

Book Reviews

in the light of modern knowledge. This, of course, may be an effort to make obscure and apparently peculiar ideas of distant antiquity more comprehensible to the present-day physician. However, here we have whig history in its most blatant form, and it must be condemned as an unhistorical approach. In the brief summary of the book's contents given above, modern terms are readily noted: "integrative", "nerve condition", "sense perception", etc., which suggest to the reader twentieth-century ideas that must, therefore, have originated with Galen, although this is by no means always the case. For example, "integrative" now has a specific connotation when used in neurophysiology, and even if Galen was the first to have a holistic view of the nervous system, and this is not altogether certain, his notion was very far from the Sherringtonian model, as suggested by the word Dr. Siegel employs. Likewise when translating, Dr. Siegel introduces present-day words and, therefore, concepts: "tissue", "stimulus", "metabolic", "impulse", "fibre", "activate", etc., etc. He imposes modern terminology on ancient data that cannot possibly accommodate it.

Galen's writings on the nervous system in health and in disease have been closely analysed, but there has been no attempt to relate his thoughts, concepts, and arguments to the multifarious influences that must have been brought to bear upon him. It is not only necessary to know the effect on him of his predecessors' and contemporaries' medical and scientific writings, but also the role of non-medical factors usually referred to by the unsatisfactory collective term of "social". Admittedly this is a staggering task in the case of Galen, but this method alone will give us the real picture of a man who, together with the Hippocratic physicians and Aristotle, helped to shape medicine for nearly one and a half millennia.

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JOHN MARKS, *The treatment of Parkinsonism with l-dopa*, Lancaster, Medical and Technical Publishing Co. Ltd., 1974, pp. viii, 165 [no price stated].

Science advances by means of planned research or chance observation. The use of levo-dopa in Parkinsonism is an example of the former, and Dr. Marks' excellent little book traces the sequence of discoveries from 1960 to 1970 by reproducing, in translation where necessary, the key papers. He also includes James Parkinson's original description of the disease, and provides a brief introduction to each selection, ending the work with a consideration of further problems.

There are two reasons why this is an important work. First it demonstrates one variety of research model used in the medical sciences, the kind that emphasizes the need for a rational development of therapeutic methods from basic studies in chemistry metabolism, pathophysiology, etc. Second it shows how very recent advances in medicine can be succinctly presented from the historical point of view, thus providing a means of understanding the increasingly complex present-day situation. It can be warmly recommended to neurologists, general physicians, and to all those interested in the evolution of medicine and in the scientific method.

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RUDOLPH VIRCHOW, *Post-mortem examination and the position of pathology among biological studies*, published under the auspices of the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine, Metuchen, N.J., Scarecrow Reprint Corporation, 1973, pp. x, 143 (facsimile reproduction), 114–129 (facsimile reproduction), \$6.00.

Despite Rudolph Virchow's overwhelming importance to nineteenth-century medicine, only a limited number of his publications have appeared in English. This book reprints two of them. The first, possibly the most popular of all his writings, was published in 1875 as *Die Sektions-Technik im Leichenhause des Charité-Krankenhauses, mit besonderer Rücksicht auf die gerichtsaertzliche Praxis*. There was an English edition the following year, and an American version in 1885; it is the third edition of the latter that is presented here, with an excellent introduction by Walter G. J. Putschar. The work's significance lies in the fact that it was based on nearly thirty years' experience at the autopsy table, and that it established a systematic method of conducting post-mortem examinations, much of which survives today.

Virchow's Croonian Lecture to the Royal Society on 16 March 1893 is the second facsimile reprint. At the age of seventy-two he looked back to his most outstanding contribution to medicine, cellular pathology, and integrated it with the later development of his thoughts on life and disease. Its content is, therefore, mainly historical and well worth perusal.

S. SQUIRE SPRIGGE, *The life and times of Thomas Wakley*, facsimile of 1899 ed., with introduction by Charles G. Roland M.D., Huntington, New York, R. E. Krieger, 1974, pp. xv, 509, illus., \$16.50.

