

## Book Reviews

by the production and sale of books and pharmaceuticals. The pharmaceuticals business, which peaked in the early 1760s with net profits of 35,000 Reichsthaler annually, was promoted by popular medical handbooks written by Christian Friedrich Richter and David Samuel von Madai.

In the second part of the book Wilson minutely documents and analyses the transatlantic traffic and trade in pharmaceuticals, books and ideas. In the American colonies there was a growing market for Halle pharmaceuticals, which was influenced by the German population's preference for German medical providers, German pharmaceuticals and German self-help texts. The consumption of Halle medicines was also fostered by Halle-trained Pietist ministers in the German Lutheran congregations. Some of them—as in rural European areas—were actively practising medicine and pharmacy. According to the order lists from North America, preserved in the Francke Archive, the Halle pharmaceuticals were delivered to the clergy, to secular medical providers, to merchants, and to the educated laity. The persistence of this pharmaceutical trade between North America and Halle during the eighteenth-century laid the ground for a constant awareness of the Francke Foundations as an example of a private and voluntary non-profit organization. As Wilson argues, this example might have served as a model for similar institutions in late-eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century America.

In short, Renate Wilson's study is a pioneering work about the North American medical and pharmaceutical market during the eighteenth-century. One substantial criticism concerns her use of terms such as "Pietist medicine", "Pietist physician", and "Pietist therapy", because she does not explain what makes the difference between eighteenth-century Pietists and contemporary non-Pietists in medical matters. Furthermore, there are some little mistakes in the bibliography (for example,

"Szindely" instead of Zsindely, "Arnold Sames" instead of Arno Sames), the reproductions are sometimes of poor quality (especially Fig. 4.1), and there is no list of the archival records quoted. For German-speaking readers it would have been useful, if the quotations from documents—in addition to the author's English translations—had also been given in the original language. But despite these comments I do not regret having spent some instructive hours with this book.

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**René Sigrist, Vincent Barras, Marc Ratchiff, Louis Jurine, chirurgien et naturaliste (1751–1819),** Bibliothèque d'Histoire des Sciences 2, Chêne-Bourg, Editions Médecine et Hygiène, Département livre Georg, 1999, pp. 494, illus., SFr 50.00 (paperback 2-8257-0640-X).

The renowned Genevan surgeon and naturalist Louis Jurine was largely forgotten after his death. Using surviving materials, historians based in Geneva and Lausanne have explored every aspect of Jurine's medical and scientific activities. The result is this volume, the only major biography of Jurine. It is exemplary in its thoroughness and attention to detail, and representative of the growing number of writings being published by this particular group of scholars. Like several other recent works, this book capitalizes upon the rich mine of archival materials that have enabled the history of Genevan medicine and sciences in the eighteenth-century to be documented. Other studies, closely related to this, include René Sigrist's *Les origines de la Société de Physique et d'Histoire naturelle* (1990), Micheline Louis-Courvoisier's *Soigner et consoler* (2000), on the daily life of Geneva's general hospital, and a second edited

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volume by Vincent Barras and Louis-Courvoisier, *La médecine des lumières* (2000), a study of the famous Lausanne physician Samuel-André-Auguste-David Tissot.

The revival of interest in an individual such as Jurine is thus symptomatic of a recent surge of activity in the history of Swiss French medicine. Although contributors acknowledge that Jurine's fame during his lifetime was a product of his surgical expertise, the majority of the papers treat Jurine's natural historical work, ranging from meticulous studies of his collection and the role of systematics in his classificatory work to individual treatments of specific fields of interest, from bats, insects, freshwater crustaceans and fish to the formation of mountains and monsters. Jurine is revealed as a successor to a natural historical tradition of painstaking experimental and observational practice, begun in Geneva by Charles Bonnet, in which the study of animal design and function revealed Providential forethought, economy and harmony. Marc Ratcliff argues that Jurine's model of function was closer to that shared by eighteenth-century medical practitioners than to the new comparative anatomy of Cuvier and Parisian naturalists. René Sigrist and Patrick Bungener show that he differed from such individuals in other ways—rather than adopting the natural method wholeheartedly, he continued to view debates over classification in operational terms, with a pragmatic caution about systems and theories. His diversity as a naturalist was supported both by his skill as a dissector, acquired in surgical training, and by the artistic assistance of his daughter Christine.

The contributors are at pains to remark that their enterprise is not one of restoring Jurine to a rightful place in the history of Swiss medicine. Rather, they ask why Jurine's fame declined so rapidly, and raise the question of how Jurine's different experimental, practical and theoretical enterprises interrelated. Here, however, I felt

that the exclusive focus on Jurine tended to undermine the explicit purpose of the joint project, by allotting insufficient attention to Jurine's dependency on networks of clients, scientific peers, and particular social groups. Jurine's public life during this period, which encompassed intense upheaval and revolution as Geneva's sovereignty shifted during the 1790s and 1800s, is rapidly passed over with the comment that the surgeon was not very politically active. As a result, the dramatic effects that such shifts could have upon the possibilities opening up for someone like Jurine in this period—a *bourgeois* rather than a patrician member of the oligarchy, a surgeon rather than a high-status physician—are under-emphasized. An opportunity is thereby lost of documenting the relations between scientific or medical status, political transformation and the production of the history of medicine and science. The reasons for Jurine's changing reputation should be sought not in his own pronouncements but in a broader story of the respective status of surgery, medicine and natural history. Jurine's transformation of surgical wealth into natural historical specimens, of surgical skill into natural historical expertise and fame, is however only obliquely addressed in the volume. This not insignificant example shows that this book raises unanswered questions in the history of eighteenth-century science and medicine.

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**Silvano Montaldo**, *Medici e società. Bartolomeo Sella nel Piemonte dell'ottocento*, publication of Comitato di Torini dell'Istituto per la Storia del Risorgimento Italiana, Turin, Carocci Editore, 1998, pp. 360 (paperback 88-430-1091-3).

Bartolomeo Sella (1776–1829) spent his medical career in the commune of Mosso