

News, Notes and Queries

have been unearthed. Local interest has been further stimulated by occasional local exhibitions of material and by contributions to the Press relating to pharmacy in the area. Important papers concerning the development of pharmacy in hospitals have appeared, as well as articles illustrating the changes in drug jar forms and decoration. Discussion meetings have been arranged and contact made with societies having similar interests in many countries, enhanced during the meeting in London in 1955 of the Union Mondiale and the Academie Internationale d'Histoire de la Pharmacie when papers from many countries were offered. Material so far acquired includes a notable collection of old proprietary medicines of the last two centuries, apothecaries' tokens of the seventeenth century, series of apothecaries' bills of the eighteenth century and many early prescription books. The records of a wholesale business from mid-eighteenth century, including what are believed to be the earliest extant shipping bills to Tobago in 1772, have been made available for study.

The first two numbers of a bulletin to keep correspondents in touch with the subject have been issued. Theses upon selected subjects have already been accepted for post-graduate degrees. Interest is steadily growing, and publications in Great Britain now deserve to rank alongside those of countries where the history of pharmacy has been long established as a discipline.

LESLIE G. MATTHEWS

VIDUS VIDIUS (1508-69)

THOSE who went to hear Dr. William Brockbank's Thomas Vicary lecture on 'The Man who was Vidius' found themselves transported in spirit from Lincoln's Inn Fields to the Italy and France of the Renaissance. This was no dry recital of dates and titles, but a vivid word-picture of the life and work of a celebrated physician and anatomist set against the background of his time. The lecture has now been made generally available by its publication in the November 1956 issue of the *Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England* (Vol. 19, pp. 269-95). The name of Vidus Vidius (Guido Guidi) appears in the histories of medicine as that of the author of a beautifully illustrated book on surgery and as one of the innumerable anatomical eponyms.

Guido Guidi was born in Florence on 10 February 1508, as Dr. Brockbank has for the first time established by his researches on the spot. His father was a physician and his mother was the daughter of the famous painter Domenico Ghirlandajo. He practised medicine and surgery in his native city and made such a reputation that he was in 1542 invited by Francis I,

King of France, to come to Paris. The King appointed him one of his personal physicians and permitted him to give public lectures in medicine and surgery at the newly founded Collège de France. Francis wanted to found a school of surgery in Paris, and he knew that Guidi was about to publish a surgical treatise, based on a Greek manuscript of the tenth century preserved in the Laurenzian Library at Florence. Among the notable features of this manuscript were thirty full-sized plates illustrating the commentary of Apollonius of Kitium on the Hippocratic treatise on dislocations and other pictures accompanying a copy of Galen's treatise on bandaging. These illustrations represented the genuine Hippocratic traditions of surgical practice as transmitted through later Greek channels to Byzantium. Dr. Brockbank tells the story of how this priceless MS. came to the Laurenzian Library and how Guidi undertook the task of translating and editing it. In Paris, Guidi lived with Benvenuto Cellini, who became his firm friend and who has many laudatory references to him in his autobiography. Two years after his arrival in Paris, Guidi's book on surgery appeared (1544). It is a splendid folio volume, beautifully printed and containing remarkable woodcut copies, or rather adaptations, of the original tenth-century drawings. Dr. Brockbank, who has studied both the Laurenzian MS. and Guidi's original MS. and drawings which are preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, thinks that the drawings for the printed book may have been made by Primaticcio, the renowned Bolognese artist, who like Guidi worked under the patronage of Francis I, and that the blocks were cut by François Jollat. Guidi's *Chirurgia* was the best illustrated work on surgery that had appeared up to its date. It comprises translations of six works by Hippocrates, one by Galen and two by Oribasius, together with commentaries by Galen and by Guidi himself. The treatment of all varieties of fractures and dislocations is described in great detail and is very clearly illustrated.

Some three years after the publication of his *Chirurgia* Guidi was recalled to Italy to become chief personal physician to Cosimo de Medici. He practised and taught medicine at Pisa, took Holy Orders, received high ecclesiastical preferment, and was in 1557 raised to the nobility. He died at the height of his renown on 26 May 1569 and was buried in the tomb of his ancestors in Florence. For some years before his death he had been occupied in writing a comprehensive work on medicine. This great work was completed and published by his nephew in three huge volumes between 1596 and 1611. The section on fevers was published separately in 1585 to forestall a rival publication based on Guidi's lectures. The most important part of Guidi's *Ars Medicinalis* is the section dealing with anatomy. This part, which was also issued as a separate book in 1611, is fully analysed by Dr. Brockbank. His verdict is that although being below the standard of

Vesalius's *Fabrica*, it is an interesting work and contains original material. This study is based on original research and it corrects many errors that have been perpetuated in standard reference books.

MEDICAL HISTORY AT YALE

THE Fifth Annual Report of the Yale University Department of the History of Medicine (1955–56) is a record of continued activity and achievement under Dr. Fulton's inspiring leadership. The report is dedicated to the memory of George Sarton, the eminent historian of science who died on 22 March 1956 at the age of seventy-one. The commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Professor Fulton's Chair at Yale (the first twenty years as Professor of Physiology, the last five as Professor of the History of Medicine) is modestly recorded and reference is also made to the tributes paid to Dr. W. W. Francis on the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Osler Club of McGill. Two publications which mark these happy occasions should be noted: they are the special double number of the *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine* (December 1955–February 1956) dedicated to Dr. Fulton and containing a bibliography of his writings, and *W. W. Francis: Tributes from his Friends* (Montreal, privately printed, 1956).

Dr. Sigerist, who is a Research Associate in the History of Medicine Department, reports that he has made some progress on the second volume of his *History of Medicine*, which will include the history of Graeco-Roman and Indian medicine. His Bryce Memorial lecture on 'Medical Literature of the Early Middle Ages' is ready for publication. His *Landmarks in the History of Hygiene* (1956) was reviewed in the January 1957 issue of *Medical History*. A fourth edition of his *Grosse Aerzte* is announced and a new and enlarged English edition of the same work is to be published at the same time.

A new course of lectures on 'The History of Individual Diseases' was given during the year and proved to be so popular that it has been decided to continue it annually. Among other plans for the future is the production of a short title catalogue of the Cushing, Klebs and Fulton collections and of important items acquired since the Yale Medical Library was opened in June 1940.