

Book Reviews

Médicos Españoles, by LUIS S[ANCHEZ] GRANJEL,* (*Estudios de Historia de la Medicina Española, I*), Salamanca, Gráficas Cervantes, 1967, pp. 374, illus., no price stated.

This volume is a reprint of biographical studies on Spanish physicians published by the author over the past twenty years in different Spanish medical journals. The twenty-four subjects range from the sixteenth-century Lobera de Avila to present-day Goyanes, and include well-known figures such as Mercado, Bravo de Sobremonte, Martínez, as well as authors hardly mentioned outside Spain.

The historical technique adopted by S. Granjel has been the same in every case: the life of the author precedes a critical examination of his works and is followed by a bibliographical review of his printed works and published references. The historical analysis reflects contemporary medical knowledge, and therefore S. Granjel's appraisal differs in some cases from the standard critical reviews published in the last century by Hernández Morejón and Chinchilla, which until now have been our only references. These are praiseworthy studies and their collected presentation has fortunately saved them from oblivion in obscure publications unread by foreign and even by Spanish scholars. The value of these biographical studies must be surveyed, however, within the context of S. Granjel's work; this spans the last twenty years and covers a subject not properly appreciated abroad. S. Granjel's biography of Marañón (1960) was followed by a monograph on *Techniques for Research in Medical History* (1961), an extremely useful study for graduates entering this field. The compact *History of Spanish Medicine* (1963), in paperback edition, guides the scholar into the broad subject known until now only through large bio-bibliographical works or the biased book by García del Real (1963). S. Granjel's monographs on Spanish Anatomy (1963), Spanish Ophthalmology (1964) and Spanish Paediatrics (1965) have already received acclaim, but probably the most important tool forged by S. Granjel has been the Bibliography of Spanish Medical History and the Index of Spanish Physicians, which have surrendered the key to an immense field of literature.

S. Granjel, who is the professor of the History of Medicine at the University of Salamanca, has shown steadfast devotion to the study of Spanish medicine, and has produced a colossal amount of work in a very short period. Unfortunately this had to be done at the expense of certain desirable qualities. Archival material has seldom been incorporated in Granjel's work. This probably reflects the present limited economic resources for the slow and painful research in certain Spanish repositories rather than lack of awareness on the part of the Salamanca staff.

In some instances the reader would wish S. Granjel to go more deeply into the subject and analyse or compare the Spanish work with contemporary foreign ideas or the work of their predecessors, and the political, religious or economic aspects surrounding the medical author.

* S. Granjel presents a problem to cataloguers that can be compared to the case of S. Ramón y Cajal. The latter is usually entered under Cajal, his mother's maiden name, and not Ramón, which was his father's surname but is also frequently used in Spain as a first name and therefore leads to confusion. Professor L. S. Granjel, in spite of being better known by his mother's maiden name Granjel, according to standard literary practice must be entered as Sánchez Granjel, Luis. Here Luis is his baptismal name, Sánchez his patronymic or father's surname, and Granjel his mother's maiden name, which in Spain is commonly used after the father's last name.

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