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work needs separate and special study.' Though in sympathy with this decision one cannot help regretting it, for few are in so good a position to make comment on Hunter's work than the present Curator of the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons.

In the result we are given an account of Hunter's life made vivid, unbiassed and authentic by so frequently using his own words to describe its events and feelings. The account is embellished by a set of sixteen unusually revealing illustrations, the whole being enclosed within a volume attractively distinctive to the eye and easy to the hand. We have here, indeed, a very elegant presentation of the data of John Hunter's life; and if we ask the author, what of its interpretation?, she will no doubt reply that the answer to that question begins in a visit to Hunter's Masterpiece.

KENNETH D. KEELE

Union Catalogue of Arabic and Persian Medical Manuscripts in the Libraries of Hyderabad, by M. AZEEZ PASHA, Hyderabad, Upgraded Department of History of Medicine, Osmania Medical College, 1966, pp. iv, 46, no price stated.

In his introduction to this catalogue, Dr. D. V. Subba Reddy stresses the importance of making lists of all libraries and owners of private collections of Arabic, Persian, and Urdu manuscripts on medicine. Responsible bodies, he adds, such as public libraries and universities should acquire these manuscripts, prepare descriptive catalogues, and initiate microfilm services for scholars in India and abroad, and he considers this as a matter of national importance. This publication reveals a great wealth of manuscripts and supports the urgency of Dr. Subba Reddy's suggestions. Not only in Hyderabad, but also throughout the Middle and Far East an intensive search for scientific and other MSS should be carried out.

Mr. Azeez Pasha's publication is in fact a check-list (not a catalogue) of Arabic and Persian medical MSS existing in six libraries in Hyderabad: State Central Library, Salar Jung Oriental Library, Osmania University Library, Unani Medical College Library, Sayeedia Library, and Idare-a-Adbiat-a-Urdu Library. None of these libraries has previously published any catalogues of its Arabic and Persian medical MSS. This check-list is divided into two sections: one for Arabic medical MSS (pp. 1-15) covering 188 items, and another for Persian medical MSS (pp. 17-46) comprising 416 items. The author gives his data in five columns: serial numbers, titles (in Arabic or in Persian, with transliterations), English translations of titles, authors' names, and names of libraries and shelf-marks.

There are many spelling mistakes and printing errors in the Arabic titles, as for example: *al-Nafīs* and *al-raʿīs* (p. 1, n. 12), *al-firāsa* (p. 2, n. 14, 3), *bur* (p. 3, n. 26, 2), *al-jirahā* (p. 3, n. 27), *Aqsarāʿī* (p. 5, n. 53), *al-ṣināʿa* (p. 6, n. 64), etc. The method of transliteration is archaic and inconsistent, and there are misprints in names of physicians. For example, Ḥunain b. Iṣḥāq (809-874) appears once as Hunain bin Ishaque (p. 10, n. 125), and again as Hussain bin Ishaq (p. 7, n. 88; and p. 13, n. 168). It would have been appropriate to have given references to standard works and to published catalogues. No descriptions of MSS are given, such as notes on foliation, sizes, dates of MSS, names of scribes, marks of ownership, etc., all of which are essential data for scholars who would wish to study these works. Had *incipits* and

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*explicit*s been given they would probably have helped to identify some MSS with unknown authors. K. *Khawāṣṣ al-ashyāʿ*² (Properties of Things), for which title a translation is given as *A Book about the Peculiarities of the Things* (p. 6, n. 76), could be a copy of al-Rāzī's book extant only in a few known manuscripts: Dār al-Kutub al-Miṣriyya, MS Ṭibb 141, and MS Ṭibb Taymūriyya 264 (Ṣ. el-Munajjed, 'Maṣādir jadīda ʿan tāriḫ al-ṭibb ʿind al-ʿArab [New Sources on the History of Arabic Medicine], *Revue de l'Institut des Manuscrits arabes*, 1959, 5 (2), p. 299; Biblioteca Marciana, Venice, MS Or. 157 (=41), fols. 1a–9a [previously Naniāna, Cod. 107, 1] (S. Assemani, *Catalogo de codici manoscritti orientali della Biblioteca Naniāna*, Padua, 1792, part 2, p. 230); and University Library, Teheran, MSS Miṣhkāt [817], and [975] (M. T. Dānešpazhūh, *Fihrist-i Kitābkhāna-i ihdāʿi-yi Muḥammad Miṣhkāt bi Kitābkhāna-i Dāniṣhghāh-i Tihrān*, *Intishārāt-i Dāniṣhghāh-i Tihrān*, n. 181, Teheran, 1373/ 1953, vol. 3 (2), p. 749).

Suggestions could be made with regard to translations of titles, such as: *Fuṣūl*, Aphorisms (not *chapters*, p. 4, no. 43); *Ḥummayāt al-Qānūn*, Fevers in the *Canon* (not *Principles of Fevers*, p. 5, n. 55); and *Maqālāt*, treatise (instead of *speeches*, p. 8, n. 91).

Among many other works which will interest scholars are: Ibn al-Nafīs's Commentary on Anatomy, *Sharḥ al-taṣhrīḥ* (p. 12, n. 156); al-Rāzī's books: Aphorisms, *al-Fuṣūl* (p. 4, n. 43); *Contines*, *al-Ḥāwī* (p. 5, n. 51); and Classification and Tabulation of Diseases, *al-Taqṣīm wa al-taṣḥīr* (p. 11, n. 135); al-Samarqandī's Formulary, *Aqrābādihīn* (p. 3, n. 26, 1); and al-Qalānisi's Formulary (p. 9, n. 118).

Unless scholars are enabled to study uncatalogued collections, some manuscripts will end in disintegration and more works will be lost. It is vital that arrangements be made, on an international level, for qualified scholars to study this and other uncatalogued collections, to establish a universal microfilm library, and to publish catalogues of medical and scientific manuscripts.

A. Z. ISKANDAR

Die anