

Book Reviews

(Padua), Fontana on Irritability (p. 37); the original editions of the theoretical and psychological works of P. C. Hartmann (p. 217); Dom. Jean Larrey, *Recueil*, of 1821, including the most "modern" parts on acu-puncture (*moxa*)—the English translation of his separate work on the subject being represented; the German translation of James Lind (*Versuch über auserlesene Mittel, die Schiffleute auf der Königlichen Flotte gesund zu erhalten . . . mit einem Anhang vom Scharbock*, Kopenhagen 1766) with the interesting annotations and parts by Joh. Christian Lange; the works of Ferdinand Jahn of whom there is only that on Sydenham, much of the secondary literature on Van Helmont—to mention but a few which occurred to the reviewer. Surprise findings are certain to catch the eye, such as an edition of Joh. Trithemius' *Steganographia* as late as 1721 (by Wolfgang Ernst Heidel, p. 233). The collations are invaluable and the omission of those for one-volume books with distinct parts and all the pluri- and multi-volume books and numbers of plates, however regrettable, must have had good technical reasons, such as notably the avoidance of delay in publication and an uncomfortable swelling of the volume. The items by authors with extremely similar names and years of publications are not rare and here the most careful and meticulous identification with biographical notes provided by the cataloguer will be of inestimable value and go far in protecting the scholar against confusion (e.g. the ten Gmelins, p. 127, including two Johann Georgs; Georg Franck v. Franckenau 1644–1704 and Georg Friedrich 1669–1732; Robert Hall 1763–1824 and 1764–1831 p. 197; no less than four Helvetius, pp. 242–244). Joh. Michael Faust (1663–1707) on p. 13, author of a commentated edition of the *Pandora* (1706), however, is not unlikely to be identical with the author of the two dissertations (Strassburg, 1684 and 1688) listed separately as if by two different persons.

No more than these few glimpses into a mine of information and treasures can be given. If there has ever been a first-class work of reference promising delightful hours of browsing for browsing's sake, here it is.

MING WONG, *La médecine chinoise par les plantes*, Paris, Editions Tchou, 1976, 8vo, pp. 284, illus., [no price stated].

Dr. Wong presents an account of traditional Chinese medicine in action. To introduce it there is a lengthy section on its development from the earliest times; then the general principles of herbal therapy are discussed, and the plants themselves. There is also a section on specific diseases and the treatments used. Acupuncture and moxibustion are given special attention.

It is of great interest to observe the practice of a type of medicine which was universal in the West until about forty years ago. We now employ the purified active principles of drugs, and gradually this itself is being replaced by synthetic preparations of great efficacy. It seems doubtful that the crude herbs alone can be as helpful, so that success with them must depend on part on supra-cortical influences on the patient, as must surely be the case with acupuncture.

Apart from the historical content it seems unlikely that many will be interested in a herbal pharmacopoeia. This, of course, applies to the orthodox practitioner, but there may be others in the fringe or marginal varieties of medicine who will derive benefit from this book.