

Book Notices

RICHARD J. DURLING, *A dictionary of medical terms in Galen*, Studies in Ancient Medicine, Leiden, E. J. Brill, 1993, pp. xiii, 344, Gld. 200.00, \$114.50 (90-04-09754-6).

Galenic scholars have long toiled under the lack of basic research tools. Reliable editions are slowly being produced, and some important studies have appeared recently; however, at present there is no index, lexicon or concordance to Galen's works. It is not difficult to account for this. The Galenic corpus is vast (larger than that of any other ancient author), his language is often difficult, and the content of his treatises can at times try his most enthusiastic readers.

In view of these difficulties, Durling is to be congratulated all the more for addressing this urgent need in Galenic studies and for his patient application to an often thankless task. The dictionary covers, more or less evenly, the fields of physiology, anatomy, pathology, surgery, and pharmacy. The largest section by far is pharmacy, which includes extensive plant nomenclature. Durling indexes the most up-to-date editions of Galen's genuine works, excluding those which have been rejected by modern scholars. He offers little or no help on problems of etymology and morphology, and, unfortunately, even less on the interpretation of difficult passages. For each term Durling gives a fairly broad translation, then lists a number of citations of varying length, without grouping together usages slightly different from the original gloss.

I checked 300 of the Greek words (10 per cent of the total) and found no definite mistakes. The typography is remarkable for a work of this size and nature, and the volume is at once a pleasure to read and easy to use. It is, I think, a pity that Durling did not curtail his exhaustive citations for words like ἀγγείον and αἶμα, which present few difficulties, in favour of including more words and providing authoritative guidance on difficult passages. The last word, however, must be one of gratitude for a useful book.

FRANCESCO TREVISANI, *Descartes in Germania: la ricezione del cartesianesimo nella Facoltà filosofica e medica di Duisburg (1652-1703)*, Filosofia e Scienza nel cinquecento e nel seicento, Milan, FrancoAngeli, 1992.

The reception of Cartesian philosophy was by no means a linear development of ideas. Trevisani claims that in medicine, as in other aspects of Descartes' thought, the Cartesians gave different interpretations of the French philosopher's teaching. Trevisani's book investigates a neglected chapter in the history of Cartesianism, i.e., the impact of Descartes' medicine in Germany. The focus of the book is the University of Duisburg, founded in 1655. The early years of the faculty were marked by religious opposition to Cartesianism. The autonomy of the university was ensured in 1662 by Frederick William's *Kirchenordnung*, accordingly, Duisburg was the first German University to make Cartesianism an integral part of medical and philosophical teaching. During the first decade Johannes Clauberg dominated the scene: he read Descartes' *Principia*, which he saw as the theoretical foundation of a new medicine. Trevisani points out that in the second half of the century medical teaching became increasingly eclectic, as Cartesianism was contaminated by Sylvius' iatrochemistry. Trevisani traces the vicissitudes of Cartesian medicine at Duisburg by investigating a considerable number of dissertations, throwing new light on university curricula. The book includes the text of four *Disputationes* and a list of Dissertations and Disputations held at Duisburg. Although somewhat prolix, this is a very informative book, which will stimulate further investigations in seventeenth-century medical teaching.

A. R. MICHELL, *History of the healing professions: parallels between veterinary and medical history*, The Advancement of Veterinary Science, The Bicentenary Symposium Series, vol. 3, Wallingford, C.A.B. International, 1993, pp. xiii, 137, illus., £25.00, \$55.50 (0-85198-762-1).

Based on contributions to the 1991 symposium that marked the bicentenary of the foundation of the Royal Veterinary College, these essays are part of the attempt to bring the history of veterinary science and practice into the fold of medical history. When have their histories converged and when

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have they followed separate paths? Curiously, however, some of the papers hardly seem to tackle the subject of veterinary medicine at all, while only a few deal directly with the “parallels between veterinary and medical history” promised by the title.

The most effective contributions are Roy Porter’s provocative and wide-ranging ‘Man, animals and medicine at the founding of the Royal Veterinary College’, C. W. Schwabe’s ‘Interactions between human and veterinary medicine’, and Lise Wilkinson’s ‘Zoonoses and the development of concepts of contagion and infection’. David Allen’s ‘Herbs for herbivores’ and Joan Lane’s ‘Farriers in Georgian England’ also contain interesting material.

ROBERT CAMPBELL GARRY, *Life in physiology: memoirs of Glasgow University’s Institute of physiology during the 1920s and 1930s*, ed. David Smith, Glasgow, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Occasional Publication No. 3, 1992, pp. 183, illus., £7.50, available from the Wellcome Unit, 5 University Gardens, University of Glasgow, G12 8QQ.

In early 1993 the physiologist Robert Campbell Garry died, just a few months after the publication of these edited memoirs. In this account Garry, born in 1900, recalls his medical education in Glasgow University including what he describes as an unhappy period, aware that physiology as offered at Glasgow was “one of the shabbiest courses in Britain”. Despite this, he returned to the Institute of Physiology after medical jobs at the Western Infirmary to work in physiological chemistry under Edward Cathcart. Further training in physiological research during vacation visits took him to work in Freiburg with Paul Trendelenburg, to University College London with Lovatt Evans, and to Leeds, with B. A. MacSwiney and G. L. Brown. In 1933 he was appointed head of the Department of Physiology at the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen, and two years later moved to St Andrews to the Chair of Physiology at the University College of Dundee University, before returning to Glasgow in 1947 as the Regius Professor of Physiology, from which position he retired in 1970. Thus his career encompassed vast changes in the form and practice of physiology, and interspersed among the personal reminiscences of that career are numerous comments on the nature of, and need for, those changes.

FRANK R. FREEMON, *Microbes and Minié balls: an annotated bibliography of Civil War medicine*, London and Toronto, Associated University Presses, Rutherford, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1993, pp. 253, illus., £33.50 (0-8386-3484-2).

Few conflicts have spawned so much medical historical writing as the American Civil War, yet much of this literature remains unfamiliar to historians outside the United States. This bibliography of primary and secondary literature is likely to give the subject a higher profile.

The title of the work refers to the twin foes facing soldiers and doctors in the armies of both North and South. The American Civil War, like most wars before the twentieth century, was infamous for the ravages of infectious disease. The new high velocity bullet—the Minié Ball (after its inventor, the French army officer Claude Étienne Minié)—with its greater penetrating power, was also responsible for many a shattered, and ultimately amputated, limb.

Among the many valuable primary sources listed in this bibliography are the diaries of soldiers, surgeons, and female nurses; the reports of the army sanitary commission; and books and articles relating to civil war medicine. Most of these have useful annotations, giving a synopsis of the work and biographical details of the author. The reader of this volume is likely to be surprised by the sheer amount and diversity of historical scholarship on Civil War medicine. In addition to standard works on the medical history of Civil War campaigns, it contains many useful references to such subjects as veterinary medicine, racial issues, women and medicine, and “malingering”. Anyone interested in the history of military medicine, or in mid-nineteenth-century medicine more generally, is sure to be rewarded by reading *Microbes and Minié balls*, and we have reason to be grateful to its author.