

CONGENITAL HEART DISEASES IN CHILDREN

THE second edition of Garrison and Morton's *Medical Bibliography*, No. 2736, says of the fourth edition (1799) of Michael Underwood's *A Treatise on the Diseases of Children*: 'In this edition of Underwood's book appeared for the first time mention, in a treatise on diseases of children, of congenital heart disease (vol. II, pp. 179-85).' Garrison and Morton presumably accepted this attribution from Still's *History of Paediatrics* (1931) where it appears with the relevant passages quoted in full from the fourth edition of Underwood.

In examining Underwood's *A Treatise on the Disorders of Childhood, and Management of Infants from the Birth; Adapted to Domestic Use . . . In Three Volumes. London, Printed for J. Mathews, No. 18, Strand, 1797*. I was surprised to find the passages quoted by Still on pp. 165-8 of volume II of this book. All that are missing from the account are the technical terms such as the 'pueres caeruleati' (which Still pokes gentle fun at for its dubious Latinity). Here also is the first description of 'mastitis occurring in children at a variable time before puberty' which Still believed was first in the 1799 book. And the third volume of the 1797 work is almost verbatim 'the great step forward in the matter of infant-feeding' which Still describes on pp. 485-6 as first appearing in the fourth edition (1799).

Still mentions the 1797 book (of which a 'second' edition was published in 1801), but calls it a reissue in three volumes of the 1795 third edition. There are in fact only slight textual differences between the two editions and all the points noted by Still as occurring for the first time in the fourth edition (1799) are to be found in the third (1795). Indeed, the passage on congenital heart disease was also printed (for the first time) in the second edition of 1789 and was included in the Italian translation of that edition published at Venice in 1794. It would distress me if this note should sound like Little Jack Horner with a plum from the Still pie; for Still is for me one of the most readable, scholarly, and beautifully composed books in the field of medical history.

E. A. OSBORNE

THE RACHEL McMASTERS MILLER HUNT BOTANICAL LIBRARY PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

A REMARKABLE new library of interest to all historians of medicine and pharmacy was opened in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in October 1961. Built up through a period of fifty years as the personal collection of the lady whose name it bears (she is a member of a prominent Pittsburgh family), it has now been donated to the Carnegie Institute of Technology as a centre of scholarship and research in the history of botany. It occupies the top floor of a new five-storey library building overlooking Schenley Park. This top floor is a penthouse which is 160 feet long and 70 feet wide and surrounded by a balustraded terrace walk. The library is elegantly furnished in French Regency style and has been designed to ensure maximum security for the rare books, facilities for meetings, and privacy for the staff and visiting scholars. Its Rare Book Lounge is 70 feet long and 35 feet wide, with a shelf capacity for about 2800 volumes.

The contents of the library range from *incunabula* (*Macer floridus*, 1477; *Gart der Gesundheit*, 1485, etc.), to the great colour-plate botanical books of the nineteenth century and the products of the fine presses of the twentieth, supplemented by manuscripts and autograph letters, prints, drawings, and paintings. In order to exploit