Thomas Wakley (1795–1862) founded the *Lancet* in 1823, and thereby medical journalism as we know it began. Simultaneously his career as a crusader against medical injustices also commenced, and over the years he was involved in one polemic after another: against nepotism in London hospitals and medical schools, the inferior quality of medical education, mesmerism, abuses which diminished the usefulness of inquests, flogging in the Army, food and drug adulteration, and against many other evils. He was also a Member of Parliament (1835–1852) and among much useful legislation he introduced was the Bill that eventually became the Medical Act of 1858, with the creation of the General Medical Council and the Medical Register.

Wakley was a man of great energy, dauntless courage, and complete honesty, and Sir Squire Sprigge published in 1897 an excellent account of his life; in addition, he depicted with great skill the medical, social and political background. It is one of the classical medical biographies and the 1899 edition, which was in fact a re-issue of the 1897, is here reprinted in facsimile. There is an excellent introduction by Dr. C. G. Roland who, despite a very extensive search, has discovered no new documents concerning Wakley. The original book was reviewed in *The Times* (10 June 1897, p. 11) and in the *British Medical Journal* (1899, ii: 283–285), but the *Lancet* considered that, "It would be obviously unseemly to review this book . . ." in its columns. As a portrait of a remarkable man and of Victorian England it can be highly recommended.

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CHRISTOPHER FYFE, *Africanus Horton (1839–1883), West African scientist and patriot*, London, Oxford University Press, 1972, pp. xi, 169, illus.

James Beale Horton, the son of an Ibo slave, adopted the name “Africanus” to show pride in his African birth and upbringing in Sierra Leone. He exemplified and vindicated the ability of certain Africans to contribute to many aspects of life, in his case to medicine, geology, military and civil administration, political thought, business and finance. That he did so in a century replete with racism and imperialism makes his achievements all the more remarkable.

This is the first biography of Horton, written by a historian with personal knowledge of West Africa and its history. Christopher Fyfe is at the Centre for African Studies, University of Edinburgh, where Horton attended medical school.

Horton wrote four medical books, each of which reflects his competence as a scholarly, hard-working observer-practitioner. Perhaps the most important was *Guinea worm or dracunculus* (London, Churchill, 1868, pp. 51); and *The diseases of tropical climate and their treatment* (London, Churchill, 1874, pp. 669) seems to have been the best text of its time relating to West Africa. He advocated sewage disposal, piped water supplies and adequate drainage in his *Physical and medical climate and meteorology of the West coast of Africa* (London, Churchill, 1867, pp. 321).

Horton was not only a doctor. He was keenly interested and active in politics and government, as illustrated by three other books, and by his numerous posts and activities. An important edited volume of Horton’s selected writings by Nicol Davidson was published in 1969 (*Africanus Horton, the dawn of nationalism in modern Africa*, London, Longmans).

We must express gratitude for the author’s enrichment of our views and knowledge. The diversity of Horton’s life and the skills of his biographer commend this concise volume to a wide readership.

LUIS S. GRANJEL, *La frenologia en España (vida y obre de Mariano Cubi)*, Salamanca, Universidad de Salamanca, 1973 (*Cuadernos de Historia de la Medicina Española*. Monografías XXIV), pp. 59, illus., [no price stated].

As little has been written on phrenology in Spain Professor Granjel’s well-documented study is especially welcome. It deals mainly with the life and work of one of its main exponents, Mariano Cubé y Soler (1801–1875), by profession a philologist, who spent some time in the United States, and also visited Britain. Like his fellow phrenologists in other countries, he published extensively, writing mainly in the 1840s and 1850s. His excessive and uncritical enthusiasm and the content of his teachings were also similar, as are the illustrations from his main work of 1853, *La frenología i sus glorias*, reproduced here. The concluding chapter compares phrenology with mesmerism.

