

Book Reviews

impunity, and, what is more, 'accomplish the act with reflection'. Perhaps psychotherapy has become so much more difficult because we are no longer exposed to such simple temptations.

RICHARD HUNTER

Aldrovandi on Chickens: The Ornithology of Ulisse Aldrovandi (1600), vol. II, Bk XIV, translated and edited by L. R. LIND, University of Oklahoma Press, 1963, pp. xxxvi, 447, illus., \$6.95.

This is a delightful book. There are many reasons for being grateful to L. R. Lind for his translation and to Professor Loyal F. Payne, who not only persuaded him to undertake this task but obtained from various sources the subsidies that rendered possible both the translation and publication.

Aldrovandi seems to have been fascinated by almost everything, alive or dead. In his Introduction, Lind mentions 18 volumes of plates in colour, containing more than 3,000 drawings of fruits, flowers, plants and animals, and manuscripts bound together in 363 volumes. His published works fill over a dozen folio volumes and his *Ornithology* occupies over 2,000 pages. Of these, barely a tenth are devoted to chickens, but this is perhaps the section which concerns the average person most. This is also the section which Harvey refers to in his work on generation.

While Aldrovandi is concerned with the role the chickens play in proverbs, apologues, apophthegms, riddles and hieroglyphics, he also devotes a considerable space to their use in medicine.

Aldrovandi has summarized all that he has been able to learn of chickens in the great collection of books at his disposal but also tells us something of contemporary practice. Certain aspects of this, such as a Dutch method of fattening hens, do not seem to differ very much from those practised today or for that matter from those described by Varro.

Aldrovandi on Chickens has been reduced from the three volumes of *Ornithology* to a single octavo and considerable care has been devoted to this transformation. The illustrations on ornithology have been especially esteemed. Many of these occupy a full folio page and achieve a happy balance with the opposing page of rather heavy print. In other instances, print and illustrations are combined in a single page. In the translation the same paper has been used throughout for text and illustrations. The marginal notes have been placed at the bottom of the page and the illustrations so reduced that even the largest no longer have to lie lengthwise. Occasionally Aldrovandi has quoted a fragment of verse and this has been translated as prose and incorporated in the text. It might have been better to have written these fragments in verse form. But by and large one has nothing but praise for the way in which this book has been produced.

Alessandro Ghigi has written a brief but informative foreword and the translator, L. R. Lind, an introduction, which tells us much about the life and works of Ulisse Aldrovandi.

C. E. KELLETT

A Short History of the Gout and the Rheumatic Diseases, by W. S. C. COPEMAN, Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press (London, Cambridge University Press), 1964, pp. xi, 236, illus., \$6.

Dr. Copeman has exceptional qualifications for writing this history, being a specialist on the diseases considered, and also eminent as a medical historian and promoter of