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when the relationship of planets to events on earth and the birth of individuals and to parts of the body is studied; (2) divinatory astrology, when from astronomical calculations prognostications for the development of diseases or of epidemics are deduced; (3) "artificial astrology". Here tables and calendars are used without reference to or even knowledge of the philosophical background. During phase 2 the term *iatromathematics* was introduced to exclude the idea of demonic magic which would make this kind of medicine suspect to the religious establishment. Nevertheless, the attitude of religious authorities fluctuated a good deal. This is one of the chief themes of the book under notice. It is an excellent source-book for the astro-medicine of the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries, from Ficino through the syphilis debate down or up to Kepler.

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MING WONG, *Les massages en médecine traditionnelle chinoise*, Paris, Masson, 1984, 8vo, pp. x, 128, illus., £16.50.

Massage belongs to the manual methods of treating ailments, which have a long history in Chinese medicine going back to the fifth century BC. The view of the body underlying it is the traditional one that compares man with the universe. The vessels convey fluids along the body the way channels irrigate the earth. The acupuncture points are like stars in the sky. There are five humours, five colours, five seasons, etc., and massage aids their harmonious interaction. The first twenty-nine pages tell the history of the development of these ideas and their application by way of massage into an empirically valid system advocated today by the government hospitals and institutions in different districts of China, each having developed its own variety of treatment by massage. The next few pages are devoted to diagnosis concerned with functions such as energies, breaths, and an intricate pulse lore. The rest of the book demonstrates with line drawings what massage is to be given for specific complaints. Points along the acupuncture "meridians" are stimulated and sometimes points above, below, or to the left or right of them. For certain complaints additional treatment by acupuncture and herbal injections is recommended. Any person trained in Western massage may benefit from this book. To the rest of us it affords the spectacle of the possible variety of human responses to pain.

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BURGHARD WEISS, *Wie finde ich Literatur zur Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften und Technik*, Berlin, Arno Spitz, 1985, 8vo pp. 289, DM 36.00 (paperback).

According to the author, this work is not intended as a specialized introduction to the problems, foundations, and methods of the history of science and technology, nor is it a bibliography which lists systematically and with a certain completeness titles of books on the subject. Its aim is to provide information on the means of finding books and articles relevant to the study of the history of science and technology. It is true that this guide does not deal in depth with the methodology and foundations of the subject, but the author is unduly modest when he claims that the bibliography, which occupies three-quarters of the book, may not be considered systematic. It may lack comprehensiveness and completeness (it does not include articles, nor is it annotated), but it seems to be astonishingly up to date and should prove very useful to the student and newcomer to the subject, whatever his or her native language.

The book falls into two parts: the first four chapters deal with the methodology and aims of the subject, the material available for study in libraries, the West German libraries where this material can be found and the way the literature can be located (in fact, a short guide to bibliographical organization and library technique). This part is aimed at the student or newcomer to the subject in West Germany. There is an interesting account of the origin and

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development of the study of the history of science and technology, compared with that of the history of medicine, and a short note on the present situation with special reference to Germany. Lists of the research and university institutes in science and technology and of the institutes of the history of medicine in the Federal Republic are included.

The second part – chapters 5 and 6 – contains the bibliography, beginning with a list of guides to institutions, libraries, and museums, bibliographies and reference books, biographical dictionaries and general introductions to the subject. The main part is organized in a similar way to the classification used in the *Isis* Critical Bibliographies: general works on the history of science, the history of science from special points of view, the history of science in different periods, the history of the special sciences classified first by period and then by the different branches of the subject, followed by a similar arrangement for the history of technology. The order of the sciences is somewhat unusual, pharmacy and medicine figuring between the physical sciences and the life sciences, which are followed by geography and meteorology. References from the general to the special sections are on the whole adequate, although I have noted some omissions. Chapter 6 provides a useful (international) list of periodicals on the subject in alphabetical order. The book ends with a short glossary of German library and bibliographical terms and an author index.

Magda Whitrow

FREDERICK B. WAGNER, jun., *The twilight years of Lady Osler: letters of a doctor's wife*, Nantucket, Mass., Science History Publications (USA), 1985, 8vo, pp. xiii, 144, illus., \$20.00

The surviving letters of the later years of Lady Osler are presented in three sections: first, 1914–17, the period covering her son Revere's last years until his death in Flanders (Lady Osler was sixty-three when Revere was killed); second, 1917–19, the last three years of Sir William Osler, until his death from pneumonia in 1919; third, 1919–28, the period of Lady Osler's widowhood, until her death from a stroke in 1928 – most of the letters have been selected from this time.

The picture emerges of the former Boston belle who, during her first marriage to the surgeon, Samuel Gross, jun., developed as a successful Philadelphia society hostess and then, in her second marriage to William Osler, became “the great Victorian lady” and “ideal physician's wife”, playing her part both in Baltimore and then in Oxford, at “The Open Arms”. The deaths of Revere and then of William Osler shattered her, and her last years were of increasing loneliness.

The flavour of the letters – both gossipy and shrewd – is exemplified by the following:

Oxford, July 15, 1923. We have had a strange luncheon party. The Garrods came over to meet the Allbutts. I felt I could scarcely keep from shrieking aloud at not seeing the real and *only* Regius Professor come in the room . . . I also have Dr. Banting (insulin) . . . I like him so much – He is very shy . . . he has a heart – I assure you and an artistic sense and feeling.

Dr Frederick Wagner, who himself held the Grace Revere Osler Chair of Surgery at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, is to be commended on his brilliant selection and editing of these letters, which will be of special interest to all Osler *aficionados*.

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