Book Reviews


The eleven papers dealing with the psychological treatises, revised and collected together here, were presented at a meeting held in 1975. Each deals with some aspect of the *De anima* or the *Parva naturalia*, and with the more traditional, contentious issues such as the development of Aristotle’s psychology, as well as other problems of interpretation which continue to exercise scholars. There are also new areas of philosophical interest, such as Aristotle’s ideas on imagination. Each is a scholarly essay by an international authority, so that the value of this collection to the classicist, the psychologist, and the medical historian will be great. It can be recommended without reservation.

PETER A. CHEVALIER (editor), *The heart and circulation* (Benchmark Papers in Human Physiology, vol. 8), Stroudsburg, Pa., Dowden, Hutchinson & Ross, 1977, 8vo, pp. xix, 387, illus., $29.00.

The aim of this useful series is to present the reader with a sample of the original literature on a number of physiological themes. This one deals with cardiac output, coronary flow and metabolism, the heart’s conduction system, and peripheral vascular control. Twenty-one selections from the literature are presented in facsimile with brief editorial introductions to each section.

It is of great value to have these classical papers once more readily available, but the usual criticisms must be mentioned. Admittedly it is churlish to criticize one individual’s choices for an anthology, but it does seem that a high preponderance of American and British authors are represented; in fact, only Claude Bernard is non-English-speaking. Moreover, except for Starling’s brief monograph on “The law of the heart”, all the pieces chosen appeared in journals, only four were published before 1900, and all are readily available in libraries.


Dr. Benzinger has produced one of the best anthologies of this useful series. Clearly, he is well acquainted with the literature of his subject, and he has made a balanced selection of contributions ranging from Hippocrates to the nineteenth century. Several of the previous Benchmark volumes have contained an undue preponderance of English-writing authors, for obvious reasons, but the choice here is more representative; thus, although American sources would not be expected in the earlier historical periods, Dr. Benzinger includes only one in the whole book.

It is curious that articles in French and German have not been translated, and only a summary provided, whereas there are English versions of the pieces in Latin or Italian. In addition it is a serious defect to have omitted the work of Brodie, Legallois, and Wilson Philip, and to refer only to a German translation of Crawford’s treatise (p. 339). The ‘Bibliography’ is copied from another publication, and should have been constructed specially for this book.