LUIS S. GRANJEL, *Publicad terapeutica en la España de “entreguerras”*, Salamanca, Universidad de Salamanca, 1974, (*Cuadernos de Historia de la Medicina Española*, Monografías XXVI), pp. 153, illus., [no price stated].

An interesting survey of Spanish patent medicine advertisements from the end of the nineteenth century to 1936. Their descriptions are grouped according to the action of the substance, and they are supported by eighty-five eulogistic illustrations. A study of similar British products and the way in which they have been thrust on the gullible public would be valuable.

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J. M. LOPEZ PIÑERO, M. PESET REIG, and L. GARCIA BALLESTER, *Bibliografía histórica sobre la ciencia y la técnica en España*, Valencia and Granada, 1973 (*Cuadernos Hispánicos de Historia de la Medicina y de la Ciencia*, XIII, Serie C), 2 vols., pp. 205, 480, 350 pesetas.

An impressive list of books and articles on the evolution of science and technology in Spain, published from the eighteenth century to the present day. In the first volume they are arranged according to subject—mathematics, geology and mineralogy, botany, etc.—and are mainly in Spanish, although material in other languages is included. The second volume contains references to biographies, arranged in chronological groups—antiquity, middle ages, etc.—with indexes to biographees and biographers. A most useful source book.

EMILIO BALAGUER PERIGÜELL, *La introducción del modelo físico-matemático en la medicina moderna. Análisis de la obra de G. A. Borelli (1608–1679) “De motu animalium”*, Valencia and Granada, 1974 (*Cuadernos Hispánicos de Historia de la Medicina y de la Ciencia*, XIV, Serie A), pp. 163, 200 pesetas.

Giovanni Alfonso Borelli attempted to combine his knowledge of physics and mathematics with the emerging physiology of Harvey, and his textbook of biophysics, or iatro-mechanics as it was then styled, appeared posthumously in 1680–1681. He was especially concerned with the mechanics of muscular movement, locomotor, cardiac, and arterial.

On the whole, little has been written on Borelli's pioneer work so that this small book, which analyses it in detail, is especially welcome. The author first introduces Borelli in the general context of the history of medicine, biology, and science, adding a biography of him and a brief consideration of the role of the physical sciences in biology before his time. The analysis looks closely at Borelli's scientific method and at the physico-mathematical models he applied to the biological problems he tackled. Muscle physiology and nutrition, pain and fever are also discussed, and finally Borelli's place in Italian iatro-mechanics. There is also a short bibliography of his writings, medical and non-medical, and a list of secondary sources, but no index.

Dr. Perigüell's book is a praiseworthy, scholarly contribution to the history of seventeenth-century medicine and science.

W. C. NOBLE, *Coli: great healer of men. The biography of Dr. Leonard Colebrook, F.R.S.*, London, Heinemann, 1974, pp. 149, illus., £1.25.

Colebrook (1883–1967) earned his nickname “Coli” from his work in microbiology. He was one of the brilliant group of bacteriologists produced by St. Mary's Hospital, London, and he collaborated with both Almroth Wright, whose biography he published in 1954, and with Fleming. His work on the antibacterial effects of sulphonamides proved to be a pioneer contribution to the field of chemotherapy. In addition to other outstanding studies in bacteriology, he is remembered for research on the treatment of burns and, in later life, for his campaign to prevent their accidental occurrence in the home.

This brief and sympathetic description of the man and his work also contributes to the recent history of bacteriology. There is a bibliography of Colebrook's writings.

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SIR CHARLES SHERRINGTON, *The endeavour of Jean Fernel with a list of the editions of his writings*, [1946], reprinted, London, Dawsons, 1974, pp. x, 223, £6.50.

An exact reprint of the original at eight times the original price. Reviews of the 1946 version appeared in *J. Hist. Med.*, 1947, 2: 130–133 (J. F. Fulton); *Bull. Hist. Med.*, 1946, 20: 587–589 (W. Pagel); *Br. med. J.*, 1946, ii: 54 (M. G. –? Major Greenwood); *Lancet*, 1946, i: 964. It is a brilliant study, but Sir Charles succumbed somewhat to the biographer's occupational hazard, the distortion of the biographee to a size larger than life. The more one knows of Galen's writings the less original becomes Fernel.

