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GUY SABBAB (ed.), *Mémoires VIII: Études de médecine romaine*, Centre Jean-Palerne, Université de Saint-Étienne, 1988, 4to, pp. 178, illus., [no price stated], (paperback).

The latest volume of these scholarly *Mémoires* contains several articles on Latin medical terminology, as well as explications of Serenus Sammonicus and Scribonius Largus. There are useful studies of less well-known physicians and surgeons, Quintus, Numisianus, and Heliodorus, a survey of “medical archaeology”, and an important catalogue of magical chants in medical recipes.

LEONARD OF BERTAPAGLIA, *On nerve injuries and skull fractures*, trans. with an Introduction and Commentary by Jules C. Ladenheim, History of Medicine Series 52, Issued under the auspices of the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine, Mount Kisco, NY, Futura, 1989, 8vo, pp. xxi, 154, illus., \$39.00.

A reprint, with a translation, of a medieval surgical text would normally be warmly welcomed, even more so, if it was the work of as distinguished an academic surgeon as Leonardo da Bertapaglia (c. 1380–post 1448). But it is impossible to take seriously a translation by a man whose knowledge of medieval surgeons extends to such phantoms as Constantinius Viaticus, Lisfranc, Glumnus Gulielmus of Vergnoza, and Gerard of Gordon *alias* Lilius Gordonsis de Pedmont; who believes that the glory of Padua was eclipsed by the Turkish wars and the circumnavigation of the Cape of Good Hope; who seems unaware of the major studies of Pesenti on Leonardo and his teaching; whose idea of a text is to juxtapose two (equally badly transcribed) versions, one from a manuscript (and not the best), the other from a printed book whose title he wrongly cites; who thinks that *humiditas* means “humour”; and whose major contribution to medieval nosology is to translate one of the commonest words in Latin medicine, *apostema* (“swelling” or “inflammation”), always as if it meant “pus”. This enterprise, we are told, p. xi, was once grounded; would that it had sunk!

VALERIE FILDES, *Breasts, bottles and babies; a history of infant feeding*, Edinburgh University Press, 1989, 8vo, pp. xxviii, 462, illus., £9.50, (paperback).

The successful nurture of the younger members of the population is a basic requirement of every nation. In recognizing this important subject Valerie Fildes provides a detailed study, first published in 1986, of infant feeding from 1500 to 1800, mainly in England but with international comparisons. Part I, a review of source material on ancient and medieval feeding practices, provides an introduction to the main body of the book, based on the author’s doctoral thesis. This considers and evaluates many aspects of maternal breast feeding, wet nursing, supplementary and artificial feeding, and weaning. In the interpretation of the historical sources the aim was to focus on three main points: the concern for, and effect on, respectively, the child, the mother, and the mother-child relationship and, overall, to relate understanding of earlier feeding practices in pre-industrial society to current practice in pre-industrial societies today. The book is generously supplied with black-and-white illustrations, the largest single group originating from the Wellcome collection. Sources, mainly printed, include a variety of early publications of English and Continental origin.

ALBERT SCHULTENS, *Academische redevoering van Albert Schultens, ter gedachtenisse van den grooten Herman Boerhaave*, with an introduction by H. L. Houtzager, Amsterdam, Rodopi, 1988, 8vo, pp. xxvi, 108, illus., Dfl. 24.50, (paperback).

It was at Herman Boerhaave’s own request that his friend the orientalist Albert Schultens delivered the funeral oration, at a public meeting of Leiden University’s Senate six weeks after the great man’s death in 1738. It was spoken in Latin, and its Latin edition supplied contemporary biographers with a wealth of useful detail. This book provides a concise

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introduction to the *Oratio*, and a photographic reproduction of the published Dutch translation (1739) prepared by Schultens's son Jan Jacob. Boerhaave's own words, gleaned by Schultens from manuscript notes, were printed in an italic face twice the size of the rest, truly the typographic equivalent of an immortal voice.

GERHARD WAGENITZ, *Göttinger Biologen 1737–1945: eine biographisch-bibliographische Liste*, Göttinger Universitätsschriften Serie C: Kataloge, Bd. 2, Göttingen, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1988, 8vo, pp. 228, DM 45.00.

Mention the University of Göttingen, and many historians will think of Carl Friedrich Gauss and mathematics; other may think of a string of Nobel Prizes in physics and chemistry. The present volume, published on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the Georg August University, is a reminder that Göttingen has a grand tradition in biology as well. Among its famous “biology” professors were Albrecht von Haller and Johann Friedrich Blumenbach, while Alexander von Humboldt and Gottfried Reinhold Treviranus are two examples of those who sat at Blumenbach's feet. What makes this list of Göttingen biologists particularly interesting is not the entries of the well-known figures, however, but the mini-biographies of the many mostly forgotten alumni. Based on a considerable amount of historical detective work, Wagenitz has succeeded in finding out about their dates, their social backgrounds, their professions, and their careers, making possible a variety of statistical inferences. This catalogue is a source of much useful information, both to the historian of biology and the student of higher education.

