

## Book Reviews

TYPHUS, or JAW FRACTURES. It must be noted, however, that the names of medical men do not appear in this alphabetical listing, hence it is not a particularly helpful guide to the scholar concerned with medical biography, especially as the index also fails to provide a way-in to great names. The absence of running heads, moreover, leaves the book exasperatingly more difficult to consult than it need have been, and the system of cross-referencing is also rather rudimentary.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating: does this selective bibliography actually contain the choice items in the categories listed? Unfortunately, the volume is very hit-and-miss in what has been included and what left out. Look up ANEMIA and you find an entry; look up CHLOROSIS and there's nothing, despite the recent admirable publications by (amongst others) Figlio and Loudon. Look up CHILDREN and there are numerous items, but the fundamental work of Philippe Ariès has been left out; look up CHINA and Joseph Needham's magisterial oeuvre is omitted; try CHOLERA and Margaret Pelling's fundamental monograph isn't listed; go to CONTRACEPTION and the standard writings of Angus McLaren aren't there; look under ALCOHOLISM and the seminal paper by Bynum is missing. Similarly, certain topics get plenty of insertions, but others hardly get a mention (is there any real point for example in listing just one single entry under the heading ANTHROPOLOGY: a Johns Hopkins MA thesis of 1973 on Freud and anthropology, when surely what the reader requires are references to the extensive literature on the involvement of nineteenth-century medical men in the development of physical anthropology, and some guide to contemporary medical anthropology?).

Of course, given the oceans of recent scholarship in the history of medicine, a bibliography like this must be selective; and no compiler can be an expert in all fields. But too often here the reader cannot feel confident he will be selectively guided to the most important publications. The lack of an extensive introduction, and of a systematic classification of entries means that the reader is wholly thrown back upon the alphabetical listing, which sometimes is fruitful, sometimes at best patchy. Erlen's will not take its place on the shelves as a definitive guide, but rather as a useful source of stimulus.

Roy Porter  
Wellcome Institute

RUDOLF VIRCHOW and RUDOLF LEUBUSCHER (editors), *Die medicinische Reform. Eine Wochenschrift, erschienen vom 10. Juli 1848 bis zum 29. Juni 1849*, Berlin, DDR, Akademie-Verlag, 1983, 4to, pp. iv, 276, M 70.00.

The movement for medical reform in early nineteenth-century Germany, described by Kurt Finkenrath (*Die Medizinalreform. Die Geschichte der ersten deutschen Standesbewegung von 1800–1850*, Leipzig, 1929), came to a climax during—and as part of—the Revolution of 1848. Both Erwin H. Ackerknecht ('Beiträge zur Geschichte der Medicinalreform von 1848', *Sudhoffs Arch. Gesch. Med.*, 1932, 25: 61–109, 113–183) and Johanna Bleker ('Die Medizinalreformbewegung von 1848/49', *Deutsches Ärzteblatt—Ärztliche Mitteilungen*, 1976, 73: 2901–2905, 2982–2988) have shown how medical reform was an integral part of the political, revolutionary developments of 1848–49. The most significant periodical at the time to argue for radical medical reform was a weekly, *Die medicinische Reform*, edited by two young doctors, Rudolf Virchow (1821–1902) and Rudolf Leubuscher (1821–61). The first twenty-six of the total of fifty-two issues were edited jointly by the two friends; the subsequent ones by Virchow alone. Publication of their weekly was not a lucrative venture, and circulation was restricted to a mere 230 or so copies.

The reform movement was two-pronged: it wanted an improvement in the organization of both the medical profession and public health. It advocated the integration of disparate groups of medical practitioners, the integration also of medical education between the different German States, and the development of a scientific medicine based on materialistic principles. To Virchow, medical reform was, above all, a matter of revolutionary politics. The medical profession had to be concerned with not just medical questions in the narrow sense of the word, but also social and thus political conditions. Characteristic is the following sentence

## Book Reviews

from the opening article in *Die medicinische Reform*: "Die Arzte sind die natürlichen Anwälté der Armen und die sociale Frage fällt zu einem erheblichen Theil in ihre Jurisdiction."

The continued interest of the issues addressed in Virchow's weekly is shown by the present photomechanical reproduction from East Germany. It comes not many years after a West German edition (Georg Olms Verlag, Hildesheim, 1975). The East German republication has been handsomely produced and enlarged with a ten-page epilogue by Peter Schneck.

Nicholas Rupke  
Wellcome Institute

OTTO SONNTAG (editor), *The correspondence between Albrecht von Haller and Charles Bonnet*, Berne, Stuttgart, and Vienna, Hans Huber, 1983, 8vo, pp. 1338, SFr. 278.00.

This work is remarkable for a variety of reasons. The 928 letters and archival materials at the Burgerbibliothek in Berne and at the Bibliothèque publique et universitaire in Geneva have been deciphered and transcribed with cleverness and method. As a result, Sonntag's edition is remarkably clear and well annotated. A useful introduction (pp. 13–31) details the nature of the exchanges, the topics of correspondence, and the unsuccessful attempts in Bonnet's circle after Haller's death (1777) at editing for publication part of the correspondence. Except for a few detached pieces, the larger part of the correspondence had remained unpublished when Sonntag took up the task of bringing it to scholarly light (with the appropriate notes and a detailed index for names and subjects, pp. 1307–1338).

Spanning the period 1754–77, the exchanges reflect the manifold intellectual life of two major "Aufklärer", central figures in the history of the life sciences. It is impossible to assess the wealth of information historians will extract from this impressive collection on the "ideological" setting of scientific research. For instance, the political and religious positions of both Bonnet and Haller determined a specific brand of Enlightenment philosophy, quite different from the spirit of the French *Encyclopédie*. Their philosophies involved a significant recasting of the presuppositions behind the apparently uniform empiricist methodology, which has been taken to characterize unequivocally the ideal of science in the eighteenth century. Historians of science and medicine should be especially interested by the way some major topics of Haller's and Bonnet's published scientific works are "subjectively" presented and discussed in the correspondence: Haller's doctrine of irritability and sensibility; his views on major functions: circulation of the blood and respiration; his conceptions of a physiological system; Haller's and Bonnet's preformationist theories of generation, influencing each other and developing in opposition to the epigenetist views and philosophical presuppositions of Maupertuis, Buffon, C.F. Wolff, and J. T. Needham; not to mention Bonnet's original psychological theory, or the more general discussion of scientific methodology.

Close scrutiny of the materials in this correspondence will demand a reassessment of the "image" of life science in the Enlightenment, a crucial period in its development.

François Duchesneau  
Département de Philosophie  
Université de Montréal

GIUSEPPE ONGARO (editor), *Leopoldo M.A. Caldani, Lazzaro Spallanzani. Carteggio (1768–98)*, Milan, Istituto Editoriale Cisalpino-La Goliardica, 1982, 8vo, pp. 419, illus., L.25.000 (paperback).

The complete correspondence between Caldani and Spallanzani (74 extant letters from Spallanzani and 64 from Caldani) enhances the perception of Caldani (1725–1813) as a scientist in close relationship with major representatives of the new observational and experimental trends in anatomy, physiology, and pathology. It complements the image emerging from his correspondence with Haller, edited by Hintzsche in 1966, and with Fontana, edited by Mazzolini and Ongaro in 1980. Following in the footsteps of Haller,