

### Book Reviews

should be guided and controlled by the medical education authority—the Universities and the University Grants Committee’.

C. C. BOOTH

*Louis A. Duhring, M.D., Pathfinder for Dermatology*, by LAWRENCE CHARLES PARISH, Springfield, Illinois, C. C. Thomas, 1967, pp. xviii, 137, illus., \$4.40.

Duhring was one of the few American physicians of his time to become well known in Europe. His textbook on diseases of the skin (1877) appeared in an Italian edition (1882) and in a French also (1883); a little later there were Russian and Chinese editions. A collection of his papers on dermatitis herpetiformis were included in *Selected Monographs on Dermatology* published by the New Sydenham Society of London in 1893 on the invitation of Sir Jonathan Hutchinson. He also contributed to the *International Atlas of Rare Skin Diseases* prepared by Unna in Hamburg.

Louis Adolphus Duhring was born in Philadelphia in December 1845, a son of a prosperous German business man who had emigrated from Mecklenburg in 1818 and a Swiss mother. Although his father had written a book on education advocating public schools in a democratic country he was sent to a private school and then, at the age of fifteen, to the University of Pennsylvania. He was brought up to be bilingual in a family which used both English and German and to have a love for music in a home where almost every member played some instrument or sang. At the university he studied at first the arts, algebra, geometry and chemistry, but in June 1863, when seventeen, joined the infantry to fight for the Federalists in the civil war. He saw little action and in the autumn of 1864 entered the university medical school and later had clinical training at the Philadelphia Hospital. He became Doctor of Medicine in March 1867, the title of his thesis being *An Essay on Nervous Gout*. In order to become an intern or resident physician at the same hospital a written and oral examination was required, which Duhring passed. He started his internship in April 1867 and soon acquired an interest in dermatology. As a student he had received no training in this subject except to be told that ‘all skin diseases can be divided into two types: those that are helped by sulfur and those that are not’.

Early in 1868 his fiancée died. He never married, but later lived with his sister to whom he was greatly attached. In August 1868 Duhring arrived in Europe in order to study dermatology and went first to Vienna where Ferdinand von Hebra (1816–80) and his son-in-law Moritz Kaposi (1837–1902) were so greatly advancing the subject. From Vienna he went on to l’Hôpital St. Louis in Paris where Bazin (1807–78) and Vidal (1825–93) were working and which, fifty years before, the great Alibert (1768–1837) had made the world’s centre of dermatology. Thence Duhring went to London where he came under the influence of Jonathan Hutchinson (1828–1913), Charles Fagge (1838–83), Tilbury Fox (1836–79) and Erasmus Wilson (1809–84). Before returning to Philadelphia in the spring of 1870 he visited dermatological clinics in Norway, Germany and Turkey. He then ‘opened an office’ limiting his practice to dermatology. Specialization such as this was rare in the United States at the time, though there were a few skin clinics in Philadelphia. Duhring opened one of his own in 1871 and this proved most successful. In 1875 (not 1876 as in the text) he was appointed Clinical Professor of Skin Diseases at the University of Pennsylvania.

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The American Medical Association met in Philadelphia in 1876 and the fourteen dermatologists at the congress founded the American Dermatological Association, Duhring being one of the vice-presidents. He remained active in American dermatology until 1910 and died in 1913. He had been a shrewd investor but surprised even his family when he left over a million dollars to the University of Pennsylvania.

How should we assess Duhring's achievements? To call him a 'pathfinder for dermatology' is an overstatement unless we add 'in America'. Certainly he did not achieve for dermatology as much as Willan (1757–1812) and Hutchinson did in Britain, Alibert, Biett (1781–1840) and Cazenave (1795–1877) in France, or von Hebra and Kaposi in Vienna. However, he did a great deal to establish dermatology as a specialty in the United States. Although dermatitis herpetiformis had been described by Hebra (with another name) Duhring added a great deal to our knowledge of this condition. Perhaps his greatest achievement was to teach that the skin was part of the entire body and that dermatology was concerned with more than superficial changes in the integument. It was for this reason that he preferred the term 'cutaneous medicine'.

This book is an interesting account of a remarkable man and of the development of medicine in Philadelphia in the last few decades of the nineteenth century. It is pleasantly written except for the occasional phrase such as 'chronologic peer'. 'Pityriasis' does not mean 'mild inflammation' (p. 49).

S. T. ANNING

*Die historischen Grundlagen der Leberforschung*, Vol. II: *Die Geschichte der Leberforschung von Galen bis Claude Bernard*, by N. MANI (Basler Veröffentlichungen zur Geschichte der Medizin und der Biologie, Fasc. XXI), Basle and Stuttgart, Schwabe Verlag, 1967, pp. 649, illus., S.Fr. 68.

In a previously published monograph in the *Basler Veröffentlichungen* Dr. Mani has already set forth ancient conceptions of the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the liver, with special emphasis on Greek and Roman antiquity (Fasc. IX, *Die historischen Grundlagen der Leberforschung*, I.). The present volume spans sixteen hundred years of anatomical and physiological investigation of the liver but omits consideration of pathology. The reader will find in Dr. Mani's book a careful and detailed presentation of the ideas and findings (interspersed with a wealth of citations drawn from the primary sources) of every hepatologist of any importance in this period. The text is further supplemented by 137 pages of notes and citations from primary sources in fine print. Another valuable feature is an extensive and well reproduced collection of anatomical illustrations drawn from the medical literature of the thirteenth to the nineteenth century.

Dr. Mani considers Galen the ancient and Bernard the modern focal point in the history of hepatology. After a long period during which Galen's doctrines were transmitted with little change from generation to generation there came the 'morphological revolution' of the sixteenth century. It was led of course by Vesalius, but Dr. Mani gives an honourable and important place to Leonardo. The seventeenth century then witnessed the integration into hepatology of the Harveian circulation and the system of lacteals and lymphatics newly discovered by Aselli, Pecquet,