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sequence of two parallel threads would have been much better. This quirk inevitably holds back, until after the EMI scanner, all the work of those who had CT in use clinically, albeit with radionuclides, before the prototype X-ray EMI scanner began to be used. It is thoroughly disappointing to see the UK work played down as “also rans”, for example the work in Aberdeen is given only half a page, and is relegated to a later date—1972—than when it actually occurred. Their home-built machine, digital from the outset, was working in the autumn of 1970, a year before the very first clinical X-ray CT scan with the EMI scanner in October 1971. The Aberdeen scanner was providing a clinical service from January 1971 onwards: indeed, Aberdeen had emission tomography 7 years before X-ray CT arrived there. There is no excuse for the author not getting the record straight here, because correspondence and conversations with pioneering workers are quoted virtually verbatim throughout this book; but no communication with the Aberdeen team is reported, in spite of the fact that Steve Webb is co-author of a paper reporting a detailed performance assessment of the Aberdeen machine in 1981. It compared very favourably with the best that U.S. Industry could produce 7 to 8 years afterwards! Where is there a mention of the British Company, J. & P. Ltd of Reading, who bravely produced a version based on the Aberdeen machine and sold twenty of them, but, through lack of support from the City financiers, went under? A familiar tale. This national tendency to play down anything British makes the work of British scientific historians suspect; the reader has to ask the questions: has anyone British of note in this story been missed out? Has their true role been properly acknowledged?

In the PET section I could find no mention of the Swedish developments leading to the Scanditronix commercial machine—nor of the M.R.C. attempts at Hammersmith Hospital to use a home-made positron gamma camera.

In summary, this book is a fascinating and very good comprehensive account of the early days of tomography, but it is less than comprehensive, particularly in European and British work in the field in the later period. Nevertheless, it is a good start and maybe a second edition will put it right. All those using tomography, or interested in it, should have a good look at it.

John Mallard, University of Aberdeen and Grampian Health Board

GUY SAUDAN, *La médecine à Lausanne du XVI^e au XX^e siècle*, Dengues, Éditions du Verseau, Roth & Sauter, 1991, pp. 273, illus. (2-88075-015-6).

This bulky volume has been published for the celebration of the Centenary of the University of Lausanne's Faculty of Medicine. The main town of the Canton de Vaud has always been the smallest of the five principal Swiss towns (Zurich, Basle, Bern and Geneva), though it experienced a very impressive development through the second half of the nineteenth century, which justified the opening of a university in 1890-91. The town however still remained relatively small, with a population of some 35,000 inhabitants. Several periods were especially noteworthy in the medical history of Lausanne. In the sixteenth century, names like Pierre Franco, the *chirurgien herniaire* whose fame was eclipsed by that of Ambroise Paré—both were Huguenots—Jean Griffon and Fabricius of Hilden, attest to the fame of Lausanne in Renaissance and Baroque surgery. Later, the eighteenth century saw the flourishing of two famous authors, first the *accoucheur* and orthopaedist Jean-André Venel, then the rather prolix author Tissot. It is worth noting that in most sources his first name is given as Simon-André, but in this book he is (correctly) called Auguste. (His complete name was: Samuel-Auguste-André-David Tissot.) Incidentally, Tissot refused a position at the Polish Court, to which he had been recommended by A. von Haller; it was accepted by the Lyon practitioner E. Gilibert—on the same recommendation.

Tissot's *Avis au peuple sur sa santé* was a best-seller of the so-called Domestic Medicine literature, illustrated in England by Buchan and in Germany by Hufeland, all of which were translated into most European languages. His even more famous *L'Onanisme* (69 editions) has been criticized by later scholars; it was however quite in tune with contemporary beliefs, lay as well as medical. The modern period again attests to the prominence of the Lausanne Faculty,

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with the surgeons Matthias Mayor and César Roux, the ophthalmologists Marc Dufour and Jules Gonin, the psychiatrist Auguste Forel, and many others like A. Yersin (bacteriology), H. Stilling (pathology) and the historian of medicine Eugène Olivier. The latter's researches paved the way to the present work to a great extent, as the author readily acknowledges (pp. 9, 165).

It should however be pointed out that a number of these celebrated scholars spent only a certain part of their medical career in Lausanne. A name that does not appear in this book is that of Waldemar Haffkine, the renowned bacteriologist. He was not in fact connected with the Faculty, but spent the last years of his life in Lausanne and was buried there in 1930.

The author, Guy Saudan, is the director of the Institut Universitaire d'Histoire de la Médecine et de la Santé Publique which opened in 1989. He gives much attention to the development of medical institutions, to teaching and research facilities, and, last but not least, to the impressive development of the past forty years (pp. 177–226). Several appendices contain detailed figures and names of the Medical Faculty, and there is a detailed list of illustrations but no index. Obviously iconography is of central importance—as it usually is in such works aimed at a wide public. The book's presentation and accuracy are excellent.

Samuel S. Kottak, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

HOSAM ELKHADDEM, *Le Taqwīm al-Ṣiḥḥa (Tacuini Sanitatis) d'Ibn Buṭlān: un traité médical du XI^e siècle. Histoire du texte, édition critique, traduction, commentaire*, Académie Royale de Belgique, Classe des Lettres, Fonds René Draguet, vol. 7, Louvain. Peeters, 1990, pp. 345, illus., BFr. 3,200.00 (90–6831–271–5).

Taqwīm al-Ṣiḥḥa is an Arabic treatise on diet, hygiene and astrology. It consists of forty tables discussing in detail everything that relates to the Galenic six non-naturals. Ibn Buṭlān, the author of the book, borrowed the idea of using tables in representing his materials from the astronomical tables in order to appeal to a large range of readers. In addition to these forty tables, there are forty canons discussing in general the value of each heading within each table, and also thirty sentences linking the content of some of the tables with astrology. Ibn Buṭlān's book was widely appreciated in the Medieval east and west.

ElKhadem, the editor of the Arabic text, has collected fifteen manuscripts in order to prepare his edition. He has provided a French translation, commentary, a few introductory chapters to discuss several aspects relating to the text, several indices and a bibliography as well. ElKhadem has chosen to maintain the original shape of the text, i.e. the tables which were introduced for the first time to Arabic medical texts by Ibn Buṭlān and had consequently a major influence on Arabic medical writers. However ElKhadem has separated the Arabic text from both the French translation and the critical apparatus. Such a separation makes checking the translation and the critical apparatus a difficult job. Moreover, he has not given a critical apparatus for the canons. The work is valuable for those who are interested in Arabic dietetic medicine, the influence of Greek and Indian dietetics on Arabic medicine, and also in the transmission of medicine from Arabic into Latin.

Amal Abou-Aly, Wellcome Institute

K. Y. GUGGENHEIM, *Basic issues of the history of nutrition*, Jerusalem, Akademia University Press, 1990, pp. 130, illus., \$22.00.

This is a good introduction to the origin and development of concepts and controversies in the history of ideas about nutrition. It consists of nine essays each dealing with the contribution of one or more leading scientists in a particular period.

In the Greco-Roman period the ideal of "balance" was paramount. Either obesity or excessive leanness were considered to represent departures from the ideal. Galen, for example, in the second century AD set out to restore a proper balance in his obese patients by having them take more physical exercise and eat "foods containing little nourishment". Another writer