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after the German collapse in its second edition of 1919. Here he argued from the point of view of bourgeois European culture in favour of saving civilization by a union of European states, including all those other nations whose culture derives directly or indirectly from Europe's.

Nicolai's Eurocentrism even went so far that he declared genocide to be understandable in the case of a Mongolian threat because in his opinion Asians were the natural enemies of the white man in the contest between the races to rule the world. This point might indicate that rationality in itself could lead to rather strange results. Probably this is part of the explanation of why Nicolai is virtually forgotten in Germany, another part being his bourgeois attitude which sometimes tended to be not far from arrogance towards possible co-fighters for peace and a better and more rational world. One is inclined to subscribe to Zuelzer's judgement that Nicolai was his own worst enemy. But his peculiarities certainly should not be taken as an excuse for continuing to neglect him as an uncompromising pacifist and European humanist who tried so hard to dig out traditions of tolerance, humanitarianism, idealism, and liberalism from German history. The story of Nicolai's failure and shortcomings immediately after 1918 provides a depressing picture of the political atmosphere in which a first attempt was undertaken to establish democracy in Germany.

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WOLFGANG SCHNEIDER, *Paracelsus – Autor der Archidoxis Magica?* (Veröffentlichungen aus dem pharmaziegeschichtlichen Seminar der Technischen Universität Braunschweig, vol. 23), Stuttgart, Deutscher Apotheker Verlag, 1982, 8vo, pp. 30 + facsimile, DM. 15.00 (paperback).

The idea that Paracelsus was also a practising magus has been largely based on the *Archidoxis Magica*. This treatise had been regarded as spurious already in Huser's classical edition of the works, where it was relegated to the Appendix to the last volume. It is a richly illustrated corpus of magical signs and seals, mostly attached to amulets. The arrangement of the text varies in manuscript and printed versions. Inspired by the acquisition of a new manuscript, the author, the greatest living authority on Paracelsus' pharmacology and chemistry, now submits in the present book a detailed collation of all the versions available. The new arrangement of the text leaves the normally discredited genuineness of the treatise less unlikely than before on the strength of the higher age of the new manuscript. His conclusion is: the work as such is spurious, but the first four books of the treatise may very well be genuine. Tentatively, their date could be the same as that of the genuine *Archidoxis*, the fundamental chemical textbook of Paracelsus, namely 1526. As with all of Schneider's publications, the present book, which also contains a full facsimile of the new manuscript, is of great importance and interest.

Walter Pagel

CORNELIA D. SONNTAG, *Zur Geschichte der Apothekenprivilegien*, Stuttgart, Deutscher Apotheker Verlag, 1982, 8vo, pp. xviii, 267, DM. 28.00.

This modestly produced book is volume eighteen in a series entitled "Quellen und Studien zur Geschichte der Pharmazie", and by no means the least important. Our knowledge, in Britain, of the organization of pharmaceutical practice in Germany and other Continental countries, is so slight that the book could with advantage be translated into English. The concept of rulers or governing bodies granting to pharmacists, privileges and monopolies by means of a "privilegium", to which in return the pharmacist had to comply with certain conditions, is so foreign to us, that its comprehension comes with quite a shock. Miss Sonntag traces the history of these "privilegia" in one small part of Germany, the Duchy of Cleves, whose sole interest to most English people is that it supplied Henry VIII with his fourth wife. Owing to Cleves' geographical position, its fortunes have been even more varied than many other principalities, and as these frequently involved changes in pharmaceutical legislation, this has necessitated the writing of a carefully detailed history of the Duchy, which, however, could have been improved by the use of better maps.

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English pharmaceutical historians cannot but be jealous that German archives can produce a document dating back to 1437, the year in which Duke Adolf asked Apotheker Meister Johan Vos to settle in Cleves and there conduct a good pharmacy. Full details of the agreement between the two men are given, even to the point that Vos would wear the Duke's livery. Equally fascinating are the uses to which the land registers and mortgage books of the eighteenth century could be put. Maps have been drawn of the towns of Wesel, Cleves, and Duisburg, showing where each pharmacy was positioned and the changes that took place. One can even learn that Apotheker Georg Martin Wittfeld of Orsay took his citizen's oath on 24 October 1768, lived with his family in house No. 130, had a maid, and was joined by a partner in 1782.

Cornelia Sonntag qualified as a pharmacist in June 1979 from the university of Bonn and then proceeded to the Institute for the History of Pharmacy at Marburg University. It is doubtful if our own young pharmacists with leanings towards research in pharmaceutical history would receive an equal degree of encouragement.

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KURT HOFIUS, *Rezeptjournale der Ratsapotheke Lehrte von 1899 und 1930*, (Veröffentlichungen aus dem Pharmaziegeschichtlichen Seminar der Technischen Universität Braunschweig, vol. 24), Stuttgart, Deutscher Apotheker Verlag, 1982, 8vo, pp. x, 65, DM. 10.00 (paperback).

Having earlier studied the prescription records of the Minoritenkloster in Duisburg for the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Hofius has continued his research by carefully analysing the entries in the prescription books of the *Ratsapotheke* in Lehrte for 1899 and 1930. Commencing with a brief history of the *Ratsapotheke*, the author draws attention to the marked difference between the number of drugs and preparations mentioned in contemporary pharmacopoeias and those actually used in daily practice. Fortunately, as the physicians initially recorded their requirements for their patients in the daybook of the *Ratsapotheke* and, later, prescriptions were also so recorded, the daybook provides a true record of the daily practice of pharmacy.

In this account the drugs and preparations have, for convenience, been classified according to the system adopted by Schneider (1978), a system separating simple and compound drugs into two groups which are further sub-divided according to origin, e.g. plant, animal, pharmaceutical processing, chemical manufacture, etc. From the many resultant tables presented in the book, the author has drawn interesting conclusions concerning the changing patterns of drug usage, e.g. the decline in the employment of animal and, later, plant products, the rise in the importance of organic chemical pharmaceuticals, etc. In addition, the author discusses in some detail the preparations produced by the early pharmaceutical industry, e.g. antipyretics, antirheumatics, skin preparations, and tannin-containing preparations, as well as reference to the later importance of aspirin and phenacetin. Narcotic drug usage is also considered and mention made of drug misuse.

To anyone interested in the tremendous changes in medical/pharmaceutical practice in the past 250 years, this detailed study offers valuable scientific and statistical evidence and ideas for future work.

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IRIS RENNER, *Zur Entwicklungsgeschichte der Pharmakognosie*, Stuttgart, Deutscher Apotheker Verlag, 1982, 8vo, pp. 377, [no price stated].

Pharmacognosy owes its origins to the study of medicinal plants as part of the medical curriculum and the need for specialists in the art of recognition and standardization of such plants. The Bavarian Ludwig-Maximilian University was rooted in Ingolstadt, transferring to Landshut in 1800 and to Munich in 1826. In the historical account presented by Iris Renner, the