

Book Reviews

Histoire de la Zoologie des Origines à Linné, by GEORGES PETIT and JEAN THÉODORIDÈS, Paris, Hermann, 1962, pp. xii, 360, 24 plates, 18 NF.

It is now ninety years since the last attempts at a systematic history of zoology were published, the work of Carus (1872) in German and of Hoefer (1873) in French. The late F. J. Cole's *History of Comparative Anatomy from Aristotle to the Eighteenth century* (1944) revealed what a wealth of important scientific material was now available in only one department of the subject and this new history of zoology by two of the leading French historians of biology demonstrates that such riches are not confined to anatomy. Quite justly they pay tribute to Aristotle as the founder of zoology, but they have carried their researches much further than any of their predecessors, for they present for the first time a survey of zoological knowledge in the Far East, Persia, and Islam, as well as extending their study of the Graeco-Roman period to take in such hitherto ignored fields as circuses, gladiatorial combats in which animals took part, and animal husbandry.

Although not an organized science until the eighteenth century many of the significant features of modern zoology have a long history and it is these which are traced in this work which is soon to be supplemented by another volume on zoology in the sixteenth century by Paul Delaunay. The illustrations have been chosen with care and mostly from unpublished sources. The work is well organized and presented with most useful bibliographies for each chapter; it is in every way worthy of its inclusion in a distinguished series, for it is published as Volume VIII of the *Histoire de la Pensée*, sponsored by the École Pratique des Hautes Études of the Sorbonne. At least one of its authors has a perfect command of English and any British publisher who encourages him to produce an English edition will be adding to his list what will undoubtedly become a standard work.

F. N. L. POYNTER

History and Bibliography of Anatomic Illustrations, by LUDWIG CHOULANT, trans. and annot. by Mortimer Frank, limited revised ed. New York, Hafner Publishing Co., 1962, pp. xxvii, 435, \$15.

Originally written in German, and first published in 1852 Choulant's exhaustive work owes its permeation of the English-speaking world to the translation and annotations of Mortimer Frank in 1917. To these he added a revealing biography of Choulant. Through the years these additions have grown; the 1945 edition included a memorial note on Mortimer Frank himself, by Fielding Garrison, with a bibliography of his works; and an essay on the Beginnings of Anatomy by Charles Singer, in trenchant mood. To these was appended an essay by Fielding H. Garrison and Edward C. Streeter on Sculpture and Painting as Modes of Anatomical Illustration. These addenda contribute over a hundred pages of fascinating material to Choulant's original text. It is this edition which has now been reprinted as a 'paperback'.

Its method of growth has rendered the work liable to a flaw which is becoming evident with successive editions of Frank's translation of Choulant's text; this is the too-faithful retention of biographical inaccuracies which have been resolved since their day. A paragraph so full of errors as that on Leonardo da Vinci to be found on page 99 saps confidence in the present-day usefulness of biographical statements made elsewhere in the book. The natural promptings of sentiment should not be permitted to leave such inaccuracies uncorrected in the further editions of the work which will surely appear.

There can be no doubt that this unrivalled work, so compactly and attractively produced, will receive its usual enthusiastic welcome from medical historians.

K. D. KEELE