Instruments, Norman Science/Technology Series 1, Dracut, Mass., and San Francisco, Jeremy Norman, 1989, 12mo, pp. xv, 389, 287, 78 illus., \$85.00.

Readers delving into Pike's *Catalogue* will find both more and less than the title of this facsimile 1856 edition suggests. First issued in 1848 by Benjamin Pike jun., son of one of North America's earliest scientific-instrument makers, the catalogue is in fact a detailed user's guide. The Pike family either made or imported a huge range of mathematical, mechanical, electrical, and optical instruments from 1804 until well into the twentieth century. Rating it "the best English language source of information on scientific instruments used in the mid-nineteenth century short of the Encyclopaedia", Deborah Warner also highlights Benjamin Pike jun.'s forte—instruments for instruction in natural philosophy. The Catalogue apparently found immediate use as a manual for general science teachers. As such, it offers considerable insight into mid-nineteenth century practice. Similar insights into medical practice are less forthcoming. Pike's only "medical" products seem to have been some microscopes, optical instruments, and electromedical machines—a tiny proportion of the catalogue entries. This is a pity, because, unlike those of many of his contemporaries, who did stock large medical or surgical ranges, Pike's catalogue is much more than just an illustrated list.

SVEN G. SJÖBERG, *Emmy Carolina Rappe i London 1866–1867*, Sydsvenska Medicinhistoriska Sällskapets Årsskrift, Supplementum 10, Lund, 1988, 8vo, pp. 96, illus., (paperback).

Emmy Carolina Rappe (1835–96), from a noble and philanthropic Swedish family, travelled to London in the spring of 1866 to attend the Training School for Nurses at St Thomas's Hospital. (Her correspondence with Florence Nightingale was published in 1977 as *God bless you, my dear Miss Nightingale*.) This well-illustrated small book does justice to Rappe's year of hard work, including diary extracts (in Swedish) of about 14 of the London hospitals she visited, and lecture notes. Rappe was fascinated by nursing uniforms and the vertiginous heights of English Protestantism. The St Thomas's professors failed, disappointingly, to provide even that modicum of theoretical instruction that would not jeopardize nursing efficiency. She returned to her beloved, poor Sweden ("In England they can afford everything . . .") to enjoy a long and distinguished career.

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GORDON WOLSTENHOLME, assisted by VALÉRIE LUNIEWSKA (eds.), *Lives of the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians continued to 1988 (Munk's Roll, vol. 8)*, IRL Press at Oxford University Press, 1989, 8vo, pp. xv, 634, £55.00.

The publication of another volume of the indispensable *Munk's Roll* needs no apology. This one covers Fellows who have died between 1984 and 1988, including a number who have contributed to the history of medicine: William Brockbank, Sir John Brotherston, A. E. Clark-Kennedy, Sir Graham Wilson, E. A. Spriggs, J. D. Spillane, Sir Peter Medawar, Gwyn Macfarlane, Thomas McKeown, Gerrit Lindeboom, Michael Gelfand and Kenneth Keele, to recall a few. Kenneth Keele's life was written by his brother Cyril, who himself died five months after Kenneth and whose life is also included in the present volume.

CHARLES R. SCRIVER and BARTON CHILDS, *Garrod's Inborn factors in disease*, Oxford Monographs on Medical Genetics 16, Oxford University Press, 1989, 8vo, pp. xiv, 248, £25.00.

Inborn factors in disease was first published in 1931 and despite the fact that Sir Archibald Garrod (1858–1936) had been Regius Professor of Medicine in Oxford, the book aroused little attention. Nor has it been much noticed since, even with historical admiration accorded to Garrod's *Inborn errors of metabolism*. Accordingly, it is good to have this book rehabilitated in some style, with a sensible introduction, annotation on the facsimile reprint, and an afterword on the subsequent history of the main theme of Garrod's essay: chemical individuality.

IAN FRASER, *Blood, sweat, and cheers*, The Memoir Club, London, British Medical Journal, 1989, 8vo, pp. xii, 150, illus., £14.95, abroad £17.50, USA \$29.00 (incl. air postage).

Sir Ian Fraser's brief memoir records a professional life spanning more than half a century. A former president of both the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and the British Medical Association, Fraser's early career in Belfast was interrupted by extensive war service at home and abroad. His anecdotes are related with a self-deprecatory air and, embellished with engaging Ardizzone-like illustrations, they make entertaining reading. In the penultimate chapter, however, they become rivetting. Here Fraser describes his foreign visits with a British surgical club—to the *Allgemeine Krankenhaus* of 1938, where patients could purchase signed photographs of their surgeon in the hospital shop; to Moscow in 1957, where an orchestrated display of brain surgery under local anaesthetic was performed on four patients at once; to the operating theatres of Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, and beyond. Here, in ten pages or so, is all too brief a record of surgical worlds far more remote from us than those of World War Two or Belfast before the NHS, and the book is worth reading for this alone.

GEORGES CANGUILHEM, *The normal and the pathological*, with an Introduction by Michel Foucault, trans. Carolyn R. Fawcett and Robert S. Cohen, repr. ed., New York, Zone Books, 1989, 8vo, pp. 327, £21.95, dist. MIT Press.

Georges Canguilhem's 1943 doctoral thesis was extended to form the 1966 French edition of *On the normal and the pathological*, first translated into English in 1978 and now reprinted unchanged, save for the loss of the preposition in the title. Part of its attraction probably resulted from the late Michel Foucault's laudatory 'Introduction', but Canguilhem's monograph still retains a freshness after almost half a century. Arranged around a set of philosophical and historical issues on the relationship between concepts of "normal" and "abnormal", it includes stimulating discussions of the work of Broussais and Bernard as well as philosophical thinkers such as Comte and Leriche.

RICHARD MOULD, *More of Mould's medical anecdotes*, Bristol, Adam Hilger, 1989, 8vo, pp. xvi, 269, illus., £14.95.

Volumes of medical anecdotes are often so much flam, the apochryphal and the over-familiar rubbing shoulders with jokes and quips that do not survive the cold glare of print. Richard Mould's second collection has more lasting entertainment value than most; for the author has gone beyond assembling drolleries about doctors, and has contributed some illuminating entries

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of his own on pioneering surgical operations, anatomical museums, graphology, and so forth. There are some admirable illustrations, mainly from the Wellcome collection, and the pleasures of the volume are enhanced by numerous choice typos ("Thomas Walkley, the editor of *The Lancet*", etc.).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN (ed.), *The book of London*, London, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1989, 4to, pp. 320, illus., £18.00.

Books about one's own city provoke guilt (the enthusiasm for unvisited buildings and collections), mirth (the warnings to avoid streets in which for years the greatest danger has been the 3 p.m. stampede out of witty restaurants), rarely shocks of recognition. *The book of London* is about the city one knows. Visitors, too, see thousands of terrace houses from the airport trains before they find Buckingham Palace. The houses are represented among the hundreds of well-reproduced and useful illustrations here; the Palace not at all (although the old Buckingham House is shown). Evidently, a sophisticated variety of architectural historiography has informed the book. It covers the histories of work (including medicine) and leisure in the city, as well as its history, topography, and houses. Thirty-seven contributors, whose fame in many cases extends beyond the Chiswick roundabout, are named but not in connection with particular sections.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title 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.)

LOUIS BAKAY, *Neurosurgeons of the past*, Springfield, Illinois, Charles C Thomas, 1987, 8vo, pp. vii, 109, illus.

BRIGITT YVONNE BOHNER, *Zur Ausbildung und Tätigkeit der Zürcher Hebammen im 19. Jahrhundert*, Zürcher Medizingeschichtliche Abhandlungen Nr. 208, Zurich, Juris, 1989, 8vo, pp. 152, SFr. 40.00 (paperback).

ÁLVARO MARTÍNEZ VIDAL, *Neurociencias y revolución científica en España. La circulación neural*, Estudios sobre la Ciencia 8, Madrid, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, 1989, 8vo, pp. xiii, 257, illus.

LEONARD MERVYN, *Nerve troubles*, Wellingborough, Northants, Thorsons, 1989, 12mo, pp. 112, £1.99 (paperback).

LEONARD MERVYN, *Woman's change of life*, Wellingborough, Northants, Thorsons, 1989, 12mo, pp. 96, £1.99 (paperback).

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE, *Bibliography of the History of Medicine*, vol. 24, Bethesda, National Institutes of Health, 1988, 4to, pp. x, 311, (paperback).

RUTH RICHARDSON, *Death, dissection and the destitute*, London, Penguin Books, 1989, 8vo, pp. xvii, 426, illus., £5.99/\$9.95, (paperback).

MARTIN TOMASCHETT, *Medizingeschichte der Cadi (Bündner Oberland)*, Zürcher Medizingeschichtliche Abhandlungen 209, Zurich, Juris, 1989, 8vo, pp. 142, SFr. 36.00 (paperback).

IAN M. WATT, *The principles and practice of electron microscopy*, paperback ed., with amendments, Cambridge University Press, 1989, 8vo, pp. viii, 304, illus., £20.00, \$29.95 (paperback).

CONSTANT WIESER, HANS ETTER, and JOSEF WELLAUER, *Radiologie in der Schweiz*, Bern, Hans Huber, 1989, 8vo, pp. 336, illus., SFr. 49.00, DM 56.00.