

century, is quoted more than once (see 65ra and 69rb), and that Aristotle is cited (69va, 'Nota Sompnus secundum Aristotelem').

It would appear that, even in its longer form in Vatican Palatine 1190, *De homine* is a better title for our text than *Liber medicinalis*.¹

News, Notes and Queries

JOHANN UDALRIC RUMLER

AND A LETTER OF VESALIUS

THIS physician from Augsburg, whose *Observationes medicae*, containing one hundred cases, are of some clinical importance (cf. *Observatio* 46 on what is now called heart-block), has been noticed only by Gurlt among modern historians.

His work forms a part of the *Sylloge*, a collection of six authors, edited by Georgius Hieronymus Velschius [Welsch] (1624–77), printed in Augsburg with letters of Christian Balthasar Kühn of Ulm, in 1668. The book contains 63 pages and is introduced by a 3-page preface of the editor which is as yet the only source of biographical data about the author. Dates of birth and death of Rumler are not given in the preface; but we are told that Rumler was the son of A. Gasser's (1505–77) daughter. Rumler studied at different German and Italian universities and was generously supported by the Maecenas, Graf Fugger. He received his degree as M.D. from the hands of Caspar Bauhin (1560–1624) in Basle and served more than thirty-three years as physician to the City Hospital of Augsburg. Welsch reported that he possessed a medical diary written by Rumler with the names and case-reports of his patients; in the *Observationes* some of them have been dated between 1585 and 1595. He was called out of town to illustrious patients and was also consulted by letter from abroad, even from far Britain: 'the Most Serene Anne, daughter of a King, and wife and mother of a King', sent to Rumler her portrait cast in bronze, together with a Latin inscription,² and letters in Italian, and a collection of drugs in a special chest (Pharmacothecium). This was Anne of Denmark (1574–1618) who married James VI of Scotland, later James I of England, and the details reported in an obsolete medical book shed some light on this English queen: her knowledge of languages, her disease (not specified), her international contacts, and perhaps also her love of luxury, presents and donations. The link between her and the Augsburg physician may be found in the fact that Johann Wolfgang Rumler was for more than fifty years apothecary to James I and Charles I. He may well have been a brother of Johann Udalric.

Rumler's work is named by the editor a 'Centuria', as it contains one hundred medical and surgical cases, other parts of the *Sylloge* being also 'centuriae'. This name and this medical literary species seem to have been inaugurated by Amatus Lusitanus (1511–68), his first 'Centuria' being published in Florence in 1551 (cf. J. O. Leibowitz, *J. Hist. Med.*, 1958, 13, 492–503, esp. pp. 502–3).

Rumler's book was noticed by M. Roth in his biography of Vesalius (1892). There

¹ The insertion of Vat. Pal. 1290 in the revision of Thorndike and Kibre, *A Catalogue of Incipits of Mediaeval Scientific Writings in Latin*, 1963, col. 637, item 10, is a misprint.

² See overleaf.

he mentions *Observatio 81* (Rumler, pp. 45–7) where Rumler reproduced a letter¹ written by his grandfather Achilles Gasser to Vesalius and the reply concerning a case of aortic aneurysm (M. Roth, *Andreas Vesalius Bruxellensis*, 1892; cf. pp. 239, note 1; 301; 435, note 1, and the reproduction of the greater part of the *Observatio 81* on pp. 420–1, 435–6. See also C. D. O'Malley's recent and long awaited Vesalius biography (pp. 264–5, 406–7, 471, note 25).

This Vesalian item, dated 18 July 1557, preserved in Rumler's case-history, is of considerable medico-historical interest. The diagnosis of aortic aneurysm had been made by Vesalius in 1555, when he was called in consultation to Leonhard Welsler, in Augsburg; it was a pulsating tumour near the dorsal vertebrae. The post-mortem by the Augsburg physicians, two years later, has been very lucidly described, the aneurysm being adherent to the spine and ribs, with destruction of the bony substance. The coagulation process in the sac, stressed by Vesalius in his letter, foretells the later, more elaborate, studies on thrombosis. All in all it is an unusual clinico-pathological document, free of dull and mediævally tinged discussions found in the other medical *Consilia* by Vesalius, concise, without mannerism, Vesalius' expression of joy over the verification of his diagnosis being short and sincere.

