

## Book Notices

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CARL MANCHOT, *The cutaneous arteries of the human body*, with introduction by William D. Morain, Berlin and New York, Springer, 1983, 4to, pp. xix, 149, illus., DM. 165.00/\$64.10.

The new skin flaps used by plastic surgeons in the 1960s often failed, and the surgeons were forced to do their own anatomical studies of the arterial supply of the skin. Not surprisingly, searches through the literature revealed an earlier motiveless study of these vessels by a German student, Carl Manchot. Though this sequence is a familiar one, this does not prevent the present author from concluding that the course of plastic surgery was hindered by ignorance of the Manchot work, which anticipated some, but not all of the later findings. The neglect of Manchot's work is attributed by the author to the inability of the English-speaking world after the First World War to understand German.

The author's scholarly and lengthy account of Manchot's career is marred by deliberate exuberance and multiple metaphor, and it is a relief when the simple prose of Manchot's own monograph is reached, available here in translation for the first time.

This book is beautifully produced and illustrated, but astonishingly has no index.

M. L. M. THOMAS and W. C. COOPER (compilers), *Catalog of works in the neurological sciences collected by Cyril Brian Courville, MD, representative of clinical neurology, neuroanatomy, and neuropathology with particular reference to head trauma*, Irvine, CA, Regents of the University of California, 1978, 4to, pp. 239, \$22.50. (Obtainable from University Bookstore, Irvine, CA 92716, USA.)

Cyril Brian Courville (1900–68) was an outstanding neurologist and neuropathologist, who wrote extensively on the history of his chosen field of medicine, especially on head injuries. He was also an energetic book collector, and the first section of this catalogue lists 2,454 titles concerned with the nervous system in health and disease. The second part, 407 items on 'Historical medicine', is a meaningless mix of primary and secondary sources. Throughout, most entries have comments, taken from the usual reference sources, both reliable and unreliable. It is difficult to know who will be interested in these lists. The first is, understandably, by no means comprehensive; and other sources are available. It is, however, a tribute to Dr Courville, but it would have been appropriate to have included a longer biography of him and a list of his own important historical writings.

FRANCES AUSTIN (editor), *The letters of William Home Clift, 1803–1832*, Sturminster Newton, Meldon House (8 Platts, Lydlinch, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 2HX), 1983, 8vo, pp. ix, 115, illus., £4.95 (paperback).

Dr Frances Austin, Lecturer in English Language at Liverpool University, has grouped all the known letters of William H. Clift from the mass of "The Clift Family Correspondence" to form this readable book. She reveals new information about young Clift, Assistant Conservator at the Hunterian Museum, and son of William Clift, FRS. Here Clift junior is rightly credited with producing the first two catalogues of the Museum.

The letters span from his school days to his untimely death at the age of twenty-nine years. He is revealed as a versatile character; artist, writer, musician, and one enjoying the theatre and good company including that of young ladies. Vacation time occasioned most of his correspondence to his devoted family, either from Lincoln's Inn Fields or from his holiday address. His many acquaintances of the Abernethy or Roche families made him welcome at their country homes, mostly in the West Country or at south coast resorts. On his travels by road coaches, he was never without his sketch book to record the picturesque scenery. His letters were interspersed sometimes with amusing thumbnail sketches. His longest journey to Scotland to visit Edinburgh and Glasgow ended appropriately at John Hunter's birthplace. His father's name gave young Clift ready access to the medical fraternity, hospitals, and museums.

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These letters with the useful editorial comments and biographical notes reflect the social scene of the pre-Victorian days. It is fitting that John Hunter's only daughter Agnes, Lady Campbell, sent a letter of condolence on the tragic death of W. H. Clift 150 years ago.

ANDRÉ LAKS, *Diogène d'Apollonie. La dernière cosmologie présocratique* (Cahiers de Philologie, no. 9), Lille, Presses Universitaires de Lille, 1983, 8vo, pp. xl, 334, [no price stated], (paperback).

This is a useful edition of a Greek philosopher of the late fifth century BC, whose views on generation and on the structure of the human body continued to influence doctors for several centuries. Dr Laks provides a text and translation of all the fragments, together with a detailed discussion. Even though one might take issue with some of the preferred readings and interpretations, there is much material here for the formation of a sound judgement about Diogenes' main theories and their subsequent influence. Medical historians will have cause to be grateful to Dr Laks.

JULIO L. RUFFINI (editor), *Advances in medical social science*, New York and London, Gordon Breach, 1983, vol. 1, 8vo, pp. xvii, 405, \$44.50.

All those interested in the relations between medicine, medical history, and the social sciences will find this a valuable volume. It consists of eight essays, mainly substantial, critically exploring recent developments in particular areas of the social sciences related to medicine – e.g., medical psychology, medical economics, medical geography. The surveys by David Landy on medical anthropology and by Samuel W. Bloom and Ruth E. Zambrana on medical sociology are particularly impressive, and contain splendid bibliographies. Stanley Joel Reiser's essay on 'The uses of medical history', though stimulating, is rather slim.