GEORG HARIG, *Bestimmung der Intensität im medizinischen System Galens*, Berlin DDR, Akademie-Verlag, 1974, pp. 250, M. 32.

For all those interested in the question of the graduation of medicines, especially for those who are investigating the various solutions proposed during the course of the Middle Ages, the present book should prove of immense value. It is a very detailed and painstaking synthesis of Galen's teaching, well organized, clearly written and fully annotated. The author points out Galen's dependence on earlier writers for many of his ideas and comes to the conclusion that the discrepancies which can be discerned in several places in Galen's doctrine on this subject can be explained only on the assumption that Galen, when writing, had before him the works of others who held differing views. There is a good bibliography, but the author seems unaware of the studies by McVaugh and the important paper by J.-M. Dureau-Lapeyssonerie on Antonio Ricart. All the same, the book is to be highly recommended.

JUTTA KOLLESCH, *Untersuchungen zu den pseudogalenischen Definitiones Medicae*, Berlin DDR, Akademie Verlag, 1973, pp. 171, M.22.

The text of the *Definitiones Medicae*, which appears in volume six of Kühn's edition of the works of Galen has long been the subject of discussion. As early as the sixth century A.D. it was considered to be unauthentic by Byzantine scholars and even the Arab, Hunain, judged it on style alone to be spurious, but its acceptance in the West as a kind of textbook from the seventeenth century onwards was due to the misguided enthusiasm of René Chartier, who incorporated it into his edition of the works of Hippocrates and Galen. When Wellman wrote his book on the Pneumatic school he used the *Definitiones medicae* as one of his sources to reconstruct the teachings of that school and he came to the conclusion that the text could not be earlier than the third century A.D. But by a very close analysis of the work Dr. Kollesch is able to show not only that the views it expresses contradict the ideas put forward by the pneumatists, but also that the date of its composition must fall in the last quarter of the first century A.D. In fact, the text as it stands is by no means homogeneous, containing bits and pieces from various sources which have been incorporated by readers and copyists. Valentine Rose's theory that the *Questiones medicinales* of Pseudo-Soranus were a translation of *Definitiones medicae* is rejected by Dr. Kollesch, though she acknowledges that a text of the *Definitiones* must have been available to the Pseudo-Soranus. Her conclusions seem sound on all points and her book is to be commended.

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JOHN P. GOVERN and CHESTER R. BURNS, *Humanism in medicine*, Springfield, Ill., C. C. Thomas, 1973, pp. xv, 113, illus., \$9.75.

The Osler industry grows apace and the latest contribution is the papers given at a meeting to mark the fiftieth anniversary of his death. Unfortunately only the first part of its title, *Humanism in medicine, as portrayed by the life of Sir William Osler*, has been applied to the book, despite the fact that there is more in it about Osler than about humanism. One of the main objects was to determine whether Osler's humanism should be known by present-day students and, predictably, it is agreed that it should. It is doubtful, however, whether modern medical students would accept this conclusion and it would have been most interesting to have canvassed their opinions or, better still, to have asked an articulate young practitioner to discuss the matter.

Of the thirteen essays "Osler" appears in the title of nine of them: Osler and Halsted, the men who inspired him, his peculiar sense of humour, Osler and war, his public travel letters, etc. To some extent this book is the usual eulogy, although some of the papers on Osler and those on humanism itself, such as Donald Bates's "Humanism in undergraduate medical education", are thoughtful contributions to the general problem. It should have wide appeal, especially amongst medical educators, but the student for whom the exercise was mounted may find little of interest, and in any case the price will prevent him from owning it.

ADALBERTO PAZZINI, *Storia dell'arte sanitaria dalle origini a oggi*, Rome, Edizioni Minerva Medica, 1974, 2 vols., pp. xvi, 1-909, xi, 911-1767, illus., [no price stated].

