

Book Notices

A List of the Works of Sir James Young Simpson, 1811–1870. A centenary Tribute, by K. F. RUSSELL and F. M. C. FORSTER, University of Melbourne. Department of Medical History, 1971 (Occasional Publications No. 1), pp. 57, \$5.50 (Aust.).

It is a brave act for someone based in the Antipodes to attempt a bibliography of Simpson the prolific. The authors have had the enterprise to do so, using the resources of libraries in Melbourne and Edinburgh and profiting from the advice of John Shepherd, Simpson's latest biographer.

Their list, the most nearly complete yet compiled, contains more than 250 entries chronologically arranged. By design it leaves out letters to periodicals (except those on acupuncture) and some reports to societies. It has a good biographical introduction of eleven pages and is produced in an edition of 250.

Bibliographies are peculiarly prone to imperfections and this one has its due share, as follows: (1) entries should have been numbered and laid out with more of an eye to ease of consultation (and economy of space); (2) chronology would be better served if articles had been entered as such rather than as separates followed by the note "reprinted from"; (3) one or two entries are under the wrong year, e.g. "Etherization in surgery. Pts. I and II", 1848 (should be 1847); (4) some mistakes in volume numbering for the *Monthly Journal* have crept into pp. 39 and 41; (5) several items have been missed, some of them in journals as important as the *Lancet*, including: (i) ten papers on diseases of the uterus and ovary, in A. Tweedie's *Library of Medicine. Practical medicine*, vol. 4, 1840, pp. 322–61; (ii) "On the . . . placenta", *Trans. Edinb. Roy. Soc.*, 1861, 23, 349–54; (iii) *Sir D. Brewster: his last Days and Death. Remarks by Prof. L. Playfair, J.Y.S.*, etc., 1868; (6) there should be more cross-references between entries. For instance, we are not told that a series of articles on diseases of women first published in 1899 is identical with a book published in Philadelphia four years later; nor that an address to students in 1853 was reprinted in 1856 as part of a book.

It is also a pity that Simpson's first bibliographer, Prof. A. Gusserow (*Zur Erinnerung an Sir J. Y. Simpson*, Berlin, 1871), is not among the references listed as having been consulted by the compilers.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review.)

Nordisk Medicinhistorisk Årsbok, 1973, ed. by W. KOCK, Stockholm, Museum of Medical History, 1973, pp. 248, illus., [no price stated].

SAUNDERS, J. B. DE C. M. and O'MALLEY, C. D., *The Illustrations from the Works of Andreas Vesalius of Brussels*, New York, Dover Publications (London, Constable), 1973 (reprint of 1950 ed.), pp. 252, illus., £2.00.

SCHMIDT, GERARD, *Das geistige Vermächtnis von Gustav von Bunge*, Zürich, Juris Verlag, 1974, pp. 88, S.Fr. 18.

John Smedley of Matlock and the Water Cure, facsimile of 1888 ed., with introduction by David A. Barton, Matlock, Derbyshire, The Arkwright Society, 1973, pp. x + facsimile, [no price stated].