H. HAMILTON BAILEY and W. J. BISHOP, *Notable names in medicine and surgery*, 4th ed., rev. by Harold Ellis, London, H. K. Lewis, 1983, 8vo, pp. xv, 272, illus., £15.00.

Henry Hamilton Bailey (1894–1961) was an eminent London surgeon, surgical teacher, and prolific author, whose two textbooks, *Physical signs in clinical surgery* and *Short practice of surgery* are still being revised and reprinted. William J. Bishop (1903–61), the distinguished librarian, medical historian, and author, was the founder and first editor of *Medical History* (1957–61). They collaborated to publish, in 1944, the first edition of this very useful book. Intended for members of the medical and allied professions, it provides information about the individuals whose eponyms are used every day in clinical practice. Medical historians will also find much useful material. Second and third editions appeared in 1946 and 1959 (reviewed in *Med. Hist.*, 1960, 4: 263–264), and it is a pleasure to welcome the fourth edition, completely revised, edited, and enlarged by Mr Harold Ellis. Arranged alphabetically, the text is well written and displayed, and the accompanying illustrations (some in colour) include portraits, photographs of cases, institutions, instruments, etc. There is a bibliography and an index. The Library of the Royal College of Surgeons of England is to benefit from the sale of this book.

ROGER T. AUSTIN, *Robert Chessher of Hinckley 1750–1831. First English orthopaedist*, Leicester, Leicestershire County Council Libraries Information Office (Thames Tower, Navigation Street, Leicester LE1 3TZ), 1982, 8vo, pp. 56, illus., £1.50 + 25p postage (paperback).

Robert Chessher was a surgeon who specialized in the treatment of spinal deformities. He was one of the earliest surgeons to recognize the importance of regular supervision of his patients, many of whom stayed at Hinckley under his care for extended periods, enabling him to observe the clinical course and natural history of their varied disorders. Unfortunately, he did not publish his findings, and the details of his cases which he prepared in manuscript have not survived. Chessher designed ingenious appliances for his patients, some of which are described and illustrated in this book. A reassessment of his work is long overdue, and Mr Austin successfully combines biographical details with an account of surgical achievements.

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### NEW JOURNALS

*The ClioPedic Items. Bulletin of the Center for the History of Foot Care and Foot Wear*, (Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine, Eighth at Race, Philadelphia Pa. 19107, USA), vol. 1, no. 1, 1984.

The Center for the History of Foot Care and Foot Wear was established in 1981 (see *Med. Hist.*, 1983, 28: 217), and has developed successfully – about 1,500 books and pamphlets have been catalogued, and archival material processed. We therefore welcome the first issue of *The Clio Pedic Items*, an occasional publication which, it is hoped, will become a quarterly. It is edited by the director of the Center, Elizabeth M. Holloway, with the help of an advisory committee. The first issue includes an account of the Center to date, with notes on gifts; and an article on the shoemaker John Pounds (1766–1839). The Center is appealing for support from individuals (annual subscription \$35.00) and institutions (including chiropodial organizations, shoe manufacturers, etc.) (annual subscription \$100.00).

*Exploring Local History* (Elmcrest Publishing, Maggs House, 78 Queens Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1QX), vol. 1, no. 1, April 1984, annual subscription £9.50 (including postage in UK).

The current upsurge of interest in local history and genealogy makes this new periodical especially welcome. The editors, led by Gillian Sykes, intend to include articles on all aspects of the immense subject of local history from all over the country, and to promote discussion and a general exchange of views. Articles of interest to historians of medicine and science in the first issue include: the Black Country Museum, surnames and placenames, oral history, researching probate inventories, and the Arkwright Society. There are book reviews and notes and queries sections. The journal is well produced, and attractively designed and illustrated.

### BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

*Bibliography of the history of medicine*, no. 18 (1982), Bethesda, Md., National Library of Medicine, 1983, 4to, pp. ix, 305, \$7.50 (\$9.40 foreign), (paperback).

*Charité-Annalen*, new series, vol. 2, 1982, Berlin DDR, Akademie-Verlag, M.58.00.

LUIS S. GRANJEL, *Historia de la medicina Vasca*, Salamanca, Instituto de Historia de la Medicina Española, 1983, 8vo, pp. 284, illus., [no price stated], (paperback).

E. V. PITCHER and L. H. SCHULTZ, *Boys and girls at play. The development of sex roles*, Brighton, Harvester Press, 1983, 8vo, pp. xi, 207, £15.95.

K. B. ROBERTS, *Americans in Paris. An 1843 guide for medical men*, St Johns, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland, 1984, 4to, pp. 30, illus., [no price stated], (paperback).

ULLI STELTZER, *Health in the Guatemalan highlands*, Seattle and London, University of Washington Press, 1983, 4to, pp. xxxv, 80, illus., £25.50 (£8.50 paperback).