

Book Reviews

Old World cover well-documented events, and to European readers the greatest interest lies in the essays—about a third of the total here presented—that deal with the emergence of ophthalmology in the United States during the second half of the last century. As elsewhere, saints and sinners—generally colourful—pass across the stage; and tragedy too, as shown by the essay on Homberger. ARNOLD SORSBY

The Yellow Emperor's Classic of Internal Medicine, by ILZA VEITH, Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 1966, pp. 260, illus., \$8.00.

The Chinese Canon of medicine has never attracted the attention of sinologists and we are still awaiting a complete translation of this celebrated work based on accepted philological standards into any Western language. We must, however, congratulate a medical historian such as Professor Ilza Veith, and a physician such as Dr. Chamfrault, who have not hesitated to take certain risks in offering the *Neh Ching* to a western public. In fact, this new edition differs very little from the first in 1949; that is to say, the *Ling Chou*, the second part of the *Neh Ching* which treats of acupuncture, is omitted in its entirety. Even in the first part (*Sou Wen*—Essential questions) the translation is far from complete, since out of the 80 chapters we are given the text of only 34. Rare and unusual diseases (chapters 47–48) and other interesting subjects are not, therefore, taken into consideration. Moreover, Professor Veith does not indicate on which edition she has based her translation. Recent editions of the Canon which have been published in China are: (1) *Houang-Ti Nei King Sou-wen*, Shanghai, 1954, 2 vols.; (2) *Ling-Chou King*, Shanghai, 1955, 1 vol.

Professor Veith follows the lines of Hume, Hübötter and Wong and Wu. Pathological anatomy borrows from the publications of E. W. Cowdry, E. T. Hsiem (1921) and Chavannes. If reference had been made to the historic memoirs of Sseu-ma Ts'ien, a partial French translation of which has just been republished (Paris 1967), the chapter of medical biographies (chapter 105) would have been quite unnecessary.¹ All the documentation is now superseded by numerous Chinese works published between 1949 and 1966.²⁻⁸ Moreover, the chronology of different parts of the *Neh Ching* has been systematized by Dr. Bridgman, who has not been quoted.

With these reservations this work cannot fail to be of service to researchers who have no knowledge of Chinese and who are interested in the celebrated Canon of Chinese medicine. P. HUARD AND MING WONG

¹ *Che-Ki (Mémoires historiques)* présentation de la *Tchong-Houa Chou-Kia*, 1959, 2 vols of biographies.

Dr. R. F. Bridgman has made a scholarly commentary on this work. (*La médecine dans la Chine antique*, Bruges, 1955).

² *Tchong-Kouo kou-tien wen-hio kien-che* (Short history of classical Chinese literature), Peking, 1958.

³ K. C. Wong, Index of articles on Chinese Medical History—*Tchong-wen yi-che louen-wen so-yin*, Shanghai, 1960–1963.

⁴ K. C. Wong, List of Publications on Chinese Medical History, Shanghai, 1960.

⁵ K. C. Wong and Fu Weik'ang—Catalogue of Publications on Medicine in China in Foreign Languages (1656–1962), *Shanghai Academy of Chinese Medicine*, Medical History Museum, Shanghai, 1963.

⁶ *Chang-han-louen che-yi* (Exégèse du traité du froid nocif), séminaire du traité du Froid nocif, travail de l'Institut de Médecine traditionnelle de Nankin, 1958.

⁷ *Chang-han-louen t'iao-si* (Analyse du traité du froid nocif), Agence d'hygiène du Peuple, Peking, 1963.

⁸ For Japanese medicine reference should be made to the original edition of *Nihon-igaku-shi* (History of Japanese Medicine), 1036 pp.