

Book Reviews

The symposium papers edited by Simpson will be a valued source for students of Black. The eight papers offer a number of insights on various aspects of Black's career. Robert Anderson provides a handy outline biography; Christopher Lawrence analyses Black's personal and intellectual links with Hume and Adam Smith, as well as contemporary natural philosophers; Henry Guerlac presents a stimulating evaluation of Black's work on latent heat; Andrew Doig examines Black's abilities as a physician. The institutional context of Black's work is explored by two papers: one on Glasgow by Peter Swinbank, and one on Edinburgh by W.P.Doyle. W.A.Cole provides an invaluable reference tool for locating manuscripts of Black's lectures, while John Christie queries the authenticity of Robison's edition of the lectures. He argues convincingly that it is Robison's view of what Black ought to have said, rather than what Black himself said.

It is to be hoped that both books will be rather more readily available than museum publications sometimes are.

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S. GRISOLIA, C. GUERRI, F. SAMSON, S. NORTON, and F. REINOSO-SUAREZ (editors), *Ramon y Cajal's contributions to the neurosciences*, Amsterdam, Elsevier, 1983, 8vo, pp.xviii, 267, illus., Dfl. 190.00.

Was it not Geoffrey Jefferson who designated neurology's three saints as Jackson, Cajal, and Sherrington, with Gowers and Charcot only a little lower in the hagiolatry? The works of four of these are universally known, but Cajal, alas, wrote in Spanish. His monumental *Degeneration and regeneration of the nervous system* appeared in 1913–14, thanks to the generosity of Argentinian colleagues. Not until 1928 was it translated into English. Cajal's two-volume autobiography was rendered into English in 1937. His life and works were made known to us in the excellent appreciation by Fielding H. Garrison (1939), while ten years later Dorothy Cannon wrote her outstanding work entitled *Explorer of the human brain*, with a memoir by Sherrington.

We welcome, therefore, this little book, which represents the proceedings of a symposium held in 1982 in Valencia to mark the centenary of Cajal's career. The majority of the papers are by Spanish research workers, but there are also at least four from Great Britain and others from the USA. Neuroanatomists will be delighted with this well-illustrated volume which brings up to date the seminal work of Cajal, as amplified by such modern techniques as electron microscopy and the computer sciences.

Medical historians will be particularly interested in the personal memories as recorded by R. Martinez Pérez, as well as the account by F. Tello Valdivieso of some aspects of the master's personality. Unfortunately, much which would particularly appeal to the historian is left unsaid. Some will recall the meeting in Madrid in 1953 marking the 101st anniversary of his birth. An unfortunate failure in the city's electricity supply obliged Russell Brain to finish his address with the aid of candles and hurricane lamps.

Not only was Ramon y Cajal a histologist of genius and dedication, but he was an artist of precision and a philosopher full of wise saws and modern instances. As is unfortunately so often the case, Cajal had to share his Nobel prize. Golgi, the other recipient, hogged the ceremony with a pompous and verbose self-eulogy, leaving little time for the modest Cajal to express his grateful thanks.

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JEROME O. NRIAGU, *Lead and lead poisoning in antiquity*, New York and Chichester, John Wiley, 1983, 8vo, pp. xiii, 437, £47.50.

This book is a gathering together of a great host of material that has been written about lead in the ancient world; there has been little attempt to go back to primary sources and much of the material is reviewed in an uncritical fashion.

The first chapter is a curious hotchpotch of unconnected items, which has almost no