

To summarize our opinions: (1) Mr. Felix Gilbert has brought to light two interesting examples of an exceptional use of 'virtù' in a connotation of mental-physical vigor; (2) it is unlikely that this, or the more strictly medical connotation (professional treatment of disease) 'came easily into the minds of Machiavelli's contemporaries when they heard the word "virtù";' (3) such medical connotations were more likely to occur to medieval, than to renaissance, minds; and (4) medical connotations of 'virtù' are inconsequential and should not be revived.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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<sup>1</sup> Charles D. O'Malley, specialist on Renaissance medical history at the University of California Medical School, in response to a query on this point, reminded us that the Florentines seem to have been even less interested in medicine than other contemporaries of Machiavelli.

<sup>2</sup> The non-medical aspects of *virtù*, with which we are not concerned, have been explored by scholars such as Felix Gilbert and the authorities cited by him. To these we would add Leslie Walker, whose 1950 translation of, and commentary on, *The Discourses* (especially p. 99 ff., of the introduction) is apropos; also another Gilbert (Allan), whose *Machiavelli's Prince and Its Forerunners* (1938) and a forthcoming three-volume expansion of his 1941 translation of *The Prince and Other Works* are most significant. Mr. Allan Gilbert has been so kind as to allow us to read a portion of the introduction to the last mentioned work, and it gives promise of enlightening and stimulating ideas on the *virtù* problem.

<sup>3</sup> Anyone interested in further Machiavellian references to medicine can readily check those in *The Discourses*, by using the index and extensive notes in Walker's translation. Out of five references to medicine therein, none are directly associated with *virtù*.

## Library News

### HARVARD UNIVERSITY

#### Houghton Library

Acquisitions since our last account (RN III, 8) are summarized in the Library's printed *Report . . . for . . . 1949-50* and . . . *for . . . 1950-51*. They include:

A large paper copy of the Aldine Galen, 1525, 1st ed., 5 vols. Only six copies were printed on large paper, all of them now in public collections, the present the only one in America.

*Narratio prima*, Danzig, 1540. The first announcement of the Copernican theory, a rare pamphlet issued three years before *De revolutionibus*. Written by Georg Rheticus 'in the house and before the eyes of the great as-

tronomer in the form of a letter to Georg Schoener. Bound with several other tracts, among them a contemporary MS horoscope of Schoener, possibly by Hieronymus Cardanus.

A group of Reformation items, among them the first quarto edition of Luther's *Disputatio . . . pro declaratione virtutis indulgentiarum*, [Basle, 1517], which may be the original printing of this piece; the original printing of *Bulla contra errores Martini Lutheri*, [Rome, 1520]; the first German edition of the 'Augsburg Confession,' Augsburg, 1530.

The Library's Ronsard Collection has been considerably increased, notably by a dozen Ronsards from the Blanchemain collection, largely first

editions, *Exhortation au camp du roy*, 1558; *La paix*, 1559, 1st issue; *Discours à monseigneur le duc de Savoie*, [1559]; *Elegie sur les troubles d'Amboise*, 1562; *Continuation du discours des miseres de ce temps*, 1563; *Abbrege de l'art poëtique François*, 1565. Also Pierre Clereau's *Les odes de Pierre de Ronsard, mis en musiqué à troys parties*, 1575, and what may be a unique copy of Antoine de Bertrand's *Les amours de Pierre de Ronsard. Mis en musique*, 1587.

The Ashburnham MS of the Duns Scotus *Quaestiones super libro primo Sententiarum Petri Lombardi*, Italian, c. 1450. Contains as prologue a long commentary by Scotus as yet unpublished.

Conrad Celtes. Autograph MS of 'De

ludo septem sapientium' of Ausonius, published by Winterburger, Vienna, 1500 under the title *Septenaria sodalitas litteraria Germaniae . . .*, a copy of which is in the Library.

*Einer frowen genant Melusine*, printed by Johann Prüss, the only copy of this edition, Strasburg [c. 1481], recorded in America. *Le doctrinal des filles*, [Paris, c. 1495], a unique copy of this edition.

*La complainte doloureuse de lame damnee*, [Paris, c. 1490], the only copy in America of any early edition.

An important collection of Hebrew books and MSS, numbering almost 4000 vols. Some 800 are earlier than 1800, seven being incunabula. The collection came most recently from Holland but was apparently collected in Austria.

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