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development of pharmacognosy is revealed as a struggle between disciplines and outstanding scholars.

Botany and materia medica appeared early as subjects in the syllabuses of the medical faculty. By 1810, Schultes had merged disciplines to produce medical-pharmaceutical botany and, after the move to Munich, von Martius promoted pharmacognosy, the studies moving increasingly from a medical to a pharmaceutical science, although still heavily dependent on botany. Von Goebel (c. 1896), instituting pharmacognosy with practical exercises, consolidated the discipline to the disadvantage of botany. Distinct chemical and botanical aspects emerged. The work of the Buchners (father and son), Hilger, and Bleyer laid the chemical foundations; although J. A. Buchner considered chemical pharmacognosy as a part of pharmaceutical chemistry. Nevertheless, it was by exploitation of such chemical foundations that Schlemmer and Hörhammer were later to build the school of pharmacognosy. Schlemmer expounded pharmacognosy as the scientific discipline embracing the cultivation, preparation, commerce, chemical and microscopical analysis, and standardization of medicinal plants and their products. The work, which Renner has summarized effectively, of Schlemmer on ergot, bloodroot, and peppermint, of Hörhammer on flavone glycosides and later with Wagner on citrus fruits and phosphatides, justified the establishment of the professorship of pharmacognosy in 1960 within the Institut für Pharmazeutische Arzneimittellehre (Pharmakognosie).

Renner's book presents a carefully compiled, well-annotated and capably presented account of the events, environments, and personalities involved in the evolution of the pharmacognosy school. Detailed appendices provide a mine of information on timetables, lecture subjects, typical examination questions, dissertations, biographical details of outstanding staff members, and staff publications.

To British pharmacists and others interested in medicinal plants, who are puzzled by developments in herbal medicine and in schools of pharmacy in Britain, this story of persistence and adaptability coupled with academic excellence makes heartwarming reading.

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JOACHIM TELLE (editor), *Pharmazie und der gemeine Mann. Hausarznei und Apotheke in deutschen Schriften der frühen Neuzeit*, (catalogue of an exhibition at the Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, August 1982 to March 1983), Wolfenbüttel, Herzog August, 1982, 4to, pp. 144, illus., DM. 20.00 (paperback).

The Herzog August Library was founded by Duke August, the Younger of Brunswick, who, from 1598 to 1666, collected manuscripts and books on theological and secular subjects, bibles, maps, and music. The volumes, bound in white vellum, their spines often lettered by himself, are assembled in the magnificent Augusta hall of the library. A large collection of "Nutzbücher" or practical textbooks, chiefly on medicine and related subjects, were added during the eighteenth century. Many of these were included in the recent exhibition. In the foreword to the catalogue, the present librarian, Professor Paul Raabe, records two conferences that were held during, and within the frame of reference of the exhibition.

Five articles instruct professional and lay readers on the essential aspects of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century pharmacy – the production of drugs in chemist's shop and domestic kitchen, the thought-system underlying the choice and application of plant, animal, and mineral substances, and, most important, the social and professional problems involving the relatively small number of medical authors who took the risk of writing in the vernacular, knowing that this controversial step was the only means by which medical advice and prescription could reach the understanding of the literate middle class (the "gemeine" or common, man and woman), most of whom were left outside the narrow circle of privileged members of town and country government and higher clergy who were actually paying for and enjoying treatment by trained doctors and surgeons. This meant that by far the largest mass of the population, the illiterate poor, were left without treatment or advice by professional medical men. One should, however,

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not forget that, in towns, hospitals and town physicians were responsible for the care of the sick poor.

The catalogue entries are preceded by discussions that often bring up new problems for further research. A descriptive index of *objecta pharmaceutica* and a very full names index conclude this beautifully illustrated catalogue.

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AUGUSTIN ALBARRACIN, *Santiago Ramón y Cajal o la pasión España*, 2nd ed., with introduction by P. Lain Entralgo, Barcelona, Editorial Labor, 1982, 4to, pp. 311, illus., [no price stated], (paperback).

Compared with other Continental countries, Spain produced very few outstanding medical scientists in the nineteenth century. It is, therefore, understandable, as well as right and proper, that Spanish historians should laud the few who qualify. Santiago Ramón y Cajal (1852–1934) is one of them, and a great deal of literature is now available concerning the man and his immortal contributions to neuro-histology. It was he who presented more evidence than anyone else favouring the neurone doctrine; and no part of the nervous system escaped his remarkable technical skills, acute observations, and perceptive interpretations. This biography of him is unique in two ways: it relates Ramón y Cajal accurately and in detail to his topographical, social, and political background; and it presents a remarkable pictorial history of him. Concerning the second of these, the illustrations are profuse, excellent, and unparalleled, for many have not appeared elsewhere. Thus both the text and its supporting pictures provide an important addition to the biography of Spain's greatest neuro-scientist.

Edwin Clarke
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HELEN SWICK PERRY, *Psychiatrist of America. The life of Harry Stack Sullivan*. Cambridge, Mass., and London, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. viii, 462, illus., £14.00.

Few physicians have had the impact on their times that Harry Stack Sullivan (1892–1949) did. This biography by an associate and admirer, Helen Swick Perry, portrays the institutional and personal channels through which Sullivan affected psychiatry, psychoanalysis, anthropology and the other social sciences, and public policy. His teachings continue to symbolize the social dynamic view in psychiatry. More than any other one person he established the practicality of psychotherapy for schizophrenics, and he helped develop modern personality theory.

Perry trained as a professional writer, and this biography is leisurely and careful, with a very generous amount of speculation and literary connexion included alongside the results of the most exhaustive research. The only major source omitted appears to be the interview material recorded in Kenneth Leo Chatelaine's dissertation (only recently published as a book), and it would not affect Perry's contentions in any important way. Secondary sources are little used, and much evidence apparently based on correspondence is not documented in detail.

The core theme of the book is that Sullivan's life and work reflected his background in a rural New York county; indeed, 155 pages go by before he even enters medical school. Two sometime associates from Chenango County, psychiatrist Clarence Bellinger and, later, anthropologist Ruth Benedict, provide lengthy instructive parallels and contrasts. The book reads very well except for some repetition, and the story is told with unusual candor and includes, for example, Sullivan's own youthful schizophrenic episode, now established beyond a reasonable doubt.

Perry also deals forthrightly and in very substantial detail with the four factors that severely blunted Sullivan's influence with his contemporaries: his drinking; his irresponsible and deceptive (possibly dishonest?) financial dealings; his failure to acknowledge the sources of his ideas; and his partial acceptance of, and emphasis upon, homoeroticism. Unlike other writers, Perry deals with this latter subject with some refreshing scepticism, but without playing down the emphasis that was there in professional as well as personal aspects of Sullivan's life. (This