

## Book Reviews

works of the most prominent authors such as: Zarrindast, Ismā'īl Djurdjānī, Manṣūr b. Muḥammad b. Aḥmad, Ḥadjī Zain al-Aṭṭār, and Muḥammad Arzānī.

Appreciating this, Richter-Bernburg puts an intense effort into the analysis of the content of each manuscript, which, unusually for collections of Persian manuscripts, is not overshadowed by the beauty of the miniatures and illustrations. This enhances the catalogue's value as a useful source for Persian medical history. The entries are comprehensive, each containing a detailed description of various sections and even sub-sections of the text for almost every manuscript. In the case of more prominent works, such as *Dhakhīrah-yi Khārazmshāhī* by Ismā'īl Djurdjānī, these descriptions are followed by a remarkable amount of information on the author's life and professional experiences, which is usually analysed in detail. Neither is the physical make-up of the manuscripts neglected. Adequate information on this is given, and, in particular, damaged folios are accurately recorded. In dealing with the Persian text itself, particularly for more comprehensive works, in addition to the incipit and explicit of each manuscript, the incipits of the important sections also appear in the entry. This is of great assistance to scholars who do not have access to the actual manuscript. The proper names mentioned in each entry appear only in English, in a system of transliteration which is slightly different from that of the new edition of the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*. Except for a brief note in the preface, no information is given about the provenance of the collection as a whole or of any of the individual manuscripts. This note implies that the collection was brought together by a Western-educated physician in contemporary Iran. This is a further indication that more attention has been paid by the cataloguer to the collection as a number of medical works significant for their texts than to the history of their provenance. References to other existing manuscripts of a given text are made to comprehensive and reliable sources such as C. A. Storey's *Bio-bibliographical survey* and A. Munzawi's *Union catalogue of Persian manuscripts*. Indexes of titles, proper names, and incipits provide an easy access to the wealth of information in the catalogue.

This descriptive catalogue of Persian medical manuscripts at the University of California, Los Angeles, will, as the title suggests, be of more importance to scholars interested in the history of Persian medicine than to those who admire the especial physical beauty of Persian manuscripts from an artistic point of view.

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MACDONALD CRITCHLEY, *The divine banquet of the brain and other essays*, New York, Raven Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. viii, 267, illus., \$20.40.

Macdonald Critchley's active association with the National Hospital, Queen Square, has extended over half a century and more. He is the doyen of British neurologists; this collection of twenty-eight of his essays, papers, and speeches demonstrates why. Several are apparently previously unpublished, while others originally appeared between 1955 and 1975 in a variety of books and journals.

Critchley ranges widely over clinical neurology, the history of neurology, art, culture, and literature. From several viewpoints, this volume shows his continuing pre-occupation with the evolution of speech and its disorders; with what might be called

### Book Reviews

the subjective perception of neurological deficit; and with the disorders of vision. Thus, one essay examines sociological aspects of aphasia, another the detection of minimal dysphasia, and others the evolution and possible future of language. His exploration of the relationship between the language of schizophrenics and that of aphasics is particularly fascinating. Other essays deal with misoplegia (the hatred of hemiplegia), corporeal awareness, central blindness, and photisms in the blind. Two rather playful contributions look at man's attitude towards his nose and at tattooing in both sexes.

Many of the above essays contain historical material, but they are interspersed with others which are overtly historical. In the latter category may be counted Critchley's witty history of neurology at King's College Hospital; his study of five illustrious neurologists (Heinrich Heine, Jules de Goncourt, Alphonse Daudet, Guy de Maupassant, and Dan Leno); and his reflections on phrenology and on the Broca-Dax controversy. The penetrating essay on Sir Gordon Holmes draws on Critchley's intimate knowledge of Holmes; taken in conjunction with his remarks on A. S. Kinnier Wilson in the King's College Hospital essay, it sketches a framework for understanding British neurology during the inter-war years. Critchley's principal excursion into art history is contained in his observations on self-portraiture, and his love of English and French literature is reflected on many pages of the volume. His Harveian Oration gives the present volume its title.

Dr. Critchley is always a pleasure to read, and the book is well produced and illustrated. It is a shame that the publishers saw fit to omit the footnotes; even the references to the original appearance of the essays fail to quote page numbers. This is particularly to be lamented since he quotes so liberally from a wealth of sources medical, historical, and literary. What, for instance, is the T. E. Dunville (1910) source where Dr. Critchley found the motto for his essay on tattooing: *Small adv. Personal. Tattooed lady – wishes to meet gentleman with similar views?*

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C. G. PHILLIPS (editor), *Selected papers of Gordon Holmes*, Oxford University Press, 1979, 4to, pp. xi, 488, illus., £20.00.

In 1956, to celebrate the eightieth birthday of the distinguished neurologist Sir Gordon Holmes, a selection of his papers was published with a short biographical appreciation by the man who had succeeded Holmes as the editor of *Brain*, F. M. R. Walshe. The current editor of *Brain*, C. G. Phillips, has overseen the present volume which bears the same title as the one of 1956 but is a new work of almost twice the size. It contains, in addition to the original selections dealing with the cerebellum and with vision and its cortical representation, further papers by Holmes on neuroanatomy, neuropathology, the adrenal cortex, and spinal injuries. In total, they comprise only a fraction (twenty-three) of the 174 items listed in the bibliography of Holmes's works appended to the volume, but the selection amply demonstrates the range of his contributions to our understanding of the functions and diseases of the nervous system. Holmes was an astute clinician and a gifted scientist: equally at home at the bedside and in the laboratory. Indeed, as many of these papers testify, his papers were rarely