Book Notices

Thomas Schnalke (ed.), *Natur im Bild: Anatomie und Botanik in der Sammlung des Nürnberger Arztes Christoph Jacob Trew*, Erlangen, Universitätsbibliothek, 1995, pp. 384, illus., DM 68.00 (3–930357–07–0).

Since the early nineteenth century Erlangen University Library has housed the collection of the Nuremberg physician and naturalist Christoph Jacob Trew (1695–1769). Comprising about 34,000 books, 20,000 letters, 73 manuscripts, and more than 2,500 botanical drawings, partly reaching back to the sixteenth century, it is one of the largest private natural history and medicine collections of the German Enlightenment. In 1995, the Institute for the History of Medicine in Erlangen and the University Library used the 300th anniversary of Trew's birth as an opportunity to display parts of the collection to the general public. This exhibition is documented in the present, richly illustrated catalogue, edited by the medical historian and expert on Trew, Dr Schnalke.

The helpful and well-documented explanations to 166 exhibits—illustrating Trew's education and medical practice, his library and collections, and especially his work in anatomy and botany—are preceded by essays, which provide further context. Following a biographical introduction, Schnalke discusses Trew's projects in anatomical and botanical illustration. While the former project resulted only in one, though high quality, work on the human skull, the latter was very successful, leading among others to the marvellous series of *Plantae selectae* and a revised edition of Elizabeth Blackwell's herbal. A vital role in these projects was played by young, talented Nuremberg artists, who were sponsored as well as trained by Trew in an "anatomical" style of nature painting. Two contributions look into the earlier history of Trew's areas of scientific work: Renate Wittern gives an overview of anatomy from antiquity to Vesalius, and Konrad Wickert analyses the "Camerarius-Florilegium", a late-sixteenth-century, probably Franconian volume of coloured plant drawings, that was unknown to scholars until recently and was acquired by Erlangen University Library in 1992. Finally, Hans-Otto Keunecke describes the history and present organization of the Trew collection. A bibliography and indexes of names, anatomical, botanical, and zoological terms, and relevant shelfmarks, round off this catalogue, which can also serve as an initial guide for researchers.

Werner E Gerabek, *Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling und die Medizin der Romantik*, Europäische Hochschulschriften, vol. 7, Frankfurt am Main, Peter Lang, 1995, pp. 535, DM 52.00 (3–631–48865–3).

Werner E Gerabek's "Habilitationsschrift" at the Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg centres on a small segment of German Romantic medicine: Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling's period as Professor of *Naturphilosophie* at the University of Würzburg from 1803 to 1806. Thanks to an ambitious restructuring of the University after the turn of the century, Schelling, who had outstayed his public welcome in Jena after having physicked his stepdaughter to death, was invited to lend the renown of his name to Würzburg. Gerabek describes in detail the cabals involved in Schelling's commission as well as the adversities which the transcendental philosopher had to overcome. Orthodox theologians fought Schelling, and many a Würzburg professor's spouse detested Mrs Schelling's affectations. The more Schelling's philosophical leanings became the target of attack, Gerabek argues, the more he turned towards medical studies, as a medical dilettante grappling with Brunonianism, physiognomy, and theories of magnetism. Over time Schelling lost the good reputation he had initially enjoyed with the administration of

Würzburg University and he finally left for Munich. Gerabek has managed to write a comprehensive account of Schelling's stay in Würzburg. He hardly ever quotes any manuscript material. There is no particular reason why he should—but his emphasis on the importance of manuscripts in the acknowledgements is puzzling. The activities of Schelling's supporters and the huge criticisms to which his *Naturphilosophie* was subject are well delineated. With respect to the discussion of Schelling's theories themselves the case is different. Even though the bibliography includes the relevant publications on Romantic medicine from within and outside Germany, the author oddly refrains from engaging with it. Many facets of medical theory are summarized, few are discussed. Gerabek is strong on biographical and institutional details. In this respect he offers a host of new information concerning Schelling's three years in Würzburg. At the end of the book, however, the reader is left wondering whether this period was really decisive for Schelling's medical philosophy.

Lawrence D Collins, *The 56th Evac Hospital: letters of a WWII army doctor*, War and the Southwest Series Number 4, Denton, University of North Texas Press, 1995, pp. xx, 284, illus., $29.95, (0–929398–93–1).

