

Book Notices

James J Beaton, Roy Miller, Iain T Boyle (eds), *The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow: treasures of the College*, Glasgow, Carynx Group on behalf of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 1998, pp. 216, illus., £28.00 (+£2.00 p&p from The Library, The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 232–242 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5RJ) (0-9534465-0-6).

Published in celebration of the tercentenary of the founding of the library of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, this book claims to be “neither a detailed history of the library nor a coffee-table publication” (p. 9). Somewhat closer to the latter than the former, this is a very readable book suitable for browsing and easy reference. It covers a range of topics, of two to four pages in length, relating to the library, its holdings and accumulated material culture, grouped for accessibility under seven subject headings: college topics, classical texts, the city around us, manuscripts, artefacts, art works and a natural miscellany. The entries range from informative descriptions of the College’s main treasures, such as its medical incunabula (pp. 50–3) or William Clift’s manuscript household account book of the surgeon John Hunter (pp. 152–5), to truly entertaining pieces such as the account of Andrew Boorde, English physician and author of the 1557 *Breviary of healthe*, who sojourned briefly in Glasgow (pp. 62–3).

Some of the entries would have benefited from the briefest of contextual explanations. It is unlikely, for example, that the general reader, or even all the Fellows, would automatically know of Ambroise Paré or his “*Collected Works*” (p. 19) referred to in the account of Peter Lowe, founder of the College. A cross reference to the later entry on Paré, the great sixteenth-century French military surgeon (pp. 64–6), would have

sufficed. There are also some minor errors, such as the archive reference to the first Faculty Minute Book, which is given as RCPSG 1/1/1/1a (p. 46), although the College’s own catalogue listing identifies this as the transcription of the original. However, the book is particularly to be commended for its mixture of black and white and colour illustration, at its best, perhaps, in the reproduction of the Foulis engravings and John James Audubon’s ornithological prints.

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 Library for the History & Understanding of Medicine.)

Alain Bosson, *Histoire des médecins fribourgeois (1850–1900). Des premières anesthésies à l’apparition des rayons X*, University of Fribourg, 1998, pp. x, 225, SFr 38.00.

Lilian R Furst, *Just talk: narratives of psychotherapy*, Lexington, University Press of Kentucky, 1999, pp. xv, 265, \$39.95 (hardback 0-8131-2113-2).

Stephen R Kandall with the assistance of **Jennifer Petrillo**, *Substance and shadow: women and addiction in the United States*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Harvard University Press, 1999, pp. xiii, 353, £10.50 (paperback 0-674-85361-X). The hardback edition was reviewed by Virginia Berridge in *Medical History*, 1997, 41: 515–16.

Kyoo-Sik Lee, *Das Volk von Moskau und seine bedrohte Gesundheit, Menschen*

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und Strukturen Historisch-sozialwissenschaftliche Studien Band 10, Frankfurt am Main and Berlin, Peter Lang, 1996, pp. 277, DM 34.00 (30631-30513-3).

Katherine Ott, *Fevered lives: tuberculosis in American culture since 1870*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Harvard University Press, 1996, pp. ix, 242, illus., £10.00 (paperback 0-674-29911-6). The hardback was reviewed by Linda Bryder in *Medical History*, 1998, **42**: 266–7.

John M Riddle, *Eve's herbs: a history of contraception and abortion in the west*, Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1997, pp. vii, 341, £26.50 (0-674-27024-X). The hardback was reviewed by Helen King in *Medical History*, 1998, **42**: 412–14.

Edna Robertson, *Glasgow's doctor: James Burn Russell, MOH, 1837–1904*, East Linton, Tuckwell Press, 1998, pp. xii, 248, illus., £12.99 (1-86232-055-1).