

Book Notices

Jost Gippert, *Index Galenicus. Wortformenindex zu den Schriften Galens*, 2 vols, Dettelbach, J H Röhl, 1997, pp. 1281, DM 398.00, SFr 354.00 (3-927-522-09-0).

Anyone who wishes to find a quotation or a topic in the massive corpus of Galenic writings cannot but rejoice in the appearance of this Greek index to Galen. It is based on the TLG index that is available on CD-ROM, but has the advantage of needing no complex equipment and is swifter to consult. Each Greek word, indexed (alas) according to the full form of the noun, is located by a bold number, indicating the treatise, and a second number showing the paper and volume in the standard Kühn edition or, for texts not to be found there, in later Greek editions. It is easy to use, especially for a swift check. Its defects are in part those of TLG: texts preserved only in non-Greek languages are omitted, and the investigator searching for a concept without knowing the exact Greek word may not be helped. Furthermore, unlike TLG, a search for two or more words together is not easy.

For concepts, provided one knows Latin, the first recourse is still to the index in vol. 20 of Kühn, which indicates the most obvious discussion. But that index is a delusion, far from being complete, it is a truncated version of a remarkable Renaissance work, the Latin Index provided by A M Brasalova for the 1552 Giuntine edition of Galen (and reprinted independently in 1975). This is the best guide to concepts and context (and to some works by Galen extant only in Latin). Its defects are simple: finding a passage in Latin translation and collating it with the Greek of Kühn is very time-consuming, and the search requires access to Latin and to a Giuntine edition. Those without Latin but with Arabic can use the indices to the Arabic texts and translations in the *Corpus Medicorum Graecorum* series, and then follow up any cross-references there given.

No index to Galen is perfect—that is Galen's fault, not the compiler's—but this two-volume

set has many advantages over its alternatives. It can only help to improve knowledge of Galen's style, and to make consultation of his writings a good deal easier than it was before.

Kay Peter Jankrift, *Leprose als Streiter Gottes. Institutionalisierung und Organisation des Ordens vom Heiligen Lazarus zu Jerusalem von seinen Anfängen bis zum Jahre 1350*, Vita regularis, Band 4, Münster and Hamburg, Lit Verlag, 1996, pp. viii, 262, DM 58.80 (3-8258-2589-2).

Few victims of disease have provoked such extreme reactions as the medieval leper, who appears to us in a variety of guises: from saint to sinner, from beloved of Christ to social outcast. This scholarly and wide-ranging study of the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem brings us another image, namely that of the leper as God's champion, a status formally bestowed by Pope Urban IV in 1262, but clearly recognized well before this date. Although the author presents an administrative and institutional study of an order which transformed itself from a small brotherhood of lepers in Jerusalem to an international network of well-endowed and successful hospitals, as well as of crusading knights, he provides a great deal of valuable information for medical historians. Chapters on the ambiguous contemporary response to leprosy, on the care of lepers in the crusaders' territories in the Middle East and on the regulation of the Order's *leprosaria* in the West make a notable contribution to our knowledge of a topic which is still often widely misunderstood. Along with a conventional desire to cherish the leper as Christ's representative on earth, went a pragmatic approach to palliative treatment (such as baths) recommended by native Muslims and Greeks. Jankrift's detailed analysis of the way in which the Augustinian rule was adapted by the order and his examination of the evolution of its ordinances will be of interest to anyone

working on the history of the medieval hospital. Given the potential of usefulness of this book, it is a great shame that it appeared without an index.

Dai Walters, *A catalogue of selected portraits and pictures at Apothecaries' Hall, The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London*, London, The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, 1997, pp. x, 117, illus., £15.00 (0-9504987-3-4). (£16.40 by mail, orders to: The Society of Apothecaries, Black Friars Lane, London, EC4V 6EJ.)

Dai Walters, Bedel to the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London, has written the first catalogue devoted to the painting collection of the Society, founded in 1617. The membership, as represented by the portraits, reflects the changing nature of the Society, from its early concerns with the dispensing of medicines, to its role as a medical examining board, as well as the founding and care of the Chelsea Physic Garden. The catalogue follows the arrangement of the paintings, mainly portraits, room by room. Each entry is accompanied by a full-page illustration, although none in colour. This regrettably does not capture the full effects of the recent cleaning of the paintings, but the many instances of newly revealed signatures and dates have been recorded in the catalogue.

Through the lively entries we learn of Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward (1791–1868), whose glazed “Wardian” cases allowed the successful transportation of tea plants to the Himalayas, and Thomas Wheeler (1754–1847), whose enthusiasm in his plant gathering forays caused him to be mistaken on one occasion for an escaped lunatic. The Society also owns an unfinished portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723–1792) of a pensive, bearded John Hunter (1728–1793). The same pose was used by Reynolds for the well-known portrait of Hunter in the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

The catalogue could have been enriched with further information about the artists and

of other existing versions of paintings. For example, the undated portrait attributed to Allan Ramsay (1713–1784) of Richard Mead (1673–1754) standing before a statue of Aesculapius is one of several versions—one signed and dated 1740 is in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery. As the engraver and diarist George Vertue recorded, Mead was an important patron of Ramsay, introducing him to London society upon his return from Italy. He later sat for a related full-length portrait, which Ramsay gave to the Foundling Hospital.

Christian G Bien, *Erklärungen zur Entstehung von Missbildungen im physiologischen und medizinischen Schrifttum der Antike*, Sudhoffs Archiv Beihefte 38, Stuttgart, Franz Steiner, 1997, pp. 212, DM/SFr 74.00 (3-515-07128-8).

The title of this volume very precisely delineates its contents. Bien provides a detailed study of the explanations offered for the occurrence of congenital deformities in ancient philosophical and medical writings, from the pre-socratics to the physicians of the Roman imperial era.

Bien organizes his material according to whether deformation is caused before, during or after conception. For the proponents of pangenesis, and many others, considered that parental imperfections, whether innate or acquired, were inherited, or at least inheritable. While an insufficiency, excess or problematic mixing of seed, as well as malformation of the uterus and a more generally unfit state of body or mind, could all result in mis-conception; and the same factors, together with the environment, lifestyle and health of the pregnant women, might also produce subsequent development failures.

Each line of argument is discussed in depth, with the complexities of Aristotle's reproductive theories receiving most coverage, but only in relation to each other and some other elements of the wider cosmological or physiological programmes in which they feature; no attempt is

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made to fit this discourse into any broader cultural patterns. This seems a pity given the prominent place of the prodigious and marvellous in the classical world.

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.)

Robert Barer, *One young man and total war (from Normandy to concentration camp, a doctor's letters home)*, Edinburgh and Durham, Pentland Press, 1998, pp. xviii, 298, illus., £18.00 (1-85821-569-2).

Charles G Gross, *Brain, vision, memory: tales in the history of neuroscience*, Cambridge, Mass., MIT Press, 1998, pp. xviii, 255, illus., £22.50 (0-262-07186-X).

Christian Pross, *Paying for the past: the struggle over reparations for surviving victims of the Nazi terror*, trans. Belinda Cooper, Baltimore and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998, pp. xxii, 265, £25.00 (0-8018-5824-0).