

## Book Reviews

LILY E. KAY, *Molecules, cells and life: an annotated bibliography of manuscript sources on physiology, biochemistry, and biophysics, 1900–1960, in the Library of the American Philosophical Society*, Philadelphia, American Philosophical Society Publication 14, 1989, 8vo, pp. viii, 95, \$10.00 (paperback).

An Andrew W. Mellon grant and an able author have produced an extremely useful and reasonably priced guide to some of the rich holdings of the American Philosophical Society (their *Guide to the Genetics Collections* by Bentley Glass came out in 1988). It covers twenty-four of more than sixty manuscript collections held by the Society. The introduction clarifies the problems of concentrating on three disciplines whilst deliberately excluding genetics, because of Glass, and medicine, because “it would be difficult to name a single research problem in the life science that does not bear relevance to medicine”.

A twenty-page survey of the life sciences this century is followed by seven suggested research topics, highlighting particular collections that could be used. The annotated entries take the form of essays so that careful reading is required to extract their full value. Careers and research are helpfully linked with the actual documentation; some entries are effectively outline lists and indexes (albeit material *selected* by the author for its relevance or importance). Buried in the text are valuable nuggets on the scope, lacunae, size, provenance, and availability of collections, with cross-references to other Society collections and relevant material held elsewhere. It would be helpful, though, if information on the present cataloguing state or availability of lists or indexes had been routinely supplied for all collections. Simon Flexner appears to have the largest collection, at 163 linear feet, whereas Edmund Beecher Wilson left behind only four notebooks.

A secondary group covered by the Guide comprises significant manuscript sources on scientists in the collections of *other* scientists' papers held by the Society. Selecting these twenty-one scientists must have given some headaches, since it is in the nature of such archives that they include the scattered papers of many other colleagues. But this section achieves its intention of drawing attention to less obvious collections, such as the correspondence Bob Olby accumulated whilst writing his book on the double helix.

J. G. A. Sheppard, Wellcome Institute

URSULA WEISSER (ed.), *100 Jahre 1889–1989 Universitäts-Krankenhaus Eppendorf*, Tübingen, Attempto, 1989, pp. 608, illus., DM 49.00.

This comprehensive book was published for the 100th anniversary of the opening of Hamburg's “Zweiten Krankenhaus”, today's University Hospital Eppendorf, the largest pavilion hospital ever built in Germany.

The hospital, for acutely-ill patients, was founded on the initiative of Gerhard M. Lundt, administrator of the first general hospital, St Georg, and its medical director, the internist Heinrich Curschmann, formerly the head of the Berlin barrack hospital Moabit, to relieve the pressure on St Georg. With persistence and a tactical appreciation of the financial and political interests of the city officials, they eventually persuaded the latter (whose autonomy was unusual in the German Empire) to fall in with their plans, although the burghers were more interested in such “prestigious” construction as a town hall, docks, and courthouse, all built at the same time as the hospital.

From the beginning, this great hospital, constructed after the introduction of antiseptic methods, was controversial, because of its concept of the *Zerstreuungssystem*, with small, separate one-storey pavilions. Changes in theories of hygiene, medical discoveries, socio-political necessity, and the Second World War have, over time, forced the modification of this vision, as the buildings underwent renovation, expansion, reconstruction, and demolition. Only a few of the original pavilions now survive among buildings of varied and later architectural styles; none has been declared a national monument.

Ursula Weisser, professor of medical history at the University of Hamburg, has here published a detailed history that includes the National Socialist period; her skilful study of the

### *Book Reviews*

sources has also unmasked the myth of the “philanthropic Hanseatic burghers”. Authors from various fields have contributed essays that are sometimes controversial, sometimes personal, but always informative. This book, with its many photographs, is a good buy. It gives an intricate, vivacious picture of this famous hospital, its teaching, training, and research.

Anna Katharina F. Zülch, Hamburg

CHRISTOPHER HOOLIHAN (comp.), *An annotated catalog of the Miner Yellow Fever Collection*, Rochester NY, Edward G. Miner Library, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, 1990, 8vo, pp. 95, illus., \$35.00 (US & Canada), \$40.00 (elsewhere), paperback.

To anyone with an interest in yellow fever this catalogue is fascinating. However, it is one man’s collection and has some gaps in it. It is weak in reprints so there is no copy of the papers by Josiah Nott, Louis Beauperthuy or of François Melier’s 224-page account of the yellow fever outbreak at St Nazaire in 1861. Nor is there a copy of George Buchanan’s report on the outbreak of yellow fever at Swansea in 1865. The collection is strong in American publications and those relating to the West Indies.

The catalogue is well set out in alphabetical order by author, subdivided in chronological order; the annotations are interesting. The order of the information is sometimes odd: biographical details of an author, e.g. James Carrol, are occasionally in the annotation to the second of his publications rather than the first, and there is the odd inaccuracy: there was no outbreak of yellow fever at Southampton in 1852, just fifteen cases imported on a steamer from the Virgin Islands. The indexing is idiosyncratic: George Augustin’s history of yellow fever is far more comprehensive than indexing it under “Louisiana” would imply. Despite such flaws the catalogue is of more interest than its title might suggest.

Mary E. Gibson, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine