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co-operated in the organization of the Congress), delivered an address which was a most persuasive plea for the support of research in the universities.

Owing to an unfortunate and belated change of the dates for the International Pharmaceutical Federation meeting in Vienna in September 1962, it had been necessary to change the venue and the theme for the third congress. This had already been arranged for Nottingham, the subject being the History of Pharmacy in Britain. The third congress would now be held in London, from 26 to 28 September, and the subject would be The Evolution of British Hospitals. The Chairman was pleased to be able to announce that the Lord Mayor of London and his Sheriffs had already accepted an invitation to attend the Congress Dinner. Enrolment forms and further details may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Poynter.

The Chairman was also pleased to report the remarkable developments whereby, on the Faculty's initiative, no less than seven of the leading medical schools had now formally appointed 'Society of Apothecaries Lecturers in the History of Medicine'.

After the report had been received without discussion, the Chairman admitted Dr. Walter Pagel to the Faculty's Honorary Fellowship and presented special commemorative medals to Founder-Members of the Faculty.

Lord Cohen of Birkenhead then delivered the annual Gideon de Laune Lecture, his subject being the little-known but most interesting nineteenth-century pathologist, James Carson of Liverpool, who challenged Harvey's thesis on the *causes* of the circulation of the blood. This lecture will be published in full in the next issue of *Medical History*.

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Georg Ernst Stahl, Über der mannigfaltigen Einfluss von Gemütsbewegungen auf den menschlichen Körper (Halle 1695) und drei weitere Arbeiten, translated with introduction and notes by B. J. GOTTLIEB, and genealogical appendix on the Stahl Family by R. ZAUNICK, *Sudhoff's Klassiker der Medizin*, vol. xxxvi, Leipzig, J. A. Barth, 1961, 88 pp., illus., DM6.30.

GEORG ERNST STAHL (1659–1734) is remembered today for the introduction of the *Soul* into Medicine—whereby he countered the somewhat crude and naïve interpretations of vital processes offered by the Iatro chemists and Iatro physicists. He is also remembered for the *Phlogiston* theory. In this combustion is attributed to an inflammable component of the burning substance which is released into the air—the *Sulphur* of the alchemists. In neither of these concepts was Stahl fortunate. His *Soul* was imagined to enter, enliven, sustain, and command an otherwise lifeless body. It was an undefinable metaphysical being endowed with totalitarian power and even embraced the rational soul. Stahl thus harked back to Cartesian Dualism with all its remoteness from biological reality—instead of developing the sound biological idea of the stratification and mutual integration of 'vital' and 'physical' processes. Through this Van Helmont had arrived at the concept of a unified organism with psychic and physical aspects. Yet like the *Phlogiston* theory Stahl's speculations on the *Soul* were fruitful and influential. They helped to establish our knowledge con-

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cerning the differences between an 'organism' and a 'mechanism'. They inspired such men as William Cullen, John Hunter, and Charles Bell in their vitalistic ideas, notably on the antiseptic power of the living and developing organism. How far Stahl influenced the Vitalist School of Montpellier, however, is a debatable point. Bordeu, its founder, voiced grave objections to Stahl's doctrines—however much he recognized his genius. He wished that Stahl 'se fût moins avancé au sujet de l'âme, ou qu'il eût trouvé des disciples moins dociles à cet égard'. His ideas are bound to lead into 'un labyrinthe de recherches et d'idées purement métaphysiques'. The School of Montpellier might have been seduced by these, but for the foresight of the true physicians by whom it was inspired (*Recherches sur les Crises*, vol. XLVIII, *Oeuvres*, Paris, 1818, vol. I, p. 224). Indeed, Bordeu's vital force is closely bound up with the organs and thus seems to be conceived on biological (Helmontian) rather than animistic (Stahlian) lines (*Bull. Hist. Med.*, 1945, 18, 22–5). In Bordeu's own words: 'Medicine would have been lost without Van Helmont' (*Recherches sur l'Histoire de la Médecine*, vol. III, *Oeuvres*, vol. II, p. 558). In his own time Stahl had to face the adverse criticism of Leibniz and the latter's follower Frederic Hoffman. Again it had been Van Helmont who had foreshadowed Leibnizian ideas and Leibniz was in many ways favourably inclined towards Van Helmont, father and son (*Archiv f. Gesch. d. Med.*, 1931, 24, 19–59).

However, some of Stahl's theses have a modern ring and are reminiscent of principles observed by modern psychiatry and psychosomatic medicine. This is well brought out in the short 'dissertations' here offered by a long-standing student of Stahl in German translation. The subjects are: the influence of the passions of the human body (1695) and the significance of the synergy principle in medicine (1695)—by this Stahl understands the healing power of Nature as operated by the reactive 'tonic' motions that depend upon the soul-directed circulation of the blood. A further dissertation is on the difference between organism and mechanism (1714) and on medical ethics in connexion with house visits to the patient (1703). A learned introduction and well-documented footnotes contain new information on Stahl's life and his family—the latter in a genealogical appendix from the pen of R. Zaunick—and his relations with Frederic Hoffmann, which do not seem to have been as strained as commonly believed. The handsomely produced and illustrated little volume is well suited to introduce the reader to the medical debate of the eighteenth century.

WALTER PAGEL

Sir John Tomes, by SIR ZACHARY COPE, London, Wm. Dawson, 1961, 108 pp., illus., 25s.

This short monograph is an elaboration of the same author's Charles Tomes Lecture given at the Royal College of Surgeons of England on 18 July 1952, and describes with accuracy and clarity the life of the most considerable figure in British dentistry. Tomes was largely responsible for persuading the Royal College of Surgeons to grant dental diplomas in 1859—the first dental qualification in this country—for the framing of the first Dental Act in 1878, and for the founding of the British Dental Association, incorporated 28 May 1880.

If Tomes had achieved nothing more, he is worthy to be remembered and honoured for his work in dental education and politics, but he also made a large number of original investigations in dental histology, his name being commemorated in the eponyms 'Granular layer of Tomes', 'Tomes' process' and 'Tomes' fibrils'.