

Book Reviews

Eine Geschichte der Anatomie und Physiologie von Albrecht von Haller, by CARLO ZANETTI and URSULA WIMMER-AESCHLIMANN (Berne Beiträge zur Geschichte der Medizin und der Naturwissenschaften, Band 1), Berne, Huber Verlag, 1968, pp. 157, S.Fr./DM.19.

This paperback is the first of a new collection of historical reviews published under the general title of 'Berne reviews on the history of Medicine and Science', a series which has been appearing for the past twenty-five years.

It seemed appropriate that the new series should start with Albrecht von Haller (1708–1777) who was one of Berne's foremost citizens and Professor at Göttingen for seventeen years. In his teaching he always stressed the essential unity of structure and function—Anatomy and Physiology.

As the Editors point out, he only once departed from this concept and then more by circumstance than design.

He was invited to contribute to a new edition of the major French scientific encyclopaedia *Dictionnaire raisonné des Sciences* which was first published in Paris in 1751. Thus it came about that his History of Anatomy written in 1770, first appeared in the First Supplement to the French work published in Amsterdam in 1776, whilst his History of Physiology being delayed for alphabetical reasons, although appearing in 1774, was published in the Fourth French Supplement also in Amsterdam in 1777.

Both parts contained interesting personal observations by Haller on various authors and their work. They were marred by numerous misprints and mistakes, which have been duly corrected by the present Editors.

Each section has notes on the text and a bibliography. There is also a full list of personal names. The format is up to the usual Huber standard, and the volume gives an interesting and instructive insight into Haller's opinions.

I. M. LIBRACH

Problemata Varia Anatomica: MS 1165 The University of Bologna, by J. R. LIND, University of Kansas Publications, Humanistic Studies no. 38, Lawrence, 1968, pp. 100, no price stated.

The text which is presented here contains a collection of questions known as the *Omnes homines*, which had a wide reading public from the fifteenth to the seventeenth century, and in its translations was studied even later. It is a compilation covering more or less the same field as Aristotle's *De animalibus*, but confining itself to such simple subjects as the parts and members of the body and the processes of eating, drinking, sleeping, conception, birth, menstruation and abortion, with several questions about birds and animals thrown in for good measure. The whole of this literature has been comprehensively dealt with by Brian Lawn in his book *The Salernitan Questions*, in which the genesis, development and final phases were discussed for the first time. The main reason for editing this particular example of it appears to be that Mr. Lind has found a manuscript unknown to Brian Lawn, for though it contains some material missing from the printed versions it cannot be said that it enlightens us much further either on the scientific knowledge of the period or on the mentality of the people who read it. Mr. Lind has been to great pains to annotate the text, whose eighty pages receive no less than three hundred and fifty footnotes, and he is to be