

## Book Notices

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ROBERT BURTON, *The anatomy of melancholy*, vol. 2, ed. Nicolas K. Kiessling, Thomas C. Faulkner, and Rhonda L. Blair, Oxford University Press, 1990, 8vo, pp. xiv, 443, £55.00.

Maintaining the enviable editorial standards of the first volume (reviewed in *Med. Hist.*, 1990, 34: 449–50), this volume covers the Second Partition of Burton's *omnium gatherum* of melancholy. It deals largely with therapeutics (including Burton's rejection of the lawfulness of magical means), but also encompasses the celebrated 'Consolatory Digression' aimed to teach philosophy to the downcast: since "what is our life but a prison?", Burton asks, there is no reason why the melancholy should feel disappointed. Burton's self-reflective wit is particularly strong in the discussion of remedies. "Many things", he quotes a learned authority, "are written in our bookes, which seeme to the Reader to be excellent remeides, but they that make use of them, are often deceived, and take for Physicke, poyson". *Caveat lector*.

RUDOLF VIRCHOW, *Letters to his parents 1839 to 1864*, ed. Marie Rabl née Virchow (2nd ed., 1907), English translation, rev. and ed. by L. J. Rather, Resources in Medical History Series, Nantucket, Mass., Science History Publications/USA, 1990, 8vo, pp. xix, 185, illus., \$20.00.

In 1906 Virchow's letters to his parents were published in an edition edited by his daughter, Marie Rabl. L. J. Rather, a veteran translator of Virchow, has added these letters to his *oeuvre*, and he has added a translation of Virchow's doctoral dissertation of 1843 and certain letters by Virchow to his two youngest daughters, Marie and Johanna. These letters cover Virchow's medical education, his early explorations of cellular pathology, and his campaigns for medical and social reform, as well as revealing the importance of his well-connected uncle. It is to be hoped that this excellent edition may prompt someone to undertake a new edition of Virchow's letters, which would include letters omitted from the original edition, particularly those relating to his scientifically fruitful period after 1849 while professor in Würzburg.

JACOB WOLFF, *The science of cancerous disease from earliest times to the present* (1907), transl. Barbara Ayoub, with an Introduction by Saul Jarcho, Resources in Medical History Series, Nantucket, Mass., Science History Publications/USA, 1990, 8vo, pp. liii, 714, illus., \$59.95.

The phrase "Germanic scholarship" often conjures up the image of a megalithic study, comprehensive, unsurpassable, and possibly impenetrable. Image and reality in this case, as usual, are sometimes at the same focus, sometimes not. Jacob Wolff was a Berlin physician who received his doctoral degree in 1888 and died in 1938. Wolff, Saul Jarcho implies, was little-known in his own time and less so now (he does not appear in Garrison's *History of medicine*, for example). Wolff's study is a comprehensive account of theories of cancer from antiquity to the early twentieth century. The history, however, is not simply of the first there was this, then there was that, type, but is organized around intellectual themes: blastema theory, cell theory, etc. L. J. Rather employed Wolff's study in his excellent *Genesis of cancer* and clearly had interpretive differences with the author. Rather's book is the obvious and the best place to read the *story* of the history of cancer. Wolff's work is a reference book; a bibliographical gold mine and route map. This translation is another justification of this fine series. Why the translator, who seems to have done an excellent job, only gets her name in very small type on the verso of the title page is a mystery.

STEVEN G. FRIEDMAN, *A history of vascular surgery*, Mount Kisco, NY, Futura, 1989, 8vo, pp. xi, 212, illus., \$27.50.

Many books of this sort, once they move into the twentieth century, become invaluable bibliographical resources. This volume is no exception. Following a chapter called 'Beginnings' and a look at the Hunters and Astley Cooper the work gets into its stride, relying more on

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primary than secondary sources (thank goodness: "Claudius Galen, 'the Clarissimus'" is a bit much, p. 4). The technical chapters on vascular surgery (no hearts here) are succinct and for the enthusiast alone. The quotes and assertions lack footnotes. The bibliographies, however, may, one day, save someone a lot of work.

HENRY R. ROLLIN, *Festina lente: a psychiatric odyssey*, The Memoir Club, London, British Medical Journal, 1990, 8vo, pp. x, 194, illus., £14.95 (BMA members £13.95), abroad £17.50 (£16.50), including (air) postage.

This Memoir Club series may delight social historians of the twenty-second century, but from here and now it is a variable feast. Rollin's contribution spans a long career, from his joining the London County Council Mental Hospitals Department out of "dire necessity" in 1938, to his forensic work post-retirement, via the wartime RAF, 50s America in the heyday of Freud worship, and the Parole Boards. It is a somniferous journey; "Medical Officers in mental hospitals were not overworked", and the drift into jobs, travel, and working interests is much more "lente" than "festinant". A chapter entitled 'History of Medicine' (3 and a bit pages) has him "always aware in a somewhat vague and woolly way that there was much to be learnt from history apart from its expressly narrative content". There are glimpses of another world, in his descriptions of a patient's dance or WAAF selection work, but the tone of "enforced idleness" is curiously uninteresting. There is much personal affection in this book, but non-*cognoscenti* will not be touched.

AANT ELZINGA, JAN NOLIN, ROB PRANGER, and SUNE SUNESESSON (eds), *In science we trust? Moral and political issues of science in society*, Science and Technology Policy Studies 2, Lund University Press, 1990, 8vo, pp. 392, (paperback).

