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it is almost a list of sources: its 7,000 volumes are nearly the literature of the subject. There are, of course, gaps in the library, such as the original Latin texts of some books, a few important ones such as Waterson's *Cures of the Diseased in Remote Regions*, 1598, a classic of tropical medicine, and some fringe-items like *The Metamorphosis of Ajax*. The library does contain some books even further on the fringe, such as Rampigollis' *Biblia Aurea*, in which the nearest approach to medical matters are 'Continence in Widows' and 'Caution in Virgins', and the *Restoration of Decayed Intelligence*, which although a lovely little book, is even less concerned with psychiatry than *The Anatomy of Melancholy* is with anatomy. But Sir Henry Wellcome was a very catholic collector, and ranged beyond strictly medical history through the history of science (Agricola, for instance) into such subjects as *The Peregrination into the Holy Land*. It is an index of the splendour of the library that one should even think about its coverage.

The catalogue, preceded by an interesting foreword by Sir Henry Dale, is admirably done, on the same general system as the *Short Title Catalogue*. The cross-references are generous and useful: it does not matter if the reader looks up Hunain ibn Ishaq or Johannitius, he gets the reference to the Isagoge in Galen's *Articella*, and there are interesting cross-references to autographs and notes by authors in other books. It would have been helpful if references to G. W. (where possible) or Hain numbers had been given to all *incunabula*: they are given in some instances, making exact identification easy with a minimum of verbiage: it would surely have been better to have been consistent. But it would be a pity to cavil over trifles, and in any case details of the *incunabula* can be found in Dr. Poynter's already-published catalogue. I take it that the present volume is the work of Dr. Poynter, although he is extremely reticent about it. It is a quite admirable catalogue, and the most valuable tool put into the hands of medical historians for a long time.

G. NEWMAN

Nicolás Bautista Monardes. Su vida y su obra [ca. 1493–1588], by F. GUERRA, México, distributed by Lathrop C. Harper and Department of the History of Medicine, Yale Univ. Publs. No. 41, 1961, pp. 226, 105 illus., \$12.50

At the beginning of the sixteenth century Spanish soldiers and merchants returning from the New World brought back with them plants and surprisingly accurate accounts of their medicinal use. It was not, however, inevitable that American drugs should have been accepted by the medical profession. Both medical tradition and popular suspicion were strong. In 1536 Monardes, in his *Pharmacodilosis*, showed distrust of the new exotic drugs which, he said, were probably collected at the wrong time and were old and corrupt. Timothy Bright in England in 1580 voiced similar dislike and much preferred wholesome English drugs. The epidemic nature of syphilis nevertheless encouraged experiment, and so guaiacum became popular, especially after the publication between 1517 and 1519 of the works of Poll and von Hutten. That Paracelsus opposed this remedy with mercury may have predisposed conservative physicians towards the new drugs which were at least not chemical. If they were not so disposed, Escluse and the Fuggers, who had a monopoly of guaiacum and feared for its sales, certainly did their best to persuade the medical profession to use it. More encouragement came with the books of Poll (1535) and Vesalius (1546); then in 1563 Garcia da Orta published in Goa his *Coloquios dos Simples e drogas . . . da India*. . . . Although da Orta, like Monardes, had been brought up on Dioscorides (and particularly admired Laguna's Annotations), this catalogue of exotics was something of a break with the past. At this point, as Dr. Guerra now clearly shows, Monardes set about producing his work on American plants, which was published

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in 1565 as *Dos Libros*. . . . The Badianus Manuscript on Aztec medicine had been compiled but not published and so Monardes was the first to popularize the many native remedies, sassafras, sarsaparilla and tobacco, all of which Spaniards treated with a great deal of respect. The later popularity of American drugs then derived very much from this Seville physician who hitherto had been rather conservative and was of historical interest only because of his disposition to experiment and his keen observation, as, for example, his vigorous limitation of the word 'citrus'. The success of this and later works is obvious from the many editions in Spain. In 1572 a Paracelsian, surprisingly, translated into French his work on Mechoacan. More predictably in 1574, Escluse had published in Antwerp a Latin version of *Dos Libros*. . . ., *De Simplicibus Medicamentis ex occidentali India*. . . . There were similar translations into Italian, and in 1577 John Frampton, once a merchant in Spain, aptly called his translation *Joyfull Newes out of the newe founde worlde*. . . . Judging by the Customs statistics for England the joyful news was readily acted upon; the number and value of drugs imported rose quickly and in 1604 drugs for the first time were treated as a separate group of some 200 basic commodities.

The main interest in Dr. Guerra's book is its definitive bibliographical detail, but the relation of Monardes and his writings to the broader background of medicine is successfully achieved. The advantage of the bibliographical approach is that the excellent tables and plates at the end of the book remedy the many deficiencies in Gaselee, Arber and Emmart. If there is one day to be an edition in English of this important book, some rearrangement of the chapters and the addition of an index and more references would make it even more of a pleasure to use.

R. S. ROBERTS

Sir William Osler. Aphorisms, collected by R. B. BEAN, edited by W. B. BEAN, 2nd printing, Springfield, Ill., C. C. Thomas, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publ., 1961, pp. 164, 32s.

This is the second printing of a collection of aphorisms from Osler's bedside teachings and writings presented in a pocket-sized volume. As the editor states in his introduction, his object is 'to introduce' Sir William Osler 'to a new generation of medical students and to refresh the memory of an older generation'. An hour will suffice to complete the reading of the book and drive one to the shelf for a volume of Osler's more complete writings. These aphorisms in themselves bring Osler to life as a man and a physician, a great teacher and a perpetual student. The book might be called 'Jewels Culled from the Wisdom of Osler', and, if less expensive, should be at every student's bedside.

The page numbers in the list of contents, reprinted from the first edition, are incorrect as no allowance has been made for the four pages of the new foreword.

HAROLD AVERY

Historia de la Medicina, ZUNIGA CISNEROS, M., Caracas—Madrid, Ediciones Edime, 1960, pp. 587.

The scope of this history of medicine only reaches the low Middle Ages, because the author has tried to complement a previous volume by Lain Entralgo devoted to medicine from the Renaissance. Dr. Zuñiga Cisneros, Chairman and Professor of the History of Medicine at Caracas, has followed in this work most of Castiglioni's and Sigerist's findings, although after consulting some original texts he ventures to disagree with the interpretation of several historical tenets, offering what he believes is a more balanced view for the Spanish-American reader.

FRANCISCO GUERRA