

### Book Reviews

and sarcomas. Within a decade of the publication of Virchow's *Cellularpathologie* (1858), Wilhelm Waldeyer had developed a descriptive account of the genesis and mode of spread of carcinoma which is essentially that in use today. As an added bonus, though, Rather provides useful insights on earlier medical theorists such as Galen, Thomas Willis, and John Hunter, and an exceptionally helpful discussion of the work of Bichat, Andral, and other members of the French school.

The strength of Rather's book lies in his mastery of a vast medical literature written in several ancient and modern languages; and in his capacity to use his own experience as a pathologist, not in the service of a Whiggish historiography, but as an aid to a sympathetic reconstruction of earlier patterns of medical thought and perception.

**BRIAN P. COPENHAVER**, *Symphorien Champier and the reception of the occultist tradition in Renaissance France*, The Hague, Paris, New York, Mouton, (Berlin, W. de Gruyter), 1978, 8vo, pp. 368, illus., DM. 92.00

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Symphorien Champier (c. 1473-1540) is remembered today, if at all, for his early acceptance of Renaissance Galenism and his opposition to magic and Arabic medicine. Professor Copenhaver, in this careful, if at times ponderous, study, revises this traditional estimate and shows how, despite vehement opposition on religious grounds to the occult, Champier's uncritical methods of writing often leave open the possibility of his occasional adherence to some of the doctrines he attacked. This is a valuable contribution to the understanding of pre-Vesalian medicine, especially as an annotated text and translation of the *Dialogue . . . on the destruction of magic* is provided, in part the work of Dr. Amundsen, and it is good to be reminded of the intellectual difficulties involved in the formation of Renaissance medical theories. But two cautions are necessary. As the author well knows, Champier's view of what constitutes magic differs from ours, and it is often hard to distinguish between acceptable medical and illicit occult remedies. There was considerable contemporary debate among doctors on this, of which only stray indications are given here: there is no mention of Giovanni Garzoni, for forty years lecturer at Bologna in medicine and proponent of astrology, or of Hartmann Schedel, for whom a doctor without *astrologia* was an enemy of nature. A more serious objection is that Champier's writing was often hurried, careless, and verging on plagiarism. How much weight, then, should be placed on his inconsistencies? His personal attitude may be less complex than Copenhaver allows, and some of his statements may be the result of uncritical compilation rather than of individual preference.

The student of early Renaissance medicine will find here much of value, especially on Champier's career and late-medieval medical theories. The interpretation of incubus, p. 228, as a respiratory malfunction, however, goes back to Galen, if not beyond, and, p. 139, the *Continens* of Rhazes was no "standard offering in the curriculum" but a book for private study. The translations are accurate – p. 222 "andromache, theriac" is a rare slip for "theriac of Andromachus" – and the identification of Champier's, often unacknowledged, sources, adds considerably to our knowledge of the spread of new medical learning as a result of printing. Syllanus' commentary on Rhazes, p. 228, is cited as authoritative very soon after its appearance in print. Yet, for all its merits, this

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book does less than justice to Champier, a Renaissance man still entrapped in his medieval past, who made up for his technical and philosophical deficiencies by the vigour of his polemic and the fluency of his pen. Muddled and inconsistent he may be, but his writings are full of life: in this book he is at times buried under a mass of painstaking erudition.

## Book Notices

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MANFRED BLEULER, *Beiträge zur Schizophrenielehre der Zürcher Psychiatrischen Universitätsklinik Burghölzli (1902-1971)*, Darmstadt, Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1979, 8vo, pp. vii, 358, DM. 49.00 (paperback).

Burghölzli may well be the most famous psychiatric institution of the present century. Certainly it has been an international centre for research on schizophrenia, the word and much of our current clinical conception of the condition deriving from the work of Eugen Bleuler, Director of Burghölzli from 1898 to 1927. C. G. Jung, Jakob Lutz, Klaus Ernst, Manfred Bleuler (Eugen's son), and many others have extended the research programme begun by the elder Bleuler. This present volume reprints selections of Burghölzli research on the aetiology, classification, heredity, and therapy of schizophrenia. It is an impressive collection which German-reading historians and psychiatrists will find of interest. The volume's usefulness is perhaps diminished by the fact that many of the papers are abridged, and some are published without their original footnotes, but the collection amply testifies to the importance of Burghölzli for contemporary psychiatric thought.

HENRY HECAEN (editor), *La dominance cérébrale: une anthologie*, Paris, Mouton, 1978, 8vo, pp. 479, illus., [no price stated], (paperback).

The editor has collected together an anthology of articles translated into French. They illustrate the following themes: the discovery of the dominance of the left cerebral hemisphere; asymmetry of hemispheric function; split-brain; anatomical and perceptual hemispheric asymmetry; and cerebral organization in sinistrals. Each piece has a brief introduction, placing it in context. The full documentation is reproduced.

Although the original publications are mostly in readily available periodicals, it is convenient to have them brought together and evaluated by one of France's most outstanding neuro-scientists.

MARY MIDGLEY, *Beast and man. The roots of human nature*, Hassocks, Sussex, Harvester Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xxii, 377, £8.50.

The author is a moral philosopher who brings a new approach to the problems of