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his early tract on the diseases of the Augsburg goldsmiths (1473, printed 1524), and whose service at the court is here well documented.

The study of medieval medicine is thus alive and well in Germany. This book, with its excellent indices, can serve as a model for similar collections dealing with vernacular medicine in other countries and as the basis on which to write a sound history of medieval medicine.

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ANTOINE THIVEL, *Cnide et Cos? Essai sur les doctrines médicales dans la Collection Hippocratique*, Paris, Les Belles Lettres, 1981, 8vo, pp. 435, [no price stated], (paperback).

M. Thivel is a demolition expert. He devotes almost three hundred pages to showing the unhappy consequences of positing a strict dichotomy between the so-called medical schools of Cos and Cnidos. We find a Coan author with nothing recognizably Coan about him, and Cnidians whose disagreements are at least as significant as their convergences. Rightly, he concludes that we are dealing, not with school doctrines, but with nuances in a medicine in evolution. His last chapter enunciates this medicine. It is based on Ionian or Milesian philosophy, stresses diversity within unity, loves fluidity, and avoids associating humours with elements. This ancient medicine was later opposed and contaminated by Sicilian/Italian ideas of similarities, which led to the schematic four humours of *On the nature of man* and ultimately to Galen's Hippocratism. In general outline this view is highly plausible, and scholars have often noted the medical significance of Empedocles' theory of four elements, but many of the details of Thivel's constructive arguments are open to question. Alcmaeon of Croton (S. Italy) would be surprised to find himself labelled as the outstanding representative of Ionian medicine (348) or denied any knowledge of the optic nerve.

Two further reflections on the state of Hippocratic scholarship are prompted by this book. It sets forth at great length arguments which confirm what W. D. Smith had proposed in *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 1973, and what several scholars had also shown. But of this, not a word, save for a brief and unenlightening reference to Smith in a footnote on p. 40. Similarly, although many authors come up for review, one looks in vain for the recent work of Kollesch, Kudlien, Lonie, and Manuli, to name but four. This silence can be in part explained by the book's long gestation – its preface is dated 1977 – but it is strange and symptomatic that neither Lloyd's *Polarity and analogy* (1966, 1971) nor any of his other writings are here noticed.

Second, Thivel rightly stresses the crucial importance of chronology in determining relationships and influences. Yet it is precisely here that the book is weakest, and where a possible difference of one or two generations in the date of *Ancient medicine* casts serious doubt on the stability of any structure raised upon it. Thivel, whose criticism of others is so cogent, fails to bring out fully the implications of his own theories and to examine the pre-suppositions behind them. But he has performed the valuable task of knocking down an outdated (and already tottering) edifice, and others may now begin to survey the foundations anew.

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RICHARD Y. MEIER (compiler), *The Joseph H. Kiefer catalog of history of urology and medicine*, Chicago, Library of the Health Sciences, University of Illinois, 1981, 8vo, pp. xi, 207, illus., \$25.00 (\$10.00 paperback).

This catalogue of Dr Joseph H. Kiefer's collection, now in the University of Illinois (Chicago) Medical Center Library, will be of particular value to those interested in the history of urology. Dr Kiefer himself emerges as a collector of content rather than fame or value; consequently, his library contains a number of obscure but fascinating volumes: for instance, three works by the seventeenth-century French physician and sexologist Nicholas Venette, and nothing by Vesalius save the Saunders-O'Malley edition of the illustrations. The catalogue is divided into eleven sections; the first section – 'Urology, surgery and medicine before 1900' – contains its heart. There are in addition special sections devoted to twentieth-century urology, to human sexuality, and a number of other topics which have taken Dr Kiefer's fancy. In the

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interest of completeness, a number of common secondary works and miscellaneous items of little interest are listed with the same care as sixteenth- or seventeenth-century books. We learn, for instance, that Dr Kiefer acquired Volume 1 and Volume 2, nos. 1 and 2, of *Medical History*. We also learn (to our surprise) that Aristotle actually wrote *Aristotle's Masterpiece*. Full bibliographical details are given and most authors are identified by dates. Only Garrison-Morton numbers are included, although no more than a fraction of the titles achieved mention in this more general reference work. Other citations, such as to Wellcome, Osler, or Waller, might have increased the bibliographical value of the catalogue. "Kiefer" is unlikely to become another standard guide, however. It is simultaneously too specialized and too eclectic, and thus to be perused by those primarily concerned with the history of urology or human sexuality. But at its price, the paperback version is good value for money.

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ARTHUR ROOK and RODNEY DAWBER, *Diseases of the hair and scalp*, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1982, 8vo, pp. ix, 571, illus., [no price stated].

This is an important book. There have been previous monographs in English on the subject but never a major work such as this. In the opinion of the reviewer, it will be standard for many years.

It is chiefly concerned with the embryology, physiology, pathology, and the clinical aspects of the hair and scalp, and so is of limited interest to most readers of *Medical History*. However, many disorders described are introduced by a historical account, and it is a mine of information in this respect. We meet with many famous names: Alibert, Brocq, Celsus (alopecia areata), Hippocrates (a bearded lady), Lassar, Sabouraud, Unna, Willan, Erasmus Wilson, and others.

It is of interest to know that 4,000 years ago in Egypt baldness was causing concern, and that women were using mud to wave their hair. The authors support the belief that the hair of both Sir Thomas More and Queen Marie Antoinette turned white during the night before execution.

Some disorders of the hair have appeared in paintings. The rare condition, hypertrichosis lanuginosa, with excessive hair on the cheeks and elsewhere, is portrayed in Paolo Cagliari's 'The Wild Boy', and kings collected examples to entertain courtiers as did showmen to amuse the public. "Shock-headed Peter", a character in a German nursery rhyme, was often shown in illustrations and is an example of the uncombable hair syndrome.

The chapter on psychological factors is of great interest to the social historian, dealing as it does with such matters as punishment by hair-cutting and the significance of beards, long hair in men, and other hairstyles.

This book is written with clarity and smoothness of style. It is authoritative, erudite, and comprehensive. The majority of the many illustrations are excellent.

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JOHN C. SHEEHAN, *The enchanted ring. The untold story of penicillin*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, MIT Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. xvi, 224, illus., £10.50.

Much has been written on penicillin, and its complicated story could not be bettered by fiction. The accounts of its isolation, the determination of its structure, of its synthesis, and of the preparation and commercialization of analogues ensures that the molecule occupies a unique position in the annals of microbiology and organic chemistry. John Sheehan, the author of the present book, has been involved with penicillin chemistry for a large part of his long career. In his account of the penicillin story he has drawn freely on US government files, and he discloses many untold aspects of this remarkable drug. This is all highly commendable, and unquestionably the story is of considerable topical interest, so much so that it is very difficult to put down the book once started. Unfortunately, however, the author takes a highly prejudiced and outspoken stance in his account, and, as many of the people involved in the story are still alive, it is certain that reactions to many of the statements will be strong, and unfavourable.