discrete areas of knowledge were in the sixteenth and seventeenth century closely related and interacting. Whether dealing with the anatomist Harvey, the physician Daléchamps, the astronomer Galileo, or the philosopher Zabarella, Schmitt was always aware of the wider context, and his insights into one speciality often illuminated another.

As Charles Webster points out in his introduction, these selected essays also reveal a methodological development within Schmitt's work over two decades. They pass from studies of single problems or single documents, through the signposting of new data or new approaches, to broader syntheses. All were based on an extensive and detailed knowledge of the manuscript sources, mostly unpublished and frequently located in obscure Continental libraries. They also served as models for others, whether investigating the classical tradition in the Renaissance, or reconstructing the networks of intellectual correspondence that linked scholars of Europe and that supplemented the printed book. Above all, they made accessible much of his great learning, which, whether orally or by correspondence, he was always ready to share with anyone interested in intellectual history.

This encouragement to others to exploit his own discoveries was typical of his own modesty. Characteristically, the last paper is entitled 'Towards a history of Renaissance philosophy', for he was conscious always of his own limitations and of the great amount that needed to be done before a proper historical perspective could be gained. When he read his beloved Jakob Brucker's massive *Historia critica philosophiae* (unfortunately misprinted on p. xi), he was conscious both of his debt to his great eighteenth-century predecessor and of the weaknesses of much subsequent scholarship. His early death prevented him from achieving all he set out to do, but these essays show how far he had succeeded in realizing Brucker's implicit claim that to understand the intellectual life of the past it was necessary to be historical, critical, and philosophical.

Vivian Nutton, Wellcome Institute

GEOFFREY KEYNES, *A bibliography of the writings of Dr William Harvey 1578–1657*, 3rd ed., revised by Gweneth Whitteridge and Christine English, Winchester, St Paul's Bibliographies, 1989, 8vo, pp. xvi, 136, illus., £38.00.

The first two editions of this bibliography were printed in very small runs, totalling little over a thousand copies; this new edition therefore provides the first opportunity for many libraries and collectors to obtain a copy of a standard reference. Despite Keynes's blithe comment in the Preface to the second (1953) edition, many of the collations have had to be corrected and clarified, especially when Harvey's writings form part of a larger whole. The section headings in the Contents notes have also been more accurately transcribed, though separating the pagination statements from these notes could have clarified further the description of works in several parts.

The decision to retain so much of the original—its methods, numbering, and wording—has complicated the revisers' task. Retaining the numbering is of course a worthy principle but no effort has been made to distinguish the six items to which two different numbers now apply; 26 new items are fitted into the old numbering. Half of these were not noted in the previous edition; of the modern additions the most important are Gweneth Whitteridge's editions of three previously unpublished works by Harvey. The manuscript works are treated separately in both the bibliography and the introduction, and this has led to some repetition.

David McKitterick has pointed out that Keynes's bibliographies often provided the first reliable indication of the rarity of particular books; the census of copies of the first edition of *De motu cordis* is such an index and is made more reliable by the addition of provenance notes which make it possible to trace the wanderings of individual copies. The census has now reached 70, locating 25 more copies than were noted in the second edition, or 24 according to the statement in the text.

Since Keynes changed his own mind about the worth of an account of 'The reception of Harvey's doctrine during his lifetime', it seems reasonable enough to include this Appendix to

his excellent *Life of Harvey* in the revised bibliography, particularly as it illuminates the notes of provenance. Both Severino and Peiresc, who appear in the Appendix, seem to have owned and annotated copies of *De motu cordis*.

Keynes's *Life* updates and sometimes contradicts previous statements in the bibliography, so that rewriting the bibliographical prefaces (a task shared by both editors, it should be noted) with the minimum of alteration to the original text at times becomes a tortuous exercise in unspeak. It is a pity that more of the evidence about ownership of Harvey's works could not have been incorporated. Indeed, this compromise on the part of the publisher between a reprint and a revision is dissatisfying: the quality of recent Harvey scholarship deserves a bibliography to match. One is tempted to misquote Harvey himself: "Not to praise or dispraise, for all did well, as beholden to those who concluded erroneously for they missed opportunity."

Katy Hooper, Wellcome Institute

ANDREAS-HOLGER MAEHLE, *Johann Jakob Wepfer (1620–1695) als Toxikologe: die Fallstudien und Tierexperimente aus seiner Abhandlung über den Wasserschierling (1679)*, Veröffentlichungen der Schweizerischen Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin und der Naturwissenschaften, Aarau, Sauerländer, 1987, 8vo, pp. 222, illus., SFr. 42.00/DM 48.00.

The Swiss physician and researcher Johann Jakob Wepfer headed the so-called Schaffhausen Medical School in the late seventeenth century, cultivating an active circle of pupils and co-workers despite a heavy burden of public offices.

Andreas-Holger Maehle, physician and medical historian, has compiled a detailed account of Wepfer's clinical-toxicological treatise on water hemlock (*Cicuta aquatica* Gesner) poisoning, which included supporting studies on such other "warm" or "hot" plants as spotted hemlock (*Conium maculatum* L), Indian berry (*Menispermum cocculus* L.), nux vomica (*Strychnos nux vomica* L.), bitter almond (*Prunus amygdalus* Batsch. var. *amara* Focke), aconite (*Aconitum napellus* L.), white hellebore (*Veratrum album* L.), and jalap (*Exogonium purga* Benth.), the mineral poisons antimony and mercury, and an expert opinion on a case of arsenic poisoning.

Wepfer's interest in water hemlock toxicity was prompted by a village poisoning tragedy but his observations did not easily fit the classical Galenical ideas of his time. Therefore he developed his own individual theory of the poisoning mechanism, which recognized current iatrophysical, vitalistic, and chemical concepts.

The author has carefully analysed and commented on Wepfer's work, reproducing the original Latin texts together with relevant German reports and communications. Appropriate annotations and references illuminate Wepfer's experimental plan, viz. careful description of animal technique, doses, times, and symptoms together with accurate recording of the poisoning sequence, intensity, and duration. Although Wepfer performed no comparative quantitative work such as minimum lethal dose estimation, he clearly separated precise observation from interpretation and developed vivisection methods. Consequently he also found it necessary to defend the ethics of his work.

Maehle's book is a scholarly insight into the scientific approach of a pioneer who laid the foundations of modern toxicological testing at a time when science itself was undergoing considerable changes. This volume will continue to be worthy of detailed study.

W. E. Court, Mold, Clwyd

JOHN HUXHAM, *An essay on fevers*, with an introduction by Saul Jarcho, Resources in Medical History, Canton, MA, Science History Publications USA, 1989, 8vo, pp. xxxi, 191, $15.95 (North America)/$19.95.

Shortly after he attended Hermann Boerhaave's medical lectures at Leiden and received his MD degree at Rheims in 1717 at the age of 25, John Huxham began medical practice at