As the title suggests, this volume comprises the selected letters of a US Army doctor to his wife and family during the Second World War. The letters have been edited by the military historian Carlo D'Este but generally appear much as they were written by Dr Lawrence D Collins over fifty years ago (Collins has added a preface and epilogue). Covering the period from Collins' departure from New York in 1942 until October 1945, his correspondence serves as a useful guide to a doctor's experiences of war in North Africa and Italy. Like most diaries and letters written by soldiers in wartime, these letters tell us rather more about the everyday features of a soldier's life—food, weather and family—than the experience of combat, or the technical aspects of warfare. The omission of such detail is unsurprising given that wartime censorship, not to mention active service, tend to preclude such reflections. As Collins recalls in his preface, there is also an element of self censorship: the horrors of war are sometimes understated in order to reassure loved ones at home.

But Collins' correspondence with his family does contain much of interest to the historian of medicine. His descriptions of the Anzio landings reveal the strains of medical work under fire; the letters also contain some interesting comments on the treatment of wound infection, including the introduction of penicillin early in 1944. However, the most valuable insights to be gained from these letters concern such matters as relations between prisoners of war, and between combatants and civilians; one of the most striking things about these accounts is the degree of camaraderie which existed between soldiers on both sides. Other comments made by the author may also be of interest, such as the continuing importance of religious life in the forces, or Collins' opposition to "socialised medicine" (which was then being fiercely debated in the USA). Taken together, these letters provide a rare glimpse into medical practice in war, a dimension of combat all too frequently ignored in historical accounts. Yet far more could have been done to place this collection in historical context; the introduction is, to be frank, rather feeble—a pity, given that this is one of the few such sources readily accessible outside of the archives.

Carola Throm, *Das Diphtherieserum: Ein neues Therapieprinzip, seine Entwicklung und Markteinführung*, Heidelberger Schriften zur Pharmazie-und Wissenschaftsgeschichte, vol. 13, Stuttgart, Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft, 1995, pp. 229, DM 68.00, (3–8047–1395–5).

Carola Throm's study was originally submitted as a dissertation in the history of pharmacy at Heidelberg University in July

1994. It underwent only minor alterations in its published form. Her research outlines Emil Behring's (1854–1917) discovery of the diphtheria anti-toxin and its subsequent development and production on a large industrial scale in co-operation with Farbwerke Meister, Lucius und Brüning, a dye works in Höchst. The actual invention of the anti-toxin was stimulated by Behring's previous research into disinfectants such as "Jodoform" and perfected under the influence of Paul Ehrlich.

The commercial development of modern immune-biological products necessitated the renovation of methods of their production, such as the advancement of suitable cultures, the immunization of animals and the bottling of the end product. This fostered the rapid emergence and reorganization of the pharmaceutical industry.

Throm argues that the sudden massive demand for the anti-toxin (the reasons for which are not accounted for), not only accelerated its industrial production but also caused the authorities to control the quality of its production and prescription. This control system exhibited already all the hallmarks of the modern law governing the manufacture and prescription of drugs.

M J G W van Daal and **A de Knecht-van Eekelen,** *Johannes Juda Groen (1903–1990). Een arts op zoek naar het ware welzijn* [Johannes Juda Groen (1903–1990). A physician seeking true health], Rotterdam, Erasmus Publishing, 1994, pp. 240, illus., Hfl. 52.50 (90–5235–065–5).

The career of Dr Johannes Juda Groen (1903–1990) spanned much of the twentieth century. This study describes his schooling, medical studies, and his research interests, appointments and career from his qualification in 1927 to his retirement in 1974 and beyond; Groen continued to publish and carry out research until his death in 1990. As with most Dutch Jewish doctors, his career came to an abrupt halt during the War; unlike many, he survived, emerging from his experiences with new ideas about the direction his work should take. After the war he was appointed to a post in Amsterdam's Wilhelmina Gasthuis, were his responsibilities included victims of the hunger winter of 1945 and typhus cases. His interests, already diverse and including pernicious anaemia, Gaucher's disease, diabetes mellitus, and vitamins, broadened and deepened to embrace psychosomatic illness, nutritional diseases, and social medicine. Between 1958 and 1968 Groen worked in Jerusalem, returning to a chair in Leiden in the "methodology of psychobiological research" in 1968. Thus far a standard biography, but it is more than this as the authors demonstrate how Groen's work moved in tandem with changes in the specialties and the concerns of the medical profession. Groen's interests were broad to an extent which is inconceivable today. The book is richly illustrated, and there is a useful list of publications. Just one reservation is that the authors seem so overwhelmed by Groen's capacities that they fail to provide a summing up of what his career added up to, and how he fitted the bill of a twentieth-century medical prime mover.

