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hands of such men as Haldane and Sherrington in England, and Cannon and Henson in the United States.

The majority of the papers in the Symposium serve to illustrate how Bernard's researches have provided the background to twentieth-century progress. Owen H. Wangenstein follows the course of research on gastric juice from Claude Bernard's experiments right up to Gregory's preparation of gastrin. Alfred Fessard, who refers to Bernard as 'not a physiologist, but the personification of Physiology itself', describes Bernard's classic work on curare. He brings to this a new emphasis derived from the recently revealed *Cahier Rouge*, and *Cahier de Notes*, where Bernard actually uses the term 'terminal plaque of the motor nerve' to describe the site of action of curare. Fessard extends this motif to show its continuity with his own recent work on the post-junctional chemical receptors and acceptors.

It is a reflection of the diversity of Bernard's genius that similar histories of progress can be traced in such fields as, the use of drugs as tools in the elucidation of physiological mechanisms, recent developments in the discovery of glycogen, and the variability of the interior milieu.

The book is concluded by a translation of Claude Bernard's *Cahier Rouge*, made by Hebbel H. Hoff, Lucienne Guillemin, and Roger Guillemin. This is a particularly welcome item, comprising a complete edition of the manuscript, not merely a selection of excerpts. It succeeds in conveying to the reader a fascinating sense of intimacy with the man who wrote the observations and reflections jotted down between 1850 and 1860, a personal impression much more vivid than that obtained by reading Bernard's formal works. This valuable contribution provides a striking finale to a fine set of variations on the theme of Claude Bernard.

KENNETH D. KEELE

Short-title Catalogue of Books Printed before 1851 in the Library of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 2nd ed., London, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 1968, pp. vi, 85, illus., 30s. 0d.

This slim volume lists no fewer than 1,200 titles under the names of some 600 different authors. It replaces an earlier catalogue published in 1956, which included only about half this number of items. In the preface to this new edition Sir John Peel refers to the help given to the College by the Wellcome Trustees in augmenting this historical section of the library, and to bequests from the late Sir Eardley Holland and the late Miles Phillips, both of whom were keen students of the history of their chosen specialty.

Amongst the new additions to the library may be noted the *Fasciculus Medicinae* of Johannes Ketham, 1513, which includes the anatomy of Mondino da Luzzi; a copy of the 1532 Augsburg edition of Eucharius Roesslin's *Der schwangeren Frawen und Hebammen Rosengarte*; and Jakob Rueff's *De conceptu et generatione hominis* dated 1554. The oldest book in the library is Albertus Magnus' *De secretis mulierum* printed in Venice in 1478. Other important acquisitions include Sir Richard Manningham's *Artis obstetricariae* in two editions from Miles Phillips' collection; Solayrés de Renhac's *Elementorum artis obstetriciae compendium*, 1765; and J.-R. Sigault's account of his operation of symphysiotomy, published in 1776. As might be expected, the College's collection of works by British authors such as Thomas Denman, William

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Hunter, William Smellie and Charles White has been considerably augmented by several editions of their works. The catalogue also lists over two dozen copies of the works of François Mauriceau in several languages, and other additions to the writings of French and German authors. The library is now well provided with books of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, covering the formative years of modern obstetric practice. More recent books listed include Walter Channing's *A Treatise on Etherization in Childbirth* and Charles Clay's account of his pioneer ovariectomies, both published in 1848.

This catalogue is well produced, and includes five blank pages at the end for notes, and the attractiveness of the booklet is enhanced by the addition of sixteen well-chosen plates, which include a little-known wood-cut of 1516 portraying a Caesarean operation, apparently just performed by the midwife.

WALTER RADCLIFFE

Wreath on the Crown, by JOHN CULE, Llandysul, Cards., Gomerian Press, 1967, pp. 143, 18s. 0d.

This is the case presentation of a little Welsh girl who was wrecked on the rocks of puberty, exhibiting, in the process, the characteristic clinical picture of anorexia nervosa. The author has unfolded the case history and described the family inter-relationship accurately—the proud, headstrong stupid father, the snivelling mother, and even the grey negativity of the brothers and sisters is typical. Aided and abetted by these complex inter-personal patterns, Sarah Jacob achieved her desire for exhibitionism and, as a result of the present account, immortality as well, for she died one hundred years ago in a remote part of the Welsh countryside. The Victorian era and the hidebound setting helped to kill her prematurely by encompassing an otherwise satisfying form of exhibitionism by an overstrict set of rules and a trap to catch her out. The author provides a vivid portrayal of this unedifying business, for which many culprits were to blame but for which only the father and mother received prison sentences for manslaughter of their child. The necropsy report describes the telltale chocolate brown liver of chronic starvation; this hue because of the wear and tear pigment, lipofuscin.

The author ends his epilogue with a provocative series of questions for which every reader of the case history will have his own set of answers, particularly so if he has had the responsibility of the management of patients, and the parents of patients, with anorexia nervosa. There is no need to assume that a mysterious bottle of fluid was hidden in her armpit when she was openly receiving hot or warm water bottles. Doctors who stumbled upon and publicized her secret were made unwelcome and only doctors with genuine sympathy in the malady can forge a worthwhile doctor-patient relationship. If she had not been crucified in the cold light of day, then she would have survived indefinitely assuming that both parents and several doctors kept to their proper playacting parts in the charade of anorexia nervosa. In a future edition it is hoped that the author will link the lessons to be learnt from this medico-legal problem with present-day matters, such as, for instance, the attitude of Jehovah Witnesses towards the management of their sick children.

The Gomerian Press is to be congratulated on a splendid format.

D. GERAINT JAMES