This is no text for the faint-hearted. It contains 21 dense, extremely well-informed essays on science and its relation to such matters as ethics, post-modernism, "determination", and feminist epistemology. The essays are impressive testimony to how much committed, exciting work on science and its social relations is being done in Northern Europe, especially in Scandinavia and The Netherlands. Unfortunately some of them demonstrate that wielding English as a foreign language while employing sociological terminology can lead to semantic unsteadiness. This warning light is not meant as a stop sign; many of the essays are rewarding. The book comprises the published proceedings of a conference and it is hard to see the work having a long-term consultation value given the deliberately "work-in-progress" feel of all the papers. The volume, however, can be usefully consulted as a sort of directory of authors working on science and ethics.

YOSIO KAWAKITA, SHIZU SAKAI, and YASUO OTSUKA (eds), *History of therapy* (Proceedings of the 10th International Symposium on the Comparative History of Medicine—East and West, September 8–September 15, 1985, Susono-shi, Shizuoka, Japan), Tokyo, Ishiyaku EuroAmerica for the Division of Medical History, The Tanaguchi Foundation, 1990, 8vo, pp. xviii, 288.

Symposia of the Tanaguchi Foundation have previously been reviewed in *Medical History*, and it is useful to have this record of an instructive meeting, even though it has taken five years to be published. As Vivian Nutton observes in introducing the symposium, evaluating the effectiveness of therapeutic principles is fraught with great difficulties. The speakers at the symposium described widely different theories and practices adopted in the Roman Empire, Islam, ancient China and Japan, and recent Western civilization, but were not, on the whole, critical about their efficacy. This account stimulates much thought about the beliefs which have influenced humans in responding to the problems presented by sickness.

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INGEBORG MEYER-PALMEDO and GERHARD FICHTNER (eds), *Freud-Bibliographie mit Werkkondkordanz*, Frankfurt am Main, S. Fischer, 1990, pp. 232 (3–10-022742–5).

This bibliography is a revised and enlarged edition of Meyer-Palmedo's *Sigmund Freud-Konkordanz und -Gesamtbibliographie* (1975), which has itself gone through four editions. Albrecht Hirschmüller has recently cited it as a model to follow, in his review of Norman Kiehl's *Freud without hindsight* (*Med. Hist.*, 1991, **35**(1): 133–4), which discusses the current state of Freud bibliography.

MIRKO D. GRMEK, *History of AIDS: emergence and origin of a modern pandemic*, transl. Russell C. Maulitz and Jacalyn Duffin, Princeton University Press, 1990, pp. xii, 279, \$29.95 (0–691–08552–8).

The first, French edition of this book (*Histoire du Sida: début et origine d'une pandémie actuelle*, 1989) was warmly reviewed by Roy Porter in this journal (*Med. Hist.*, 1990, **34**: 458–9). The distinction of its translators may be interpreted as another tribute to its quality, and to its author.

#### BOOK 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.)

AXEL BAUER, *Die Krankheitslehre auf dem Weg zur Naturwissenschaftlichen Morphologie: Pathologie auf den Versammlungen deutscher Naturforscher und Ärzte von 1822–1872*, Schriftenreihe zur Geschichte der Versammlungen Deutscher Naturforscher und Ärzte 5, Stuttgart, Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft, 1989, pp. 293, DM 82.00 (3–8047–0930–3).

ROBERT H. BLANK, *Regulating reproduction*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1990, 8vo, pp. xii, 272, \$27.50 (0–231–07016–0).

EDWARD D. CHURCHILL, *Wanderjahr: the education of a surgeon*, ed. J. Gordon Scannell, Boston, The Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, 1990, pp. xvi, 213, illus., \$18.95 (0–88135–067–2).

KAREN B. EKELMAN (ed.), *New medical devices: invention, development, and use*, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, Series on Technology and Social Priorities, Washington, National Academy Press, 1988, pp. xiv, 186, £29.65, £21.10 (paperback).

WILLIAM J. ELLOS, *Ethical practice in clinical medicine*, with Case Studies by John Douard, London and New York, Routledge, 1990, pp. 190, £35.00 (0–415–05069–3), £8.99 (paperback, 0–415–05070–7).

JOHN FORRESTER, *The seductions of psychoanalysis: Freud, Lacan and Derrida*, Cambridge Studies in French, Cambridge University Press, 1990, 8vo, pp. xii, 421, £35.00, \$49.50.

DIETER JETTER, *Santiago, Toledo, Granada: Drei spanische Kreuzhallenspitäler und ihr Nachhall in aller Welt*, Geschichte des Hospitals, Bd. 6, Stuttgart, Franz Steiner Verlag Wiesbaden, 1987, 8vo, pp. 338, illus., DM 96.00 (paperback).

MICHAEL KUBOVY, *The psychology of perspective and Renaissance art*, paperback ed., Cambridge University Press, 1988, pp. xiv, 192, illus., £10.95, \$16.95 (0–521–36849–9).

JOSÉ M. LÓPEZ PIÑERO, *Clásicos médicos valencianos del siglo XVI*, Valencia, Generalitat Valencia, Conselleria de Sanitat i Consum, 1990, pp. 141, illus., (84–7890–307–0).