Margot Mayes, *The stormy petrel: a life of Dr. Kate Fraser, C.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., 1877–1957*, University of Glasgow, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 1995, pp. xii, 183, illus., £7.50 (0–9511765–7–9) (copies available from: Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 5 University Gardens, Glasgow G12 8QQ).

There exist several biographies of the first women doctors in Britain, such as Elizabeth Blackwell, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Sophia Jex-Blake. In this biography of a female physician of the next generation, Mayes relates the life of her aunt, Kate Fraser, who in 1903 became the first woman to graduate in medicine from the University of Glasgow. Based upon family papers, the book offers an interesting insight into the life of a less well-known early medical woman, even if it remains little contextualized.

The daughter of a physician and niece of a professor of pathology, Fraser was educated at a "Young Ladies' School" until she went to the local, preponderantly male, Grammar School. At the age of sixteen she enrolled at Queen Mary College, Glasgow University, to attend Junior classes to prepare herself for matriculation. Due to her father's preference for Arts, she initially became a student at this faculty, but later changed to the faculty of Science, from which she received a BSc in 1900. Now Fraser entered medical school, graduating three years later. She gained some hospital experience before she went on to pursue postgraduate studies, spending time in Vienna and Paris. Her MD thesis on 'Mental deficiency of feeble-minded children' was passed in 1913. The year of the outbreak of the war, Fraser became a deputy commissioner of the Board of Control for Scotland, which had succeeded the Board of Commissioners in Lunacy. In 1935 she became the first woman to be appointed senior commissioner.

Sholem Glaser, *The spirit of enquiry: Caleb Hillier Parry, MD, FRS*, Far Thrupp, Alan Sutton, 1995, pp. xii, 177, illus., £14.99 (0–7509–0998–6).

Caleb Hillier Parry was born in Cirencester in 1755. He qualified as an MD in Edinburgh in 1778. After marriage and a continental tour he settled into lucrative medical practice at Bath. He bought a farm in the neighbourhood where he bred sheep and established a reputation as a scientific agriculturist. Not surprisingly he was a correspondent of Sir Joseph Banks. Parry's medical fame rests on his pathological and clinical observations, notably on angina pectoris. Sholem Glaser has produced a small but useful biography of Parry by fleshing out earlier accounts of Parry's life with portraits of Bath, details of letters to and from Edward Jenner, elaborations of Parry's publications in *The Farmers Journal and Agricultural Advertiser* and so on. The book is carefully footnoted and sticks fairly close to the subject. It does not stray into modern medical historiography but is none the worse for that. There is a wonderful book to be written by someone about the community of eighteenth-century West Country physicians, indeed Bath alone would make a fine study. Parry was surrounded by William Falconer, Anthony Fothergill and John Haygarth to name but three. Glaser's volume will be of much assistance to whoever seeks to accomplish such a task.

John H Cule and **John M Lancaster** (eds), *Russia and Wales: essays on the history of state involvements in health care*, Cardiff, History of Medicine Society of Wales, 1994, pp. x, 139, £10.00 (p&p UK £1.00; abroad £2.00) (09523481–0–1). Orders to The Librarian, University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff CF4 4XN, Wales.

Four of these seven papers, the product of a meeting in Cardiff in 1991, cover, in varying detail, the history of state involvement in medicine from Ivan the Terrible to Yeltsin. Those unfamiliar with the topic may find here a useful introduction, especially to Russian Health problems in the Gorbachev era. The Welsh contributions are more diverse; an elegant summary of Aneurin Bevan's role in the establishment of the NHS; an article on the medieval Court mediciner, reprinted unchanged from the *Journal of the History of Medicine*, 1966; and sidelights on the precautions taken against cholera coming from the Baltic in the late-nineteenth century. Outside Swansea, Cardiff, and Newport, only the minimum was done. For example, Carmarthen's "infectious disease hospital" was part of the old gaol in the middle of the town.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title 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.)