It is very fortunate that Rumler, being a grandson of Achilles Gasser (a colleague of Vesalius in 1555–7) and having access to his grandfather's archives, has communicated this Vesalian jewel in his volume.

¹ fieri poterat, diligentia observata fuerunt. Quæ postquam Andreas Vesalius accepisset, his literis ad Gasserum datis respondit: Unà cum D. Bartholomæi Velleri literis, Tuas, doctissime & mihi amicissime D. Achilles, accepi, quibus defuncti D. Leonardi historiam describis fedulò à vobis lectione observatam, pro qua eas, quas possim, habeo gratias. Lubens namque certius agnosco, quæ variis coniecturis in ægris colligere cogimur. Mirum sanè est, quam ejusmodi arteriæ dilatatio sit frequens contenta in sanguine materia magis, quam alio quopiam modo differens. Quod namque lardò in Domino nostro comparas, ego vitreo oculorum humori admodum simile conspexi, interdum carnosam tantum reperi substantiam, quæ superficie sua ventriculorum cordis internæ superficiei respondet. Atribatensis Episcopi soror similem affectum sub ventriculo in ventris anteriori sede ostendit, qui ita mobilis est, ut globum esse diceret, nunc d. xrorsum, nunc sinisterosum actum, prout huic illivè lateri incumbit, fuitque is affectus illi annis plurimis familiaris, imò ab incunte ætate, scribit mater ipsius, sese affectus initium percepisse, modo ille pulsu sit dijudicandus. Si itaque nobis tam frequenter etiam in corpore latitans in vivis occurrit, quoties in cerebro & thoracis cavitate & circa os sacrum consistere, & nos latere poterit? Dispe-

ream; si non post visum mihi D. Leonardum, sex ad minimum occurrerunt ejusmodi affectus, sed variis sedibus impliciti. Affectus mihi primò visus, ut etiam D. T. recensui, in thoracis cavitate erat circa jugulum, qui peboris superiores costas ita figuraverat, ut costas & transversos vertebrarum processus in D. Leonardo sensim potius figuratas, quam carie aut putredine affectas scribis. D. Bruxellæ 18. Julii, 1557.

² *Quin ab extrema Britannia Serenissima Anna, Regis filia, Regisq; conjux & mater, sive ut iconi ejusdem arc expressa Crispinus Passani subscripsit:*

Danorum Regis Friderici gnata secundi
Quam Sophia in lucem ter veneranda dedit
Quam sibi conjugio junxit qui sceptris Scotorum
Nunc etiam Anglorum qui diadema tenet,

aliquos epistolæ Italica lingua scriptæ, hoc eum honore dignata est, ut integrum Pharmacothecium, medicamentis, sua valetudini convenientibus, referret, ab illo sibi transmissi postularet, quæ nos nunc eum reliquæ, & remedium synopsi, inter nostræ recondimus. Collegæ præterea suis, quos plurimos, eorû, doctissimos, habebat

J. O. LEIBOWITZ

SHERRINGTON—A LINK BETWEEN TWO CENTURIES: Correction (*Med. Hist.*, 1964, VIII, 122–136).

Dr. J. H. Dible has kindly pointed out that the Christian name of Boyce, the professor of pathology at Liverpool at the time of Sherrington's arrival there, should be Rubert, not Rupert as his memorial plaque in the entrance hall of the medical school proclaims. As an entertaining footnote about another of Sherrington's friends mentioned in the article, Dr. Dible writes that 'Albert Sidney Leyton, the "Demonstrator" who shared with Widal the discovery of the diagnostic test for typhoid, was in those days Grunbaum. He changed his name to Leyton during the First World War—a change which gave rise to a certain amount of punning amongst his contemporaries.'