ROGER PRICE and FRAZER SWIFT, *Catalogue of nineteenth century medical trade marks 1800–1880*, London, Science Museum, 1988, 4to, [unpaginated], illus., £10.95, (paperback).

Medical historians are not the first to realize the value of extracting and rearranging the information relating to their subject contained in the *Trade Marks Journal*, but they will benefit greatly from the diligence with which the task has been carried out in this clear and comprehensive catalogue. It covers the backlog of trade mark registration applications published in the *Journal* from its first issue (3 May 1876) up to the end of 1880 for medical products in use from 1800. Nearly 1,300 trade marks are reproduced, surprisingly clearly, considering the quality of the originals. The application details given provide a register of firms and intended use of their product—“medical” has been interpreted with welcome breadth. The introduction explains the background of the 1875 Trade Marks Registration Act and the *Journal*, to which cross-reference from the catalogue is easy. The catalogue is far easier to use than its unwieldy source, however, and the indexes by name of applicant and wording (or description) of the trade mark reveal and date the firms and individuals behind the spurious credentials of many proprietary medicines.

J. CROSBIE ROSS and JOHN ROSS, *A gifted touch: a biography of Agnes Jones*, Worthing, W. Sussex, Churchman, 1988, 8vo. pp. ix, 92, illus., £3.95 (paperback).

There are good books to be written about those pioneers of the modern nursing profession whose contributions have been overshadowed by the prominence accorded to Florence Nightingale, but this is not one of them. It could be a start, if only because it brings together hitherto uncollated materials relating to Agnes Jones (1832–68), whose tragically early death perhaps prevented her from making the same mark as her better-known contemporary. However, this slight work is so badly organized that any serious researcher would probably prefer to go straight to the sources. It is repetitious—the same remark by Nightingale on Jones is quoted twice within two pages. New material, summarized from previously unpublished correspondence between Nightingale and William Rathbone, is relegated to a separate chapter rather than being incorporated into the narrative as a whole. The anachronistically hagiographic tone of this book does less than justice to the complexity of Jones's character, which is dimly perceptible beneath the clichés. It is hard to imagine for what audience this work is intended.

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SEEBERT J. GOLDOWSKY, *Yankee surgeon: the life and times of Usher Parsons 1788–1868*, Boston, Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, in cooperation with The Rhode Island Publications Society, 1988, 8vo, pp. xvi, 450, illus., \$24.50, dist. Science History Publications USA, P.O. Box 493, Canton, MA 02021.

In common with the hero of this authoritative biography (in which references are provided generously), Dr Goldowsky was a practising surgeon in Providence, Rhode Island and a graduate of Brown University and of Harvard. Parsons, surgeon to the *John Adams* during the battle of Lake Erie (1813), was later an academic anatomist and a vice president of the AMA (1854). The book is informative and a “damm good read” for medical and naval persons—Parsons served for ten years.

KENNETH BARLOW, *Recognising health*, London, The McCarrison Society, [24 Paddington St., London W1M 4DR], 1988, 8vo, pp. ix, 142, [no price stated], (paperback).

This interesting book’s purpose is to draw attention to what the author considers an unjustly neglected experiment in public health, that of the Peckham Centre. The Peckham Centre opened its doors in 1926 and expanded its premises in 1935. It was, in some ways, a pioneer of the “health centre” idea but to call it that would not do justice to the ideas underlying the involvement of medical and other staff in the Peckham experiment. They based their ideas on the view that positive health rather than medical intervention in illness should be the main direction of public health. To achieve this individuals should be studied interacting with their environment. The theory behind this was that health is the product of the total being achieving through growth and interaction the full development of its faculties.

In practical terms this led the pioneers at Peckham to provide a variety of activities and environmental experiences for the working-class families who attended the Centre. Although there were medical facilities available the traditional role of the doctor was not the prime function of the Centre. Instead, the emphasis was upon the healthy development of all who attended.

The author argues that an opportunity was missed with the reorganization of the health services in 1948. This reorganization was carried out on the old principle of medical care as an intervention in sickness and of supply and demand. As the author points out, this has not made us as a nation more noticeably healthy, nor has the need for health care shown any diminution over forty years. Therefore the author concludes with a plea for a re-examination of the ideas of positive health pioneered by the Peckham Centre.

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.)

HERBERT BAUR, *Drei historische Darstellungen der Zahnheilkunde im Vergleich: Geist-Jacobi, Sudhoff und Hoffmann-Axthelm*, Zürcher medizinisch-geschichtliche Abhandlungen, nr. 205, Zurich, Juris, 1989, 8vo, pp. 76, Sfr. 21.00 (paperback).

EDWARD D. BERKOWITZ, *Disabled policy: America’s programs for the handicapped*, A Twentieth Century Fund Report, Cambridge University Press, 1988, 8vo, pp. xiii, 280, £27.50, \$24.95.

ANN HILL BEUF, *Biting off the bracelet: a study of children in hospitals*, 2nd ed., Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1989, 8vo, pp. xi, 206, £11.95, (paperback).

CATH CIRKET, *A woman’s guide to breast health*, Grapevine, Wellingborough, Northants, Thorsons, 1989, 8vo, pp. 208, illus., £4.99 (paperback).