

Book Reviews

sight, disguise the originality of his work. This is an indispensable and inexpensive source for anyone interested in the history of obstetric care. Cost may prohibit such a plan, but the present modest version suggests that an expanded edition, with illustrations, would be well worth while.

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CHARLES TRUAX, *The mechanics of surgery, comprising detailed descriptions, illustrations and lists of instruments, appliances and furniture necessary in modern surgical art* (1899), with an Introduction by James M. Edmonson, Norman Surgery Series, No. 1, San Francisco, Norman Publishing, 1988, 8vo, pp. xliii, 1024, illus., \$145.00.

This reprinted reference book is much more than Chicago-based Truax Green & Co.'s surgical instrument catalogue for 1899 (prices are not given). It starts with a brief history of the evolution of surgical instruments and proceeds to describe their manufacture and their care. Thereafter the book follows the familiar modern instrument catalogue format, but with better illustrations, and notes of the instruments' use. Because Truax Green & Co. both manufactured and imported (from Europe) the book shows a cross section of almost all the instruments in world use at the end of the nineteenth century. The lists of instruments required for each set-piece operation would have made the original invaluable to the theatre sister or scrub-nurse of the time. Today's theatre sisters would enjoy and learn from it, but its great value today is to those who collect surgical instruments or who curate collections.

Dr Edmonson is the Curator of the Dittrick Museum of Medical History in Cleveland, and his introduction to Truax's magnum opus is wide-reaching and well documented. He defines the practical difficulties which Truax overcame and points out (p. ix) that currently

The most obvious and universal use of Truax's work will be in accurate identification and proper naming of instruments, which continue to challenge even the most knowledgeable of collectors. It is worth noting that many forms of surgical instruments enjoyed remarkable longevity, remaining in vogue from the early nineteenth century well into the twentieth. Truax's identifications and nomenclature are thus applicable to instruments from a far greater time span than one might at first suspect. *The Mechanics of Surgery* is a standard reference for both pre- and post-aseptic-era instruments, and, therefore, is of considerable value to collectors who focus on medical and surgical artifacts of the pre-aseptic period which ended around 1885–90.

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AUDREY DAVIS and MARK DREYFUSS, *The finest instruments ever made: a bibliography of medical, dental, optical and pharmaceutical company trade literature, 1700–1939*, Arlington, MA, Medical History Publishing Associates I, 1986, 8vo, pp. iv, 448, illus., [no price stated].

Despite its subtitle, this book is in fact a guide to only some of the medical trade literature held in 56 libraries or collections, rather than a complete bibliography of the field. The emphasis is firmly on North American sources—49 institutions in the United States and Canada have been surveyed, but only five British, one Australian, and one European (Zurich Medical Museum and Library).

Selectivity is unavoidable in such a large and relatively unresearched area, but the authors have made their task harder by including the makers of such disparate goods as laboratory glassware, pharmaceuticals, microscopes and hospital furnishings, as well as instruments *per se*. For none of the categories can the bibliographic listings be regarded as anything more than partial, and hence the book must be used with caution. As the authors themselves point out, the absence of entries for particular manufacturers or catalogue editions may mean only that they were not represented in the institutions searched (and some of these libraries apparently held

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more catalogues than it was considered possible to list). Entries in the main section of the book are organized by manufacturer's name. In some but not all cases dates of foundation or incorporation and known addresses are provided, as well as bibliographical details of literature produced. A subsidiary listing of the libraries and collections consulted gives the names of manufacturers whose publications are represented there. Makers' names derived from the trade literature itself have been supplemented by the consultation of one city directory (Albany, New York) and the work of two British authors whose sources were principally instruments themselves (Raymond Russell and Elisabeth Bennion).

In their short introduction, the authors touch on a host of subjects—the effect of advertising on practice, the role of technicians and many more—for which trade literature forms a rich resource. Those wishing to make use of this resource now have, in this book, a useful, if partial, introductory guide.

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J. B. LYONS, *Thrust syphilis down to hell and other rejoyceana: studies in the border-lands of literature and medicine*, Dun Laoghaire, The Glendale Press, 1988, 8vo, pp. 294, illus., [no price stated].

This collection of fourteen essays, many of them reprinted, is devoted largely to James Joyce and his world. The author, a consultant neurologist practising in Dublin, subtitles his volume *Studies in the border-lands of literature and medicine* and describes his approach as “a logical extension of my clinical work”. Not surprisingly, therefore, his concerns throughout are more medical than literary, and the most substantial piece, ‘Portrait of a patient’, consists of a detailed account of Joyce’s various disorders—ocular, gastro-intestinal, alcoholic, and venereal. Four essays have to do with whether neurosyphilis can be diagnosed in Joyce himself, in one of his friends, and in one of his characters. Others deal with Joyce’s doctor, diseases depicted fictionally in *Dubliners*, and the role of anatomy and of doctors in *Ulysses*. Several of the 54 illustrations are of hospitals and physicians, and there is even a reproduction of the temperature chart of one of W. B. Yeats’s illnesses.

What do all these clinical facts and speculations tell us about Joyce the literary artist, the most dazzling wordsmith in twentieth-century English literature? Sadly, almost nothing. Dr Lyons had added little more than a few footnotes to Richard Ellman’s magisterial biography. His interest in morbid pathology, furthermore, appears to exclude the intriguing questions concerning Joyce’s psychopathology that were raised by Carl Jung when Joyce asked why his schizophrenic daughter’s verbal games were not like his own: “You are both going to the bottom of the river”, said Jung, “but she is falling and you are diving”. Dr Lyons prefers to stay on very dry land.

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EVERETT MENDELSON and HELGA NOWOTNY (editors), *Nineteen eighty-four: science between Utopia and dystopia*, Sociology of the Sciences Yearbook, vol. 8, Dordrecht, Boston, and Lancaster, D. Reidel, 1984, 8vo, pp. xv, 303, £29.25, \$46.00.

This collection of thirteen essays examines the historical and sociological relationships between science, Utopia and dystopia. Case studies explore the meanings of Utopia in nineteenth-century German socialism (Kurt Bayertz); early twentieth-century German eugenics (Peter Weingart); late twentieth-century pluralist democracies (Yaron Ezrahi); Alexander Bogdanov’s novel *Red star*, about a socialist Martian society (Loren Graham); and Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s tale of *Herland*, a feminist Utopia organized around the single goal of the preservation and growth of children (Evelyn Fox Keller). Herbert Breger discusses sixteenth-