

## CONGENITAL HEART DISEASES IN CHILDREN

THE second edition of Garrison and Morton's *Medical Bibliography*, No. 2736, says of the fourth edition (1799) of Michael Underwood's *A Treatise on the Diseases of Children*: 'In this edition of Underwood's book appeared for the first time mention, in a treatise on diseases of children, of congenital heart disease (vol. II, pp. 179-85).' Garrison and Morton presumably accepted this attribution from Still's *History of Paediatrics* (1931) where it appears with the relevant passages quoted in full from the fourth edition of Underwood.

In examining Underwood's *A Treatise on the Disorders of Childhood, and Management of Infants from the Birth; Adapted to Domestic Use . . . In Three Volumes. London, Printed for J. Mathews, No. 18, Strand, 1797*. I was surprised to find the passages quoted by Still on pp. 165-8 of volume II of this book. All that are missing from the account are the technical terms such as the 'pueres caeruleati' (which Still pokes gentle fun at for its dubious Latinity). Here also is the first description of 'mastitis occurring in children at a variable time before puberty' which Still believed was first in the 1799 book. And the third volume of the 1797 work is almost verbatim 'the great step forward in the matter of infant-feeding' which Still describes on pp. 485-6 as first appearing in the fourth edition (1799).

Still mentions the 1797 book (of which a 'second' edition was published in 1801), but calls it a reissue in three volumes of the 1795 third edition. There are in fact only slight textual differences between the two editions and all the points noted by Still as occurring for the first time in the fourth edition (1799) are to be found in the third (1795). Indeed, the passage on congenital heart disease was also printed (for the first time) in the second edition of 1789 and was included in the Italian translation of that edition published at Venice in 1794. It would distress me if this note should sound like Little Jack Horner with a plum from the Still pie; for Still is for me one of the most readable, scholarly, and beautifully composed books in the field of medical history.

E. A. OSBORNE

## THE RACHEL McMASTERS MILLER HUNT BOTANICAL LIBRARY PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

A REMARKABLE new library of interest to all historians of medicine and pharmacy was opened in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in October 1961. Built up through a period of fifty years as the personal collection of the lady whose name it bears (she is a member of a prominent Pittsburgh family), it has now been donated to the Carnegie Institute of Technology as a centre of scholarship and research in the history of botany. It occupies the top floor of a new five-storey library building overlooking Schenley Park. This top floor is a penthouse which is 160 feet long and 70 feet wide and surrounded by a balustraded terrace walk. The library is elegantly furnished in French Regency style and has been designed to ensure maximum security for the rare books, facilities for meetings, and privacy for the staff and visiting scholars. Its Rare Book Lounge is 70 feet long and 35 feet wide, with a shelf capacity for about 2800 volumes.

The contents of the library range from *incunabula* (*Macer floridus*, 1477; *Gart der Gesundheit*, 1485, etc.), to the great colour-plate botanical books of the nineteenth century and the products of the fine presses of the twentieth, supplemented by manuscripts and autograph letters, prints, drawings, and paintings. In order to exploit

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all the library's potentialities for study and research, a well-known botanist, Professor George H. M. Lawrence, formerly Director of the L. H. Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University, has been appointed its first Director.

A sumptuous catalogue of the collection is already in course of publication, but it is privately printed and distributed and is not for sale. The first volume describing books from the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries and compiled by Jane Quinby, was published in 1958. Some idea of its quality may be gathered from the fact that it is prefaced by the following important articles:

'Botany from A.D. 840 to 1700', by Harold W. Rickett.

'Medical aspects of early botanical books', by John F. Fulton.

'The dawn-time of modern husbandry', by Paul Bigelow Sears.

'The illustration of early botanical books', by Wilfrid Blunt.

Although the work is called a 'catalogue' it goes far beyond the scope of such a work, the descriptions of books being completely bibliographical and illustrated by twenty-five plates. The second volume covers the period 1701-1800 and was compiled by Allan Stevenson, being issued in two parts in 1961. Once again the introductory articles, occupying Part I, are of a high calibre; they are:

'Eighteenth-century botanical prints in colour', by Gordon Dunthorne.

'Gardening books of the eighteenth century', by John S. L. Gilmour.

'Botanical gardens and botanical literature in the eighteenth century', by William T. Stearn.

'A bibliographical method for the description of botanical books', by Allan Stevenson.

The substantial monograph on botanical gardens by Dr. Stearn (of our own Natural History Museum at South Kensington) will become an important reference work for those investigating medicine or pharmacy in the period.

The catalogue will probably be completed in six volumes and will, as soon as its riches are appreciated, be welcomed everywhere as one of the great contributions of our time towards the history of botany, medicine, and the natural sciences. A copy has been presented to the Wellcome Historical Medical Library, where it may be consulted and studied.

F. N. L. POYNTER

### THE HUNTERIAN MUSEUM

Letter to the Editor from Sir Charles Dodds, M.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.,  
Harveian Librarian, Royal College of Physicians.\*

12 April 1962

Dear Sir,

During the past few years and more particularly during the past few months, it has been stated on more than one occasion that the Hunterian Museum was first offered to the Royal College of Physicians who declined it. This statement was made in a review of Sir Reginald Watson-Jones's Hunterian Oration which appeared in the last issue of *Medical History*. Sir Reginald traces the story back to Palmer's edition of the works of Hunter, vol. 1, pp. 142-3.

\* Since this letter was received Sir Charles Dodds has been elected President of the Royal College of Physicians.