

News, Notes and Queries

edition. It is a long review covering three whole pages of double columns. It opens with these words:

It is a serious thing to review a book like this of Mr. Gray's. One sits down to the task with the oppressive feeling of sadness which comes over a man when he has seen a wrong done, when he finds the occasion of such wrong has been unnecessarily sought for, and that the ill deed is after all ill done. . . .

Mr. Gray has published a book that was not wanted, and which, at any rate, ought not to have been dedicated to Sir Benjamin Brodie. It is low and unscientific in tone; and it has been compiled, for the most part, in a manner inconsistent with the professions of honesty which we find in the preface. It is not even up to the mark of the existing vade-mecums. Mr. Gray has worked under a false estimate of his duties as a teacher, and without fairly appreciating the intellectual condition and requirements of the present race of Medical students. A more unphilosophical amalgam of anatomical details and crude Surgery we have never met with. . . .

The reviewer proceeds to accuse Gray of having abstracted and paraphrased Quain's *Anatomy* reproducing extracts from the two volumes in parallel columns. He does not seem to realize that Anatomy being a factual subject must lead to similar statements in rival publications. His quotations and comparisons are by no means similar. But they allow him to write that 'It is our duty to declare that Mr. Gray's book is not only superfluous and unsatisfactory but that it is not honest.'

It must not be supposed that these are by any means the only passages which might be quoted or referred to in substantiation of the serious charges we have made. Our difficulty has not been to find such passages, but to know which to select from many equally startling. We may say, further, that those who will take the trouble to compare the plan of the book with that of Quain, and will examine the two books together, chapter by chapter, section by section, paragraph by paragraph, sentence by sentence, parenthesis by parenthesis, and oftentimes word by word, must admit that the interests of the Profession demand a full exposure. They will see that even in copying plates Mr. Gray has copied mistakes, and that he has made errors of description by imperfectly transcribing Quain.

Any one who sees all this must find it extremely difficult to speak of Mr. Gray's book in anything like terms of moderation. But we are conscious that, as the matter stands, we have been very temperate in our censure, and are so in the concluding remark that we feel confident every right-minded reader will join with us in repudiating this book of Mr. Gray's, and in lamenting that those for whom it was mainly intended, the young men of the Profession, whom we would fain see looking up to and emulating their teachers, as men of honour as well as of science, should be exposed to the contagion of such an example of debased compilation and unscrupulous assumption.

Poor Gray died two years later, at the age of thirty-four, carried away by a severe attack of smallpox, but the name of the cocksure critic and inaccurate prophet is lost in oblivion.

WILLIAM BROCKBANK

LEWIS DURLACHER *Surgeon-Chiropodist (1792-1864)*

J. C. DAGNALL, M.CH.S. (15 Heath Crescent, Davenport, Stockport, Cheshire) writes:

Lewis Durlacher (1792-1864) was a surgeon-chiropodist who was in practice for many years at 15 Old Burlington Street, London. He was apparently far ahead of his time in the able and ethical way he carried on his calling. Sir B. Brodie, Dr. Chambers, Sir Charles Clarke, Sir

News, Notes and Queries

John Forbes, Mr. Keate, Sir Mathew Tierney and Mr. Liston were some of the members of the medical profession who referred patients to him. Durlacher held the appointment as Surgeon-Chiropodist to the Medical Department of the Royal Household of King George IV, King William IV and Queen Victoria. On one occasion he demonstrated his operation for ingrowing toe-nail at the Hospital of Surgery in Panton Square, London. He wrote *A Treatise on Corns, Bunions, the Diseases of Nails and the General Management of the Feet*, London, Simpkin, Marshall and Co., 1845. The book was a notable contribution to the literature and was well received by medical critics. It contained a fine description of Morton's metatarsalgia—35 years before Morton described it. Durlacher was well aware that the lower classes, and especially servants, suffered severely from minor disorders of the feet. In the preface, dated January 1st, 1845, he wrote: 'I am preparing proposals for the establishment of a dispensary for the diseases incidental to the feet, which I hope will soon be in actual operation. . . .' The dispensary was never founded and I would be very grateful if anyone could give me any information as to where Durlacher lodged his proposals, how they were dealt with and by whom.

THE KEDERMINSTER PHARMACOPOLIUM

AMONG recent accessions to the Wellcome Historical Medical Library is a transcript of an important source-book for information on English domestic medicine in the early seventeenth century. The *Kederminster Pharmacopolium* is a manuscript volume of over 500 pages, containing recipes and prescriptions collected by Sir John and Lady Kederminster, and no doubt used by them in attempting to ease the sufferings and cure the ills of their family, servants and tenants. Sir John Kederminster was the owner of Langley Park in Buckinghamshire. In 1623 he founded the Kederminster Library, a collection of theological books for the use of the clergy of the district. More books were added to the library under his will in 1631. This library, under the control of a body of Trustees, is kept in a panelled room adjoining the ancient parish church of St. Mary, Langley Marish, near Slough. In the time of its founder the clergy often had to assist in the cure of bodies as well as of souls, especially those of the poorer parishioners, and the *Pharmacopolium* was probably placed in the library as a guide for their use. On the title-page it is dated 1630, but the writing is in several hands, and pages are left blank for additional entries, so it is reasonable to assume that it was compiled over a period of years and probably during the married life of Sir John and Lady Kederminster.

The present vicar of St. Mary's, the Reverend F. C. Heward, and his wife Elizabeth, have made the transcript in the most scholarly fashion and they have deposited it in the Wellcome Library (MS. 5497), where it may be consulted by all who are interested in the subject or the period. The typescript is illustrated by photographs of the original illuminated title-page, of several pages of the text, and of the illuminated pedigree showing Sir John's relationship to Queen Elizabeth I.

THE ANATOMICAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF FABRICIUS AB AQUAPENDENTE

The importance of the work of Fabricius in both human and comparative anatomy is summarized by Singer and Cole, and it is strange that the wonderful series of coloured illustrations which he bequeathed to the Bibliotheca Marciana at his death in May 1619 has never been reproduced. Indeed, little notice has been taken of these important documents in the history of science and medicine, although a detailed account of them was published by G. Sterzi in 1909 ('Le "tabulae anatomicae" ed