

*Illustrations from the Wellcome Institute Library*

Tobias, although unable to claim a place in the first rank of medical history, nevertheless characterizes the Jewish physician and savant typical of his time. He stands in a period of transition between the thought of the Middle Ages rooted in the medicine of Galen and Hippocrates while at the same time aware and often advocating the great developments in the medicine of his time. He is able to say in his very baroque and original Hebrew given here in translation. "I do not wish beloved reader to force you to follow in a rigorous way my teachings, and to urge you to go in the ways of modern physicians without deviating to right or left; but it is true that the method which modern physicians use with such constancy and reflective analysis has led them to new discoveries . . . thus they have enlightened us so that they could establish in our time a practical method of medicine and that also the sick have no distaste in taking drugs." (f. 126<sup>r</sup>). Such was the breadth not only of the man's learning but his understanding and ability to discern what was good both in the time-honoured medical systems of the ancients and the brilliant advances in his own time of transition and change.

*News, Notes, and Queries*

HIGH MATTER, DARK LANGUAGE  
THE PHILOSOPHY OF ROBERT FLUDD (1574–1637)

An exhibition at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine (1st floor), 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP. Monday 2 July to Friday 12 October 1984, 09.45 to 17.15 hours, not open Saturdays and Sundays.

## NEW BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESOURCE FOR HISTORY OF FRENCH MEDICINE

Historians of French medicine might be interested to learn that a major bibliographical resource is now at their disposal. The Bibliothèque Nationale (BN), Paris, holds an enormous collection of French-language works relating to medicine. Those published before 1863 are included in the *Catalogue des sciences médicales* (3 vols., Paris, 1857–89). But works published later are difficult to trace.

The BN does contain an enormous card-file in the *hémicycle*, relating to works on medicine published from 1889 to 1925. This file is difficult to use and cannot be consulted without official authorization. Many of the works listed in this file do not appear in either the BN's published author catalogue or the unpublished subject catalogue.

Recently, Dr Michel Bouillé, a historian working in Paris, performed a major service for all historians of French medicine by preparing four related bibliographies based on these and other card-files at the BN. Together, these contain 10,300 separate references, including BN call numbers (and in some cases, reference numbers at the Paris Faculty of Medicine and even the National Library of Medicine).

The four bibliographies are:

1. *Les institutions médicales en France: savoirs et pratiques 1500–1920*; 484pp., 4,800 references.
2. *L'hygiène en France au 19<sup>e</sup> siècle*; 364pp., 3,500 references.
3. *L'hygiène de l'enfance*; part 1 – books and pamphlets 1545–1980; part 2 – medical theses 1800–1976; totalling 200 references.
4. *Le magnétisme animal*, 85pp. 1,200 references.

These four bibliographies constitute an extraordinary research tool for historians. It is to be hoped that a publisher will one day recognize their significance and make them available in published form. Meanwhile, Dr Bouillé has graciously sent microfiches to the National Library of Medicine, Wellcome Institute, Osler Library (McGill University), Bibliothèque Nationale (Paris), and Faculté de Médecine de Paris, where they can be consulted by scholars.

For further information, Dr Bouillé can be contacted at 12, rue de Panama, 75018 Paris, France.

George Weisz  
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## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS: HISTORY OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

The American Association for the History of Medicine is planning, in early 1985, to issue a new listing of current research being conducted on topics in the history of medicine and related sciences, including dissertations. Individuals and department heads desiring to have their projects and those of their students listed are urged to send the following information: (1) name; (2) institution or mailing address; (3) title of substantial research topics; (4) estimated completion date. Send communications before 1 December 1984 to: Charles G. Roland, MD, 3N10–HSC McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3Z5, Canada.

## BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

The Tenth British Congress on the History of Medicine was held at Clyne Castle, Swansea from 6 to 8 April 1984 on the theme 'Child Care through the Centuries'. The History of Medicine Society of Wales under the presidency of Dr Emyr Wyn Jones acted as host to the British Society for the History of Medicine under the presidency of Sir Gordon Wolstenholme, and seventy-nine delegates attended. Following dinner on Friday evening, Professor Ralph Griffiths of the Department of History, University College of Swansea, talked of the history of the castle and its exotic garden. The programme of lectures maintained a high quality of delivery as well as of content and will be published as a *Proceedings*: 'Care of the prematurely born and/or sick newborn baby in the past half-century' – Prof. Sir Peter Tizard; 'The child in hospital and the re-emergence of the family' – Mrs Jean Cleary; 'The health of the school child' – Dr John Hatch; 'The history of paediatric surgery' – Mr J. D. Atwell; 'The role of Ibn Tufayl, an Almohad physician, in the discovery of childhood in seventeenth-century England' – Dr G. A. Russell; 'Dr Whitlock Nicholl (1786–1838) and paediatrics' – Dr Peter Thomas; 'The early history of psychiatric care of children' – Prof. Sydney Brandon; 'The evolution of developmental paediatrics' – Dr Sheila Wallace; 'Child abuse in history' – Prof. Bernard Knight; 'Dame Agnes Hunt and the care of the crippled child' – Dr Ben Davis; 'The English disease: infantile rickets and scurvy in pre-industrial England' – Dr Valerie Fildes; 'Infant care in medieval Islam' – Dr H. D. Isaacs; 'John Jones on the *Preservation of the Bodie and Soule*' – Dr John Cule.

An exhibition of paediatric historical interest was mounted by Dr Marshall Annear, which included a superb collection of feeding-bottles and pap-boats, kindly loaned by Dr Richard West. On the social side, never neglected by the Welsh, the University College of Swansea and the University of Wales gave a reception in the library of the castle before dinner on 6 April. Delegates were given a Welsh gastronomic experience with 'A taste of laverbread' before lunch on 7 April. The City of Swansea provided a reception attended by the Deputy Lord Mayor before the Banquet, at which Sir Gordon Wolstenholme proposed a toast to "The City of Swansea and its University College" with a response by Professor Emeritus Glanmor Williams.

## UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

A Fellowship in Military Medical History has been established at the Section of Medical History of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, co-operatively with the US Army Medical Department. Initiated on an experimental basis as a six-month programme, the fellowship is designed to train young Army Medical Service Corps officers as teachers of military medical history in the officer and enlisted courses given at the USA Academy of the Health Sciences in San Antonio, Texas. The first Fellow is Captain William H. Thresher, MSC, USA, who began the programme in January 1984.