

## Book Reviews

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The qualifications necessary to edit these hitherto unpublished selections include a sound grasp of medical history, patience to grapple with more than the usual palaeographical difficulties and, of course, an intimate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

## Book Reviews

search for new or more effective remedies led him to attach considerable importance to tropical drug plants, many of which were then being introduced by physicians having contact with the Indies. It would be interesting to determine whether his advocacy of some of these drugs hastened their introduction into the then still-provincial official preparations. The frequency of medical extracts drops off sharply during the years 1689–98 when Locke was engaged in a variety of literary projects. His own practice almost ceased yet he continued his interest in medical matters, as witness the last entry dated 17 October 1698, entitled 'Rectified oyle of Danzick'.

The medical entries, especially when read alongside Lough's recent edition of selections from Locke's travels,\* portray the physician-philosopher as studious, intensely interested in things and ideas, and at once critical and naive. Only when all of his literary remains have been edited will scholars be able to evaluate properly the most pressing problem of Lockean scholarship: To what extent did his philosophic empiricism depend upon his medical practice and the empirical methods he inherited from Sydenham, Boyle, Lower, etc.? Quite properly, the present editor avoids any dogmatic answers. Yet it seems safe to predict that this book will be required reading for all those who wish to pursue the question further.

This well-printed book, enhanced by some fine plates, will prove useful to all students of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century medicine. Almost all of the many persons mentioned by Locke are briefly identified in the footnotes, and a full, but not exhaustive, index greatly adds to its usefulness. In view of the source-material included in the notes, and in the expository chapters, it seems a pity that more care was not given to the identity of the drugs and drug plants. Consultation with an historian of pharmacology and botany would have prevented such an odd reference as that on p. 149, n. 3, where Lucian is cited as evidence for the identity of tansy.

JERRY STANNARD

*Galen in Hippocratis de Officina Medici Commentariorum*, trans. by M. LYONS, Berlin Academy of Sciences, 1963, pp. 172, DM. 48.00.

Much work and experience have been put into the edition and translation into English of Galen's *Commentary on Hippocrates: KAT' 'IHTPEION*. It is not an easy task to edit an Arabic text from a unique manuscript, not to mention the difficulties of translating from medieval Arabic into English.

Very few Arabic books of Galen and other Greek physicians have been edited and translated. Mr. Malcolm Lyons' diligent work is needed, and many other publications in this particular field are required, if scholars are to establish how Greek medicine was transmitted to Arab physicians. The short introduction with which this publication begins sums up a valuable study of references and previous research connected with this particular work of Galen.

It would have been appropriate to reproduce some folios, especially those of the introduction and the colophon. Punctuation marks, which are very helpful in reading correctly and understanding an Arabic text, have been entirely neglected. Also marks denoting the beginning and end of the sides of each Arabic folio should have appeared in the text. Further, a detailed description of the manuscript used would have been welcome. The Greek–Arabic and Arabic–Greek glossaries given are useful guides to check the ability of the translator, *Hubaish*. An alphabetical arrangement of Arabic terms as they appear in the text is much easier than an arrangement based on reducing terms to their three-letter roots.

\* John Lough, ed., *Locke's Travels in France, 1675–1679*, Cambridge, University Press, 1953.