

## Book Reviews

and edit their material severely. Also, given the programme of producing such a work, there is never the excuse of being overwhelmed by the bulk of material to be published. In view of all this, a review of the second edition of the book cannot be much more than a repetition of the congratulations which greeted the original.

As in the earlier edition, the book goes in chronological order from antiquity, in each general period classifying publications by subject and then by author. The last third of the book is devoted to special topics, including scientific societies, periodicals, bibliographies, and libraries.

The authors are fully aware that any specialist will find errors of omission and commission in his own field, naturally the most important one. Rather than pick up such points, I would like to draw the authors' attention to some corrigible omissions in bibliography itself. These relate to the reprinting or translating of old scientific books and papers. To begin, the great series of 'Ostwalds Klassiker' receives no mention, either as a whole or as editions of the various works. This is unfortunate, because, for those who read German, they are an easily accessible treasury of texts and commentaries of scattered and rare sources. On a smaller scale, the Gauthier-Villars series 'Maîtres de la Pensée Scientifique' are also valuable. The early volumes were in print at least until the recent take-over by Pergamon Press, and may yet be saved from the pulp-mill. The German reprint of Darmstaedter's *Handbuch zur Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften und der Technik*, which runs in a strictly chronological order, may not have appeared when this second edition went to press. It is especially worth while to the historian wanting to trace developments in a restricted period.

I have on occasion advised librarians wanting to build up a collection in the history of science, and here we rely almost entirely on recent translations and reprints. The firm of Dover Books deserves honourable mention in this connexion. They provide paperbacks of a very superior quality as pieces of bookmaking, and at a reasonable price. Their list includes a good proportion of the English translations of the classics which appeared between one hundred years and fifty years ago. 'Basic Books' also reprint classics, although with more of an eye on appearance than on economy. Recently the Oldbourne Press (London) has entered the reprint field, and their lists are worthy of systematic attention.

All these points can be considered as peripheral to the history of scientific books and their publication, but they could usefully be tucked in at the end of the chapter on publishing. From my experience, I am sure that attention to this aspect of publishing would enhance the practical usefulness of the book.

Thornton-Tully as we have it, is by far the best general bibliographical tool available to the historian of science. One hopes that it will stay in print, and continue to be improved. Perhaps at some stage the authors could invite revisions of various sections by specialists, requiring only that the revised text does not exceed the original in length. In some such fashion, it could be developed into a classic among handbooks.

J. RAVETZ

*A Treatise on the Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity by Isaac Ray*, edited by WINFRED OVERHOLSER, Cambridge, Mass., The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1962, pp. xvii+376.

This is a worthy reprint of a landmark in the history of American psychiatry, an authoritative forward-looking exposition of the medico-legal relations of insanity which superseded all that had been written when it appeared in 1838 and which is still, in some of the principles advocated, ahead of modern practice. Ray was one of the pioneers who made important contributions to the specialty at a comparatively

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early age—he was thirty-one—on the basis of wide reading, clear thinking, and enlightened liberalism, before he had had anything but casual experience of the mentally ill. To this small band belong Alexander Crichton whose double-decker *Inquiry into the nature and origin of mental derangement*, 1798 appeared when he was twenty-five, and John Conolly whose *Inquiry concerning the indications of insanity*, 1830, published when he was thirty-six, was highly praised and much quoted by Ray. It is a pertinent reflection also for the modern practitioner, and one which illustrates how widely based psychiatry is not only in the biological sciences but also in the humanities and the social sciences, that Ray was able to contribute a book of 480 pages to its forensic aspects while J. C. Prichard's standard contemporary medical *Treatise on insanity*, 1835 ran to no more than 483 pages.

Dr. Overholser, an authority on the subject, has written a graceful introduction and supplied admirable editorial notes in the text. He has reprinted also two sections from the fifth and last edition of Ray's book of 1871, dealing with the McNaughton Rules and the duties of medical witnesses. There are a few minor errors, for instance: Falret appears as 'Fabret', Conolly has two n's in the index and George Dale Collinson is missing from it although frequently cited in the text. For the sake of clarity Ray's 'Pritchard' might have been uniformly rendered 'Prichard' and his reference to Haslam's tract on *Medical Jurisprudence, as it relates to insanity* dated correctly 1817. In addition to the English edition published at London 1839 which Dr. Overholser mentions, there was also a Scottish one published in the same year by Thomas Clark, 'Law Bookseller' of Edinburgh, which is further evidence of the importance and influence of Ray's *Treatise* on both sides of the Atlantic.

RICHARD HUNTER

*Histoire de la Médecine et du Livre Médical à la Lumière des Collections de la Bibliothèque de la Faculté de Médecine de Paris*, by ANDRÉ HAHN, PAULE DUMAÎTRE, and JANINE SAMION-CONTET, Paris, Editions Olivier Perrin, 1962, pp. 433, 263 illus. (8 col.), 102 NF.

With a presentation which is modelled on that of Laignel-Lavastine's *Histoire de la Médecine*—certainly the most lavishly illustrated and superbly produced history of medicine ever published—this original work traces the history of medicine and of medical literature from the beginning of printing to the middle of the nineteenth century. It is based entirely on the rich collections of the library of the Paris Faculté de Médecine, of which Dr. André Hahn (who is also President of the Société Française de l'Histoire de la Médecine) is Chief Librarian.

With the exception of a few specialized articles written mostly by medical men, no comprehensive work on the illustrated medical book has ever been published, although Dr. Geoffrey Lapage's recent study of *Art and the Scientist* does give some attention to medical illustration. Dr. Hahn's work is certainly of a different order and will be as valuable to the scholar and the bibliophile as it will be attractive to the amateur for its wealth of illustration from original sources. The quality of these (and their documentation) will show up some of the less scholarly illustrated histories of medicine at their true worth. Among more than 250 illustrations are to be found anatomical and surgical plates, engraved frontispieces, title-pages, portraits, and charming vignettes, some of them in colour and many never before reproduced.

Written in a clear and lively style, the text is equally valuable. The subject is treated by centuries, the survey of the history of medicine in each century being followed by that of the development of the printed book as exemplified in the most important medical books of the period. It is clear that great care has been taken to