

## Book Reviews

JUAN A. DEL REGATO, *Radiological physicists*, New York, American Institute of Physics for the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, 1985, 4to, pp. v, 188, illus., \$25.00.

Radiology provided perhaps the main route by which physicists entered medicine in the period leading up to the Second World War. Among other things, they were needed to develop and service X-ray and radium equipment; to develop means of protecting operators and patients from the deleterious effects of radiation; and to standardize and measure the physical conditions associated with irradiation (intensity, dose, wavelength, and so on). In addition, under the heading of "medical" research, they also carried out work in radiobiology, and undertook fundamental studies into the nature of radiations and of matter. In recognition of this there exist biographies of many of the major physicists associated with radiation studies.

Del Regato has brought together summary biographies of ten of the best-known radiation physicists—Röntgen, Curie, Planck, Rutherford, W.H. Bragg, Duane, Bohr, Joliot, Compton, and Fermi. Each biography was previously published separately in the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics*. In addition, the book also includes some biographical notes on some of their associates and families. There is little in these biographies that will not already be known to historians interested in the area. However, the book itself is well produced, and will probably find an audience among professional physicists with an interest in the history of their field.

David Cantor  
Wellcome Institute

A. Z. ISKANDAR, *A descriptive list of Arabic manuscripts on medicine and science at the University of California, Los Angeles*, Leiden, Brill, 1984, 8vo, pp. xiv, 119 illus., DF1.48.00.

The University of California at Los Angeles possesses an important collection of more than 5,000 Islamic manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish. As part of the University's continuing effort to catalogue these materials, Dr Albert Zaki Iskandar has selected 122 MSS, representing 262 works and fragments, and has organized them into a new and separate corpus entitled the Arabic Medical/Scientific Collection. His handlist for this collection consists of an alphabetical listing (by book title) of the MSS, each entry specifying title and author (if known) and giving a detailed description of the MS. In addition to the alphabetical list, Iskandar provides a long introduction in which he discusses the most important works in detail. He also includes indexes of manuscripts, authors, copyists, former owners, and places, a special index to the introduction, thirty plates illustrating the most significant MSS, and an important list (pp. 31–33) of medical figures, many of them otherwise unknown, whose names appear in the UCLA medical MSS.

This collection is without doubt one of considerable importance. MS. Ar. 90 is a practically complete early Ottoman exemplar of the rare Arabic translation of Galen's *On anatomical procedures*. Ḥunayn ibn Ishāq's *Fī awjā' al-ma'ida*, previously known only from a single MS in the Escorial, is preserved in MS. 98.i. This MS, Iskander notes, fills in gaps in the Escorial text; and the work itself, on stomach ailments, provides unexpected and important insights into Ḥunayn's scholarship, his medical knowledge, and his attitude toward Galen and his use of works attributed to him. The oldest MS, Ar. 107, dated 436/1044–45, represents a large part of Book II of al-Majūsī's *Kāmil al-ṣinā' a al-ṭibbīya*. Ar. 80, dated 640/1242, is the earliest known copy of the *Sharḥ tashrīḥ al-qānūn* of Ibn al-Nafīs, who died forty-six years after this exemplar was written. A new work on syphilis, the *Al-Ḥabb al-afranjī* by an unknown Ottoman author, is preserved in Ar. 122.v. In the sciences, there are important texts of al-Marwazī's *Ṭabā'i' al-ḥayawān* (Ar. 52), al-Qazwīnī's *'Ajā'ib al-makhlūqāt* (Ar. 28), and al-Damīrī's *Ḥayāt al-ḥayawān* (Ar. 25.i). To these examples many others could be added.

Iskandar's handlist will prove to be a valuable aid to researchers wishing to familiarize themselves with this new collection. His work does, however, pose a number of problems, the most immediate relating to access and provenance. The Arabic Medical/Scientific Collection was assembled by him by withdrawing MSS from a number of distinct Islamic collections (there are fifteen at UCLA) already stored separately according to the accession number of the