

Book Notices

GEORGE TIEMANN & Co., *American armamentarium chirurgicum* (1889) repr. with an Introduction by James M. Edmondson and F. Terry Hambrecht, San Francisco, Norman Publishing, Boston, The Printers' Devil, 1989, 4to, pp. 60, xv, 846, illus., \$165.00.

George Tiemann, born in Lower Saxony in 1793, emigrated to America in 1826. Shortly after arriving he opened a cutlery shop in Lower Manhattan. By the end of the century the company, George Tiemann & Co., now run by two of Tiemann's relatives, had become the most distinguished manufacturer and retailer of surgical instruments in the United States. It is the company's mammoth catalogue of 1889 which is reprinted here. As in many other surgical-instrument catalogues of this period, the articles for sale include not only surgical devices but technological items pertaining to nearly all aspects of medical practice. The present reprint has a scholarly and helpful introduction describing the history of the company and the nineteenth-century surgical-instrument trade in America. Tiemann's catalogue merits interest as more than a convenient and picturesque record of the medical technology available in 1889. For the catalogue itself deserves attention as a state-of-the-art sales device. Sumptuously produced (as is the expensive and limited reprint), copiously illustrated, extensively annotated, perfectly indexed; how many medical men browsing through it could have resisted acquiring slices of modernity surplus to their requirements?

C. D. L. LYCETT, *Sir William Robert Smith 1850–1932: a short biography*, London, Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, 1989, 8vo, pp. 131, £15.00.

Dr Lycett has rescued Smith's achievements from the near oblivion he shares with many eminent public health doctors. He has consulted numerous archives, including those of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene (of which Smith was a founder). His approach is purely descriptive but the material he has used offers the potential for further research on the debates surrounding preventive and state medicine from the 1880s to the 1920s.

DAVID SINCLAIR, *Not a proper doctor*, The Memoir Club, London, British Medical Journal, 1989, 8vo, pp. x, 329, illus., £14.95, abroad £18.50, including (air) postage.

Holden Caulfield's line about "all that David Copperfield kind of crap", the epigraph to the first chapter of this autobiography, is a pleasant foil to the acuteness and charity with which Sinclair describes his childhood, and in particular the difficult character of his father. Sinclair writes well, and has a nice line in inversions: I like the notion of the "defatigable" traveller. Defatigable or not, stories about travels, and friends along the way, dominate this account of a life spent in Scotland, England, and Australia. After a fascinating chapter on his war-time research on the chemical weapons of anthrax and mustard gas, the reader is a little disappointed not to hear more about the author's later work on sensation, and medical curricula. The index is a model for the genre.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

E. B. ADAMS, *In search of truth: a portrait of Don Craib*, London and New York, Royal Society of Medicine Services, 1990, 8vo, pp. xi, 123, illus., £12.95, £7.95 (paperback).

LILIANE BODSON and ROLAND LIBOIS (eds.), *L'Histoire des connaissances zoologiques et ses rapports avec la zoologie, l'archéologie, la médecine vétérinaire, l'ethnologie*, Colloques d'histoire des connaissances zoologiques 1, Université de Liège, 1990, 8vo, pp. iv, 74, BFr. 275.00.

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CHRISTOPHER FOX (ed.), *Psychology and literature in the eighteenth century*, with illustrations by Michael DePorte, New York, AMS Press, 1988, 8vo, pp. xii, 372, illus., \$42.50 (dist. in Europe by Eurospan).

JOSE LUIS FRESQUET FEBRER, *Francisco Mendez Alvaro (1806–1883) y las ideas sanitarias del liberalismo moderado*, Textos Clásicos de la Salud Pública 14, Madrid, Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo, [1990], 8vo, pp. 212, (paperback).

LUIS S. GRANJEL, *Historiografía médica salmantina*, Salamanca, Verona, 1990, 8vo, pp. 112 (paperback).

PETRA JUNGMAYR, *Georg von Welling (1655–1727): Studien zu Leben und Werk*, Heidelberger Studien zur Naturkunde der frühen Neuzeit 2, Stuttgart, Franz Steiner, 1990, 8vo, pp. 196, DM 66.00.

Manual de atención médica de emergencia en situaciones de desastres naturales o producidos por el hombre, Madrid, Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo, [1990], 8vo, pp. 417, illus., (paperback).

ISABELLE ROUAZE, *Un atelier de distillation du moyen âge*, Paris, Editions du Comité des Travaux historiques et scientifiques, 1989, 8vo, pp. 113, illus., Fr. 50.00.

NICOLAAS A. RUPKE (ed.), *Vivisection in historical perspective*, paperback ed., Wellcome Institute Series in the History of Medicine, London, Routledge, 1990, 8vo, pp. x, 373, illus., £12.99.

CHRISTOPHER RUSH and JOHN F. SHAW, *With sharp compassion: Norman Dott, Freeman surgeon of Edinburgh*, Aberdeen University Press, 1990, 8vo, pp. xvii, 314, illus., £17.50.

DEJAN ZIROJEVIC, *Der Unfallchirurg Carl Schlatter (1864–1934)*, Zürcher Medizingeschichtliche Abhandlungen 214, Zurich, Juris, 1990, 8vo, pp. 52, SFr. 16.00 (paperback).