

## Book Reviews

butyraceous fluid is very often present, which rising to the top of its serum, in conjunction with the caseous-like principle of which we have been speaking, forms an appearance exactly resembling the cream of milk; and these principles are often so abundant, especially in the chyle of animals fed on flesh, that, as Dr. Marcet has observed, they may be readily detected, even in the blood itself. Vauquelin remarked the near resemblance of this fatty matter to that which he had extracted from the brain, and *I made the same remark before I had seen Vauquelin's paper. . . .*<sup>19</sup>

It may prove possible to identify other reviews as Elliotson's, for books on animal magnetism and the doctrines of Gall and Spurzheim were analysed.

W. H. BROCK

## REFERENCES

1. Copies at Royal College of Physicians, Royal Society of Medicine, Manchester University Medical Library. Hereafter referred to as *A1* and *A2*.
2. The fact that second editions of nos. 1, 2, and 3 were announced for the summer of 1818 suggests that these first issues were sold completely; cf. *A2*, p. 484.
3. Yet *A1*, p. 240, refers to a 'Committee of Editors'.
4. *Edin. med. surg. J.*, 1851, 76, 144n.
5. A recent biographer of Elliotson. See his *Doctors Differ*, 1946.
6. E.g. *Med. Chir. Trans.*, 1818, 9, 474 (a blood sample); *ibid.*, 1819, 10, 390 (ammonium urate calculus).
7. W. Prout, *Chemistry, Meteorology and the Function of Digestion*, 1834, p. 100n. On Prout, see my forthcoming article, 'Life and Work of William Prout'.
8. *A1*, pp. 129-30.
9. *Annals of Philosophy*, 1819, 14, 233.
10. 'On the efficacy of vaccination against distemper in dogs', *A2*, pp. 1-2. Also, at *A2*, p. 112, 'Editors return thanks to Dr. Elliotson' for his communication.
11. *A1*, pp. 10-26, 133-57, 277-89.
12. *Op. cit.*, 1819, 13, 12-25, 265-79.
13. *Ibid.*, p. 13. Yet at *A2*, p. 158, the editorial reviewer says 'as our Work is very extensively circulated. . . .' In another review, it was remarked that Magendie had evidently not seen Prout's articles in Vol. I.
14. *A1*, p. 412. The missing part was read to the Royal Society in 1822, *Phil. Trans.*, 1822, 377-400.
15. *A1*, pp. 367-84.
16. *A2*, pp. 440-53.
17. *A1*, pp. 46-53, a review of *Med. Chir. Trans.*, 1815, 6, 618.
18. *A1*, p. 52, my italics.
19. *A1*, pp. 144-5, my italics.

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*The Royal College of Physicians of London. Portraits*, edited by GORDON WOLSTENHOLME, the portraits described by DAVID PIPER, London, J. & A. Churchill, Ltd., 1964, illus., pp. 468, 75s.

The long editorial experience of Gordon Wolstenholme, Director of the Ciba Foundation, London, has been most felicitously directed towards the production of

this magnificent volume. The technical descriptions of the two hundred and twenty-one pictures and portrait busts were expertly written by David Piper, Assistant Keeper of the National Portrait Gallery.

Dr. Wolstenholme is apparently responsible for the excellent biographical notes which precede each of the pictures described. Opening appropriately with two portraits of King Henry VIII (1491–1547), who gave the Letters Patent constituting the College in 1518, the volume proceeds alphabetically from John Abernethy (1764–1831) to William Woodville (1752–1805) and includes in addition a portrait of 'A Dwarf' and of 'The Maniac', together with an oil painting by Felix Kelly (1960) of 'The Old Building of the Royal College of Physicians, Pall Mall'. This is an appropriate conclusion to the pictures in the volume, since the volume itself was prepared as a welcome from the Ciba Foundation to the Royal College of Physicians in its new building, designed by Mr. Denys Lasdun, in the attractive setting of the southeast corner of Regent's Park.

The College first met in the home of Thomas Linacre (1460–1524) who was its President from the time of its foundation in 1518 until his death, and whose traditional portrait, by William Miller in 1810, was copied from a 1537 original in Windsor Castle, which was catalogued as 'An Elderly Man' (School of Massys). In 1614 the College moved to a building in Amen Corner, but was burned out in the Great Fire of 1666. It occupied a new building in Warwick Lane in 1674 and then moved in 1825 to the building it is now vacating in Pall Mall.

This portrait volume is a veritable gallery of many of the greatest British contributors to medicine. Appropriately there are four graphic representations of William Harvey (1578–1657), and two plastic ones. A fine marble bust of Thomas Addison (1703–1860) was made by Alfred Hone when Addison became a Fellow of the College in 1838. The best bronze in the collection is appropriately by Sir Jacob Epstein, and is an appealing half-length, with folded hands, of Walter Russell Brain, 1st Baron Brain, President of the College from 1950 to 1957, and distinguished neurologist and humanist.

Among the interesting oils are portraits of Mark Akenside (1721–70), John Arbuthnot (1667–1735), Matthew Baillie (1761–1823), Sir Richard Blackmore (1654–1729), Hermann Boerhaave (1668–1738), Richard Bright (1789–1858), Sir Thomas Browne (1605–82), William Cadogan (1711–97), and John Caius (1510–73) who was President on three different occasions from 1555 to 1571.

In artistic interest, the portraits range from a primitive watercolour of Daniel Coxe (1640–1730) by an unknown artist to the superb modern portrait by Philip de Laszlo in 1937 of Viscount Dawson of Penn (1864–1945), who was President of the College in 1931 to 1938. Among the more unusual artistic portraits are eleven charming profile pencil sketches by George Dance (1741–1825). Thomas Gainsborough (1727–88) is represented by a copy of his portrait of Richard Warren (1731–97). Hans Holbein (1497–1543) has a copy miniature of John Chambre (1461–1549), who was among the founders of the College. Sir Thomas Lawrence (1769–1830) painted not only the portrait of Matthew Baillie but also the fine oil of Edward Jenner (1749–1823). Sir Peter Lely (1618–80) painted the splendid portrait of Sir Edmund King (1629–1709). John Singer Sargent (1856–1925) has a fine black-chalk portrait of Joseph Frank Payne (1840–1910).

Interesting are the portraits by Mrs. Mary Beale (1632–99) of the great clinician, Thomas Sydenham (1624–89) and of William Croone (1633–84). Portraits by five or six other women painters are included. The powerful half-length oil of William

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Pitcairn (1711–91) is by Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723–92). The three-quarter length of a black-haired, bearded man, once thought to be Andreas Vesalius (1514–64) and attributed to Calcar, is now believed not to represent Vesalius at all, nor to have been painted by Calcar.

This volume of portraits of Fellows and Presidents of The Royal College of Physicians of London must be examined to be appreciated. It is a superb compilation. The biographical accounts are brief and pertinent. The illustrations are clear and the art objects are authoritatively described. Skilfully catalogued and sumptuously printed, this is a very illustrious portrait gallery of most of the great British physicians.

CHAUNCEY D. LEAKE

*John Locke (1632–1704), Physician and Philosopher. A Medical Bibliography with an Edition of the Medical Notes in his Journals*, by KENNETH DEWHURST, London, The Wellcome Historical Medical Library, 1963, 11 plates, pp. xii, 331, 42s.

The qualifications necessary to edit these hitherto unpublished selections include a sound grasp of medical history, patience to grapple with more than the usual palaeographical difficulties and, of course, an intimate knowledge of Locke's varied career. Dr. Dewhurst, in a long series of publications, has proved his abilities to edit and to interpret the medical side of Locke's career.

The present volume is based on the three thousand letters, one thousand miscellaneous papers, sixteen medical commonplace books, and ten volumes of journals, all of which were acquired from the Earl of Lovelace by the Bodleian Library in 1948. Out of this great mass, Dewhurst has edited all of the medical entries in the *Journals* for the period 1675–98. This is supplemented by a biographical survey of his other medical writings widely scattered throughout his correspondence and commonplace books.

The fragmentary form of the *Journal* entries, in some cases little more than memoranda or queries, makes for neither smooth nor easy reading. Anticipating this, the editor has wisely interspersed the four chapters containing the selections (IV, VI, VIII, X) with expository chapters designed to illustrate the historical context of Locke's medical ideas and to trace, if not a conceptual development, at least a chronological sequence.

Beginning with Locke's schooldays at Oxford, his relations with some of the foremost members of the 'Invisible College', and his *entrée* into the Shaftesbury circle, Dewhurst prepares the reader for the selections covering the period 1675–9. Although these were written while Locke was travelling in France, they cover the entire range of his medical interests with much interesting peripheral material. From the first medical entry, that of 4 December 1675, when Locke visited *Les Invalides*, he did not cease to record whatever interested him: a place, a person, a new remedy, an arresting passage in a book he happened to be reading, something relating to his medical practice or to his patients, and even, on occasion, local gossip having some medical relevance.

The years 1679–83 find Locke in and about London busily engaged with several difficult cases but not too busy to keep up his interest in chemistry. Here, as elsewhere, Locke refers to Boyle's work and there are suggestions that Locke himself made some experiments. The years 1683–8 were spent in Holland. Although there are some references to Dutch physicians, it is evident, as Dewhurst notes, that Locke spent a good portion of his time in reading. There are references to, abridgements of, or extracts from some thirty-nine medical writers for this period. Locke's continual