

Arabia are available for study, and in recent reprintings of such rare journals as *Arabia Calling* provide access to its extensive medical documentation. When advantage is taken of all this material to write the history of the American medical missionary enterprise in the Gulf, Allison's contribution will undoubtedly figure as an important source. To judge from her own material, one conclusion of such a study will probably prove to be that while the mission doctors performed innumerable worthwhile services at an individual level, the Gulf regimes did not have to advance too far in their awareness of modern medicine before they came to realize that they would be well advised to look in other directions for models for the professionalization of medicine in their own countries.

Lawrence I Conrad, Wellcome Institute

Andrew Cunningham (ed.), *English manuscripts of Francis Glisson (1): from Anatomia hepatis (The anatomy of the liver), 1654*, Cambridge Wellcome Texts and Documents, no. 3, Cambridge, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 1994, pp. vii, 221, £15.00 (UK), £16.00 (elsewhere in Europe), £18.00 (elsewhere in the world) (0-9516693-3-8).

As the introduction to this volume points out, Francis Glisson's published writings have (with one exception—a pirated translation of one of them) remained in what is now the obscurity of Latin. The anatomists christened by his name the loose connective tissue packing together the branches of the bile duct, portal vein and hepatic artery, and then abandoned him by renaming it the "hepatobiliary capsule". The present transcript of one of his manuscripts written in English is therefore welcome, and opens a window long shuttered, revealing the original English of the introduction to his *Anatomia hepatis* and of the work's postscript on the lymphatic system; together they comprise some 23 per cent of the whole work. The main substance of the work evidently does not survive as its English

original. The first MS is a reasoned and rather lengthy exposition of the traditional terms of descriptive anatomy. The second MS supplies a remarkably wide-ranging account of the lymphatic system, chiefly defective (with hindsight) because Glisson clearly could not identify nerves reliably as such.

From material here quoted, it is clear that George Ent translated Glisson's English into the Latin in which it was published. Now that we can see that English, his achievement was remarkable. He deployed an active Latin vocabulary of enviable size, together with a profound judgement on what to amplify and what to delete. He also had an eye for a neat classical simile: he likens (p. 188) Nature assembling something from components and then taking it apart again (which he thought incredible), to "going back under starter's orders after completing the race". Glisson (p. 177) matches this with his own "Does Nature spin Penelope's thread, do and undo?" However, Nature does, indeed.

Ent's Latin gave Glisson's work access to the European common market of scientific scholarship. Yet his enormous contribution was not even mentioned in the published volume. Eleven years later, however, he reached a distinction any anatomist might envy: he was knighted within the very College of Physicians by Charles II at the close of a series of anatomy lectures he had given. And the *Dictionary of national biography* bears witness to his "excellent Latin, with many happy quotations from Greek and Latin poets". A distinguished product of an English public school's classical training? Alas, no; he was schooled in Rotterdam!

The present work clarifies by footnotes the meaning of any English word now obsolete or of changed significance. These are short and generally helpful, though not always reliable. On p. 25, Glisson's "genius" is interpreted by Ent's Latin as "inclination", but the footnote offers "talent". My reading of the OED inclines me to side with Ent. At the foot of p. 93, a surprising mole—the animal, and from Aristotle, too—scuttles in. I think he is an illusion; Ent translates as "naevus".

## Book Reviews

Dr Cunningham holds out the welcome hope that more material from Glisson's pen may be made available. Perhaps material never before published even in Latin might open more new windows on his little-studied scientific career. Readers would appreciate an indication of the look of the English MS. Further, Glisson's printers were neat and accurate men; the substitution of "inoculationem" for "inosculacionem" on p. 156 is the only important printer's error I have noticed. They are not fairly treated in this volume. The Latin is reproduced so as to look like a facsimile, but facsimile it is not; it perverts the appearance of the original, reducing clear print to just-legible, and even to illegible occasionally (pp. 22, 156, 164 for instance). If instead a transcript of the Latin had been made, then the Errata which are supplied on p. vii could have been noted at the points to which they refer.

It is also remarkable that apparently the printers of the present volume could not offer a Greek font. The consequences are unfortunate; the transliteration of Greek words on p. 27 is quite astray, despite the fact that Ent provided the correct reference to the original Greek. I also suspect that on p. 29 Glisson wrote *μῦριον*, not the "morios" offered by Cunningham. If I can (with a little amateur ingenuity) coax a scalable Greek font out of a run-of-the-mill LaserJet printer, surely Cambridge University Printing Services can do much better.

**John M Forrester**, Edinburgh

**Mark Greengrass, Michael Leslie, Timothy Raylor** (eds), *Samuel Hartlib and universal reformation: studies in intellectual communication*, Cambridge University Press, 1994, pp. xix, 372, £40.00, \$59.95 (0-521-45252-X).

In July 1992, the University of Sheffield hosted a major international conference devoted to a detailed examination of the role of the Hartlib circle in promoting the cause of intellectual reform in mid-seventeenth-century England. Of the seventy-two papers presented,

eighteen were chosen for inclusion in the present volume, the final selection representing, in the words of the editors, "a series of case studies, each exemplifying work in progress in and around the world of Samuel Hartlib".

The result, particularly to anyone unfamiliar with that world, might appear at first sight awfully confusing and contrived. The concerns of the Hartlib circle were seemingly open-ended, lacking any coherence according to modern schemes of categorization. But of course, as the editors would no doubt point out, therein lies the crux of the matter, for Hartlib's world was not as yet organized along the lines of compartmentalized modernity. On the contrary, for Hartlib and his contemporaries, alchemy was indistinguishable from chemistry, and the arcane art of cryptology offered untapped potential for those seeking to create an universal language.

Consequently, a brief summary of the contents can do scant justice to the contributors and editors, but it should I hope provide some intimation of the vibrant eclecticism of the Hartlibians. Thus, apart from new insights into familiar Hartlibian topics such as alchemy, astrology and language reform, we are also introduced to such disparate subjects as garden design and philosemitism. Hartlib's chief accomplices, Dury and Comenius, figure prominently, and there are useful discussions of the philosophical and pedagogical roots of pansophism in the schools of central Europe. "Minor" figures such as Benjamin Worsley are rightly restored to a more prominent place in the formulation of public policy in the 1640s and 1650s, whilst the relationship of the Hartlib circle to Ireland, the colonies and the rest of Europe features in many of the papers. Finally, for those still unconvinced by the interconnectedness of such studies, I warmly recommend the editors' introduction which sets out clearly and concisely the central themes and organizing principles behind this book.

If I have a single reservation about this collection of essays, it is its failure to engage with the larger ideological issues and debates which were the subject of Charles Webster's