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*explicit*s been given they would probably have helped to identify some MSS with unknown authors. K. *Khawāṣṣ al-ashyāʿ*² (Properties of Things), for which title a translation is given as *A Book about the Peculiarities of the Things* (p. 6, n. 76), could be a copy of al-Rāzī's book extant only in a few known manuscripts: Dār al-Kutub al-Miṣriyya, MS Ṭibb 141, and MS Ṭibb Taymūriyya 264 (Ṣ. el-Munajjed, 'Maṣādir jadīda ʿan tāriḫ al-ṭibb ʿind al-ʿarab [New Sources on the History of Arabic Medicine], *Revue de l'Institut des Manuscrits arabes*, 1959, 5 (2), p. 299; Biblioteca Marciana, Venice, MS Or. 157 (=41), fols. 1a–9a [previously Naniāna, Cod. 107, 1] (S. Assemani, *Catalogo de codici manoscritti orientali della Biblioteca Naniāna*, Padua, 1792, part 2, p. 230); and University Library, Teheran, MSS Miṣhkāt [817], and [975] (M. T. Dānešpazhūh, *Fihrist-i Kitābkhāna-i ihdāʿi-yi Muḥammad Miṣhkāt bi Kitābkhāna-i Dāniṣhghāh-i Tihrān*, *Intishārāt-i Dāniṣhghāh-i Tihrān*, n. 181, Teheran, 1373/ 1953, vol. 3 (2), p. 749).

Suggestions could be made with regard to translations of titles, such as: *Fuṣūl*, Aphorisms (not *chapters*, p. 4, no. 43); *Ḥummayāt al-Qānūn*, Fevers in the *Canon* (not *Principles of Fevers*, p. 5, n. 55); and *Maqālāt*, treatise (instead of *speeches*, p. 8, n. 91).

Among many other works which will interest scholars are: Ibn al-Nafīs's Commentary on Anatomy, *Sharḥ al-taṣhrīḥ* (p. 12, n. 156); al-Rāzī's books: Aphorisms, *al-Fuṣūl* (p. 4, n. 43); *Contines*, *al-Ḥāwī* (p. 5, n. 51); and Classification and Tabulation of Diseases, *al-Taqsīm wa al-taṣhīr* (p. 11, n. 135); al-Samarqandī's Formulary, *Aqrābādihīn* (p. 3, n. 26, 1); and al-Qalānisi's Formulary (p. 9, n. 118).

Unless scholars are enabled to study uncatalogued collections, some manuscripts will end in disintegration and more works will be lost. It is vital that arrangements be made, on an international level, for qualified scholars to study this and other uncatalogued collections, to establish a universal microfilm library, and to publish catalogues of medical and scientific manuscripts.

A. Z. ISKANDAR

Die anatomische Sektion in bildlicher Darstellung, by G. WOLF-HEIDEGGER and ANNA MARIA CETTO, Basle, Karger, 1967, pp. vi, 612, 355 plates, S.Fr./DM. 150.

In the first part of this book on the representation of anatomical dissection Wolf-Heidegger offers a history of human dissection in different cultures, the place and time of the earliest dissections in Europe and America, prosectors and anatomists, the teaching procedures, anatomical theatres, the procuring of cadavers, their preservation, and the instruments used in dissection. Frau Cetto has been responsible for a catalogue of the illustrations, and gives the size, author, location, biographical and technical information, together with concise references. The book is beautifully printed and richly illustrated, including some exquisite coloured reproductions; indeed this work exceeds any previous attempts and complements for human dissections the classic study on anatomical illustration by Choulant (1852). Wolf-Heidegger discusses in great detail certain controversial problems, in particular the Arabic contributions to human dissections and the stand of the Catholic Church up to the Renaissance; the arguments presented and the wealth of references quoted give to this historical introduction an exhaustive character. Furthermore, the systematic

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analysis of the illustrations of dissections in miniatures, sculptures, medallions, title-pages of books, typographical ornaments, portraits of dissectors, anatomical theatres and caricatures on this theme, provides a comprehensive survey of a subject which until now could only be reached through painstaking research. The illustrations show clearly the passing of basic artistic ideas from one country and prosector to another, plagiarisms as well as creative concepts, the use of flayed human skin as an ornamental motive in title-pages far more extended than until nowadays accepted. Curiously enough this book proves that a point of anatomical illustration—the basement dissecting scene in Valverde de Amusco—could attract entirely independently the interest of at least three different scholars, at precisely the same moment.

The book is excellent and extremely useful, with well-arranged indices of authors, artists, and illustrations, but as the standard reference for the history of anatomical dissections, offers certain flaws which must be kept in mind. It represents the classical approach in medical history and relies almost exclusively on Western culture; even there, the omissions of anatomical theatres, dissecting scenes in title-pages of books, and even more of great dissectors, are numerous. One puzzling omission is the title-page with the dissecting theatre of Madrid used in the *Anatomy* by M. Martinez, first published in 1728, reprinted in 1730, 1745, 1747, 1752, 1757, 1764, 1775, and 1788, which was one of the most popular texts in Spanish. Although the author M. Martinez is mentioned and the engraver Fr. Matias Irala registered for another work, their title-pages, portraits and certain illustrations have not been incorporated, in spite of their importance in the history of anatomical dissection; this point is also valid for Portuguese dissectors.

There are several other areas where the authors should have extended their research: Oriental cultures are represented only by a copy of a watercolour; and in respect of the American continent, Spanish-America is entirely ignored. Anatomical dissection in humans was carried out in Mexico City at least one century earlier than those at Cambridge, Mass., reported by Wolf-Heidegger; a chair of anatomy with dissection compulsory for medical students was established in Mexico City in 1578, with a programme following very closely the lectures and work on cadavers carried out at Salamanca, and Coimbra. It is also regrettable that Wolf-Heidegger has ignored the strong movement in favour of human dissections and the building of anatomical theatres during the eighteenth century in Spain and Spanish America by Virgili, Gimbernat and Hunter's pupils, which led to a great upsurge of surgical training. Finally, no history of human dissection can be written without a proper study of the Lima School under Unanue at the beginning of the nineteenth century. His anatomical dissection and the emphasis he placed on this training during the process of medical education compared very favourably with any European school during the same period.

F. GUERRA

Idle Thoughts of a Surgical Fellow, by STACEY B. DAY. Montreal, Cultural and Educational Productions, 1968, pp. 344, illus., £5 10s. 0d.

In spite of its title this book is a serious work by a surgeon who has many interests