

Book Reviews

There is one part of the book, however, that may be of use for those considering further investigation into either Schaudinn's biography or the history of syphilis: 60 out of the 252 pages are devoted to a list of Schaudinn's works, most of which are summarized.

In view of the time and labour the authors must have invested, and considering the potential of their expertise in the field, it is a pity that they did not consult medical historians (not a single historian or medical historian is mentioned in the long list of acknowledgments) or at least some of the pertinent literature on their subject.

Thomas Schlich,
Institut für Geschichte der Medizin der
Robert Bosch Stiftung, Stuttgart

Tony Hunt, *Anglo-Norman medicine*, vol. 1, *Roger Frugard's Chirurgia; The Practica brevis of Platearius*, Cambridge, D S Brewer, 1994, pp. vii, 328, £49.50, c. \$86.00 (0-8599-401-1).

The most urgent task in the still largely unmapped field of medieval medicine is to produce scholarly editions of more manuscript material gathering dust in the libraries of Europe and North America. Tony Hunt has responded to this imperative with solidly professional editions. Clarifying the identity and considerable achievement of Roger Frugard, he has dispelled widely held assumptions about the role of Salerno in the revival of western surgical writing. The manuscripts are faithfully transcribed and economically annotated and emended, and the glossaries provide a wealth of new lexical material. Introduced as "a sequel and complement to *Popular medicine in thirteenth-century England*", and also as the first of two, focusing on "the surviving corpus of Anglo-Norman medical treatises which may fairly be described as 'learned'", this volume appears to open up the possibility of a longer series, but leaves somewhat tantalizingly unformulated the extent of this corpus. It also raises intriguing if unanswered questions about the

transmission of medical knowledge in thirteenth-century England, the puzzling relationship between these Anglo-Norman texts and anything comparable that survives in France, and the broader context of French and Anglo-Norman medicine. Perhaps the reader's curiosity will be satisfied in the "general introduction" of volume 2.

The introduction to Roger's *Chirurgia* includes a short survey and sample extracts of Occitan, continental Old French and Middle English versions (the reader is expected to be fluent in all these plus medieval Latin). The first part of the book concludes with an annotated edition of the fragmentary Old French translation of the *Chirurgia* from the earlier part of the same MS Trinity 0.1.20. Part II is devoted to the *Practica brevis*. Its contents are set out in tabular form according to the Latin versions of the 1497 Venice edition and MS Sloane 1124, and the Anglo-Norman translation in Trinity 0.1.20. There follow the Latin prologue based on Sloane 1124, and brief descriptions of the principal insular MSS of the *Practica*, including a Middle English translation of which samples are provided. A detailed description of the apparently accurate and comprehensive Anglo-Norman translation and an analysis of its insular orthographical and syntactical features and morphological adaptations of Latin words precede the edited text, notes, glossary, and receipts from the *Antidotarium Nicolai* referred to in the *Practica*.

The overriding importance of producing reliable but compact editions has led to a certain economy of explanation for the uninformed or unalert reader. Questions of editing principle are addressed only in the introduction to part two, where the editor articulates "the problem of whether to correct in the interests of scientific accuracy or in conformity with the source from which the text derives". In the case of the *Practica brevis* his approach is, in the absence of any [critical] edition of the Latin original, "to convey the sense of the text, not by restricting comparison to the early printed version of the Latin, but by drawing on the manuscript tradition". Only at

this point is it really clear that with the *Chirurgia*, the opposite principle operated. The unwary reader might also assume that only asterisked words in the text have been corrected, though the notes reveal other unsignalled emendations, based on “the Latin” (i.e. Karl Sudhoff’s not entirely satisfactory edition). Details such as the sudden leap from fol. 225r to fol. 266r on p. 63 (II, III) are left unexplained. Criteria of inclusions and exclusions, though doubtless pragmatic, are unspecified: for example, why does the list of the *Chirurgia*’s chapter headings exclude the later French versions of Paris, BN ms fr. 1288 or Paris, BN ms. fr. 14827 referred to in David Ross’s unmentioned PhD thesis (‘Some thirteenth-century French versions of the *Chirurgia* of Roger of Salerno’, London University 1940, pp. 13–14)? It is also a little puzzling that no mention is made of the existence of this unpublished scholarly edition of the Trinity 0.1.20 version, even though Tony Hunt’s edition certainly supersedes it. But these are minor points, and the author’s energy and acuity in providing greater access to neglected medieval scientific material must be both welcomed and admired.

Linda M Paterson,
University of Warwick

Gundolf Keil (ed.), “*ein deutsch puech machen*”: *Untersuchungen zur landessprachlichen Vermittlung medizinischen Wissens*, Wissensliteratur im Mittelalter, vol. 11, Wiesbaden, Dr Ludwig Reichert Verlag, 1993, pp. xxiv, 616, illus., DM 118.00 (3-88226-539-6).

This is a volume whose title disguises its significance for scholars in a variety of disciplines. It deals with the transmission of medical knowledge in medieval vernacular texts, focusing primarily on the writings of Ortoolf von Bayerland, a Würzburg doctor active in the second half of the thirteenth century. After an introduction setting the author in the context of the most recent studies

of vernacular medieval medicine, the various authors show how his book was composed from earlier material and then itself dismembered and distributed among a variety of other compendia. His recipes turn up in a multitude of contexts and languages, and his sections on bloodletting, in sickness, health, and pregnancy, enjoyed an equally kaleidoscopic existence. In their turn, texts by other authors became associated with Ortoolf material, and circulated with it, primarily in the German-speaking areas of Europe, hence the publication here of many “new” texts on medicine.

But two contributions stand out of considerable interest for the Germanist or non-medievalist. Hilde-Marie Gross provides a detailed catalogue of medical compilatory manuscripts with illustrations, including all those with Ortoolf material. Her listing goes far beyond that of McKinney, *Medical illustrations in medieval manuscripts*, in both detail and accuracy, and any scholar wishing to seek illustrations of bloodletting, the medical zodiac, the colours of urine, must now start from the abundant information that is given here. Dr Gross organizes her material by topic, text, library, and type of illustration, and, with the help also of the very full indexes at the back of the book, finding an appropriate illustration is made simple. She gives an exhaustive and extremely valuable bibliography of each manuscript, that for Wellcome 49, 120, and 588 being more extensive than in Moorat’s catalogue.

One famous image discussed by Dr Gross is that of the “Woundman”, which survived well into the age of printing. In a separate study Erltraud Auer and Bernhard Schnell carry out a detailed investigation of this image, and publish a double edition of the text that most frequently accompanies it, sometimes in Latin, sometimes in German. They remind us that the production of images in a medical text served a practical rather than a purely artistic purpose, and they emphasize that text and image go together, and must be considered as a whole. Their readings, checked against Wellcome 49 and 290, are accurate, and their constitution of