

Book Reviews

with the surgeons Matthias Mayor and César Roux, the ophthalmologists Marc Dufour and Jules Gonin, the psychiatrist Auguste Forel, and many others like A. Yersin (bacteriology), H. Stilling (pathology) and the historian of medicine Eugène Olivier. The latter's researches paved the way to the present work to a great extent, as the author readily acknowledges (pp. 9, 165).

It should however be pointed out that a number of these celebrated scholars spent only a certain part of their medical career in Lausanne. A name that does not appear in this book is that of Waldemar Haffkine, the renowned bacteriologist. He was not in fact connected with the Faculty, but spent the last years of his life in Lausanne and was buried there in 1930.

The author, Guy Saudan, is the director of the Institut Universitaire d'Histoire de la Médecine et de la Santé Publique which opened in 1989. He gives much attention to the development of medical institutions, to teaching and research facilities, and, last but not least, to the impressive development of the past forty years (pp. 177–226). Several appendices contain detailed figures and names of the Medical Faculty, and there is a detailed list of illustrations but no index. Obviously iconography is of central importance—as it usually is in such works aimed at a wide public. The book's presentation and accuracy are excellent.

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HOSAM ELKHADDEM, *Le Taqwīm al-Ṣiḥḥa (Tacuini Sanitatis) d'Ibn Buṭlān: un traité médical du XI^e siècle. Histoire du texte, édition critique, traduction, commentaire*, Académie Royale de Belgique, Classe des Lettres, Fonds René Draguet, vol. 7, Louvain. Peeters, 1990, pp. 345, illus., BFr. 3,200.00 (90–6831–271–5).

Taqwīm al-Ṣiḥḥa is an Arabic treatise on diet, hygiene and astrology. It consists of forty tables discussing in detail everything that relates to the Galenic six non-naturals. Ibn Buṭlān, the author of the book, borrowed the idea of using tables in representing his materials from the astronomical tables in order to appeal to a large range of readers. In addition to these forty tables, there are forty canons discussing in general the value of each heading within each table, and also thirty sentences linking the content of some of the tables with astrology. Ibn Buṭlān's book was widely appreciated in the Medieval east and west.

ElKhadem, the editor of the Arabic text, has collected fifteen manuscripts in order to prepare his edition. He has provided a French translation, commentary, a few introductory chapters to discuss several aspects relating to the text, several indices and a bibliography as well. ElKhadem has chosen to maintain the original shape of the text, i.e. the tables which were introduced for the first time to Arabic medical texts by Ibn Buṭlān and had consequently a major influence on Arabic medical writers. However ElKhadem has separated the Arabic text from both the French translation and the critical apparatus. Such a separation makes checking the translation and the critical apparatus a difficult job. Moreover, he has not given a critical apparatus for the canons. The work is valuable for those who are interested in Arabic dietetic medicine, the influence of Greek and Indian dietetics on Arabic medicine, and also in the transmission of medicine from Arabic into Latin.

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K. Y. GUGGENHEIM, *Basic issues of the history of nutrition*, Jerusalem, Akademia University Press, 1990, pp. 130, illus., \$22.00.

This is a good introduction to the origin and development of concepts and controversies in the history of ideas about nutrition. It consists of nine essays each dealing with the contribution of one or more leading scientists in a particular period.

In the Greco-Roman period the ideal of "balance" was paramount. Either obesity or excessive leanness were considered to represent departures from the ideal. Galen, for example, in the second century AD set out to restore a proper balance in his obese patients by having them take more physical exercise and eat "foods containing little nourishment". Another writer