

Book Reviews

knowledge of the Chinese in the eighth century" which still remains a puzzle. Carlo Castellani makes a detailed comparison of the investigations of Bonnet and Buffon on the problem of generation, concluding that Buffon's approach was the sounder.

The last item, a full bibliography of the writings of Walter Pagel compiled by Marianne Winder reminds the reader that this selection of essays, so skilfully woven by their editor, Allen Debus, round Walter Pagel's central motifs, not only supplies rich food for thought on his influence on contemporary historians but also constitutes an invitation to its readers to refresh themselves with cybernetic enjoyment on the works of Walter Pagel himself.

A catalogue of Western manuscripts on medicine and science in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library, Part II: MSS written after A.D. 1650, by S. A. J. MOORAT, 2 vols., London, Wellcome Institute of the History of Medicine, 1972, pp. 1480, £30.00.

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With the steady progress in cataloguing, the seemingly infinite and incalculable treasures of the Wellcome Library are assuming finite and workable dimensions. It is only just over a decade that the catalogues of the illustrious collection of printed books and of Western manuscripts before 1650 were published, to be followed after about five years by part I of the catalogue of books 1641 to 1850 (A–E), and the Arabic manuscripts. With the work under notice the manuscripts are all accounted for and all we have still to expect are part II of the printed books 1641–1850 and the Americana. While it is true that the most interesting and exciting items are contained in the first published catalogues covering the Middle Ages and the Renaissance up to 1641 and 1650 respectively, the second volume of the manuscripts is no anticlimax. This is immediately shown by a glimpse at the indices. There are no less or rather more than ten of them. In these the items are listed by date (42 pp.), by languages (42 pp., Catalan to Swedish), by illustrations, portraits and special bindings (9 pp.), by owners and libraries (16 pp., including the famous collections of I.D.de Chorinsky, Jul. Kohn, T. J. Pettigrew, Sir Thomas Phillipps), by bookplates and ex libris (5 pp.), by lectures (26 pp.) including a list of the places where they were given) and by a most elaborate subject index (127 pp.). This is followed by a short list of some 6000 autographed letters (50 pp.) of which a few may be named: Ampère, Auenbrugger, Carl Ernst von Baer, S. S. K. von Basch, Behring, Beireis, Berzelius, Billroth, Marcus Elieser Bloch, Blumenbach, Boerhaave, Boscovich, Bordeu, Bonnet, Calmette, Carus, Conring, Corvisart, Dalton, Daremberg, Dieffenbach, Dupuytren, Dutrochet, Eddington, Ehrenberg, Einstein, Edinger, Esmarch, Fabroni, Flamsteed, Fleming, Flourens, Fontana, Freud, Gauss, Graefe, John Hunter, Hahnemann, Helmholtz, Jenner, Kussmaul, Langenbeck, Leibniz, Littré, Lister, Lind, Liebig, Marat, Newton, Nightingale (500 letters!), Max Nordau, Oken, Pavlov, Paget, Pepys, Pirquet, Remak, Ross, Rudolphi, Rutherford, Spallanzani, Treviranus, Virchow, Wepfer, Withering, Wöhler, Windischmann, Villemin, Willis. In the *corpus* of the manuscripts alchemical miscellanies, mostly of the eighteenth century, weigh heavily, but not infrequently include odd and obscure items not otherwise available.

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There are two and half pp. Philaletha MSS, four pages Paracelsica and polyglot manuscripts (1675–1740), four pages of the *Clavis* (pseudo-Salomo) mostly French (1660–c.1835), Pordage's *Mystic theology* (in an eighteenth-century MS), a kabbalistic item on numbers (1741) and a piece from Knorr von Rosenroth's *Kabbala denudata* (Chajim Vital), a Rosicrucian MS, a phalanx of receipt-books including *medicamenta* of Helmont, Paracelsus, Marcus Marci, Tacke, Cnoeffel and others. There is no end to invaluable association material, to give a few examples: the manuscript of Pirquet's fundamental works on allergy and immunity, those of W. Prout (*History of physic, De facultate sentiendi, De sonis, Growth of plants*), Ramazzini (unpublished polemical script against Piso, an anti-Harveian who died in 1748), T. J. Pettigrew, Joseph Lister (sketch-book 1831, student's essays one prize-winning 1843, clinical lecture notes 1871–1876, holiday diary 1894), Joseph Frank Payne (on the plague in Russia 1878–1879), Pasteur, Baron Dominique Jean Larrey (journal of 35 leaves "ne sera jamais vu que de mon fils et après ma mort" 1813, describing the battle of Leipzig with 80,000 killed, his meetings with J. F. Meckel and F. X. Swediaur, followed by "Réflexions philosophiques sur l'exercice de ma profession" alluding to the Russian campaign and a note that he had sent his favourite Arab horse "Russo—d'une beauté rare"—to his wife as a present at Dresden), Macewen, Pitcairne, Wm. Stukeley, etc., etc. There are the numerous lecture notes of celebrities, *libri amicorum*, original M.D. diplomas (Padua 1691, Vienna 1736—other *Vindobonensia* include patents of nobility for Andreas Jos. von Stiff, 1814–1819, and 6 pp. MSS by J. von Schneller, 1811–85, one on the combination and mutual exclusion of diseases, 1843–44. Of Harveiana we have a short prescription for a purgative "ascribed to Dr. Harvey" in a druggist's collectanea of practical medicine of 1655 (no. 2992, p. 546) and the official probate copy of his Last Will attached to a Grant of Administration to Eliab Harvey on 2 May 1659 (item 2786a on p. 1134) with certain variants in the Grant as studied by F. N. L. Poynter (*J. Hist. Med.*, 1957, 12: 165–166). On the other end of the spectrum we finally find no less than seven pages listing manuscript material from Albert Poisson, a "savant alchimiste moderne" (1868–1894), "Philophotes", mostly French translations of alchemica and hermetica.

At the very end a supplement to part one contains a Galilean fragment: *De orbium coelestium revolutionibus* (1 leaf, Arcetri 1636, "said to have been dictated by Galileo") and among other *rarissima* an extensive newly purchased twelfth-century *Articella*-manuscript with English additions of the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries, including Alanus de Insulis, Hugo of St. Victor, Alexander Neckham, pseudo-Hippocrates *de astrologia medica*, and many other mostly theological texts—from the Library of Bury St. Edmunds Abbey.

The total of 5119 items, each meticulously described with appended bio-bibliographical references and cross-references, the identification of numerous obscure and otherwise unknown authors, notes on the contents of each manuscript, the bibliographical location of those printed and all possible aids for the scholar, and above all the stupendous indices, bear witness to a dedicated labour of love of twenty-five years' standing invested in a most noble task. The two heavy volumes are sumptuously produced, on thick paper with large print and indeed monumentally indispensable for "those who seek and those who have found" alike.