Professor Pazzini, the distinguished elder statesman of Italian medical history, has produced a mammoth history of medicine from prehistoric times to the present day. However, it is mostly a compilation of known facts with little analysis or interpretations, and there are no references. It is difficult to know for whom a work like this is intended: it is much too large for the student; the lack of documentation eliminates it as a book of reference; the absence of new and interpretative material renders it of little value to the scholar. As in other fields, perhaps the days of this type of exposition are over.

STACEY B. DAY, *Tuluak and Amaulik: dialogues on death and mourning with the Inuit Eskimo of Point Barrow and Wainwright, Alaska*, Minneapolis, Bell Museum of Pathobiology, University of Minnesota Medical School, 1973, pp. xv, 176, illus., [no price stated].

A study of certain Eskimo attitudes, based on oral history techniques. As in any developing countries, these and other primitive beliefs and superstitions are quickly dying out, and the author is to be commended for his efforts to record them before they become extinct. As he points out, other cultural attitudes were inevitably touched upon, and altogether this modest book makes fascinating and instructive reading. Hopefully, it may inspire investigators to conduct similar ethnological research into other races and communities.

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J. HERMANN BAAS, *Outlines of the history of medicine and the medical profession*, trans. rev. and enl. by H. E. Handerson [New York, J. H. Vail, 1889], 2 vols., Huntington, N.Y., R. E. Krieger, 1971, pp. 348, 350–1173, [no price stated].

Baas's book, originally published in German in 1876, was described by Garrison as ". . . still in many respects the most readable . . ." (*An introduction to the history of medicine*, 4th edition, Philadelphia and London, W. B. Saunders, 1929, p. 884). H. E. Handerson of Cleveland, Ohio, translated it into English in 1889, incorporating a large amount of material the author had gathered for a second edition. (See review in *Br. med. J.*, 1891, i: 182). The late Dr. W. R. Bett characterized it as follows:

To this medical historians continue to turn again and again because it bristles with information omitted or despised by other standard works of reference, and possibly also to stimulate their jaded appetites and to refresh their plethoric minds through the most masculine and the most readable of the larger histories of medicine. Though its background is commendably accurate, the book is enlivened by a delightful array of asides and tit-bits, trivial maybe and gossipy, erotic sometimes, and often frolicsome. (*Ann. Med. Hist.*, 1939, 1 (Series 3): 97).

Unfortunately the present publishers have produced only a straight reprint and have not bothered, presumably for financial reasons, to provide an up-to-date assessment of the book and the author. Much has been written on the history of medicine since 1876 and attitudes and opinions have changed, so that readers of Baas must be cautious, and they should be aware of the voluminous secondary literature of the last ninety-eight years.

HARALD NIELSEN, *Ancient ophthalmological agents*, in, *Acta Historica Scientiarum Naturalium et Medicinalium*, vol. 3, Odense University Press, 1974, pp. 117, illus. [no price stated].

An excellent survey of collyria in Ancient Rome. This name was originally applied to ointment sticks in Ancient Greece, but was later used for all eye medicines, of which there were many varieties. The 250 extant collyria seals which record the name and that of the prescriber or preparer, and which were in use from A.D. 100 to 500, are also described in detail.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

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

R. G. RICHARDSON, *Larrey, surgeon to Napoleon's Imperial Guard*, London, J. Murray, 1974, pp. x, 266, illus., £4.50.

J. RIERA, *La introducción en España del método antiséptico de Lister*, Universidad de Valladolid, Seminario de Historia de la Medicina (*Acta Historico-Medica Vallisoletana*, no. 1), 1973, pp. 81, illus., [no price stated].

H. SIEFERT, *Der hippokratische Eid-und wir? Plädoyer für eine zeitgemässe ärztliche Ethik: ein Auftrag an den Medizinhistoriker*, Frankfurt-am-Main, Kohlhauser, 1973, pp. 60, [no price stated].