

Book Reviews

In the second book under review, a wide selection of Boerhaave's letters is given with translation from the Latin into English. Many unpublished letters are included, together with some already published. For instance, the letters to the well-known British scholar Cox Macro (1683–1767) were published by Sir D'Arcy Power in 1917, and the letters to Bassand were published with a Dutch translation by Lindeboom in 1957. Most of the unpublished letters come from English and Dutch public archives, and the great collection in Leningrad is not included. The main part of the volume consists of the letters to Cox Macro, to William Sherard, to Hans Sloane, Richard Mead and Cromwell Mortimer. But the final chapter includes letters to a miscellaneous collection of British physicians, such as John Arbuthnot and Boerhaave's biographer William Burton. The translations are excellent and the book is accurately produced. With the promised second part, scholars will have available material that is necessary for assessing the importance of Boerhaave in the histories of medicine and botany.

H. M. SINCLAIR

British Anatomy 1525–1800, a Bibliography, by K. F. RUSSELL, Melbourne University Press, 1963, pp. xvii, 254, illus. £15 15s.

Kenneth Russell, associate professor of anatomy at Melbourne, has completed a survey of British Anatomy books which is at once less and more than a bibliography, being rather a catalogue with considerable historical annotations. In form it is an alphabetical author-catalogue of all known books wholly or partly on anatomy by British authors, wherever published, or by foreign authors published in Britain, from the reign of Henry VIII to the end of the eighteenth century, amounting to more than nine hundred editions. Russell's careful but unobtrusive annotations make his book into the substance of a history of the study and teaching of anatomy in these islands, which he summarizes all too briefly in a lively introduction.

Russell has not elaborated his technical descriptions, recording simply the full imprint, format and pagination, with notes on provenance, bindings, etc. This is sufficient for identification, and the manner of his book may be compared with that of the *Bibliotheca Osleriana* where historical interest was preferred to mere bibliography. Russell's researches have added several unrecorded editions to the canon of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century books, while in the eighteenth century he is charting a virtually unmapped ocean in this special field. He estimates that more than half of the books he describes appeared after 1700.

He has given us for the first time a precise enumeration of the many editions of such successful school-books as those of Cheselden, Innes, Keill, or Monro. The rare and little-known Syllabuses for the 'muscular' and 'visceral' lectures of the London surgeons at their Hall are also assembled, and where possible attributed to particular lecturers. Russell has made ample use of contemporary documents and other external evidence to elucidate the publishing-history of individual books. The sequence of the various issues of such distinguished books as William Cheselden's *Osteographia* or Charles Nicholas Jenty's *Human Structure* is thus authoritatively established.

Besides discovering and recording many interesting association copies, such as a *Historie of Man* by John Banister given by the author in 1596 to the library where it still is, or an author's presentation copy of the improved fifth edition of Cheselden's *Anatomy* at Warrnambool in Australia, a place undreamed of in 1740, he has cleared up several debated points. The most important among these, and in itself a nice piece of historical detection, is Russell's account of the only eighteenth-century

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History of Anatomy. He has traced eight manuscripts of this interesting book in England, Scotland, New Zealand and the United States, vindicated the authorship for Monro *primus* about 1733, and shown up the bare-faced piracy of the text by William Northcote in 1772.

This learned and invaluable book is all the more remarkable coming from a community whose collections of rare books are still small, but Russell clearly made masterly use of a brief visit to Europe and of his contacts with nearly fifty libraries here and in North America. Its physical appearance is worthy of its contents and does great credit to the publishers. Russell records that his researches were supported by the Wellcome Trust.

WILLIAM LEFANU

An Inquiry Concerning the Indications of Insanity With Suggestions for the Better Protection and Care of the Insane, by JOHN CONOLLY, M.D. First published in 1830, reprinted with an introduction by Richard Hunter and Ida Macalpine, London, Dawsons, 1964, pp. viii, 38, vi, 496, illus. 84s.

The scarcity of many medical works of the nineteenth century is one of the puzzles and problems facing the collector. This is particularly so with books on mental disorder, amongst which Conolly's works are almost unobtainable today. This handsomely produced volume is probably the most useful of the psychiatric monograph series yet to appear, for a wider public will now be able to begin to assess Conolly and his place in the psychiatric pantheon for themselves, with the help of an introduction written by Drs. Hunter and Macalpine. This was Conolly's first book, being published during the period when he was professor of the theory and practice of medicine at the newly founded London University. Whilst still a student 'the spectacle of a large lunatic asylum, distinguished by its excellent arrangements, awakened in me a curiosity and an interest that I had never felt before'. He pondered on the differences between the sound and the unsound mind, and on the procedures used in the treatment of lunatics. His thesis at Edinburgh had been concerned with insanity, and he had been Inspecting Physician to the Lunatic Houses for the County of Warwick for five years, but his practical experience of insanity was very limited when he wrote this book. Like Ray, in the United States, whose *Treatise on the Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity* was based on a knowledge of the literature rather than on personal, clinical knowledge, Conolly was to become a historical figure. In this, his first book, we can discern the ideas which he put forward over the next thirty years with increasing authority—and prolixity. First in importance came the total abolition of restraint, the reform of lunacy legislation, and the improvement of the care of the insane.

The ignorance of the medical profession must be remedied, medical students must be admitted to the wards of mental hospitals, and taught about mental disease. Most of the book, however, is concerned with the medical aspects of insanity, and it is just here that the reader may perhaps find most interest. Drs. Hunter and Macalpine have discovered some new material on Conolly, such as his friendship with Sir William Ellis, and his trials whilst holding his professorship, but their introduction does not help greatly in assessing Conolly's contribution to psychiatric thought. Nor is the claim that theirs is the 'first modern authoritative biographical study of Conolly' likely to be accepted without some reservation. Some of the illustrations are indecipherable without a magnifying glass, and the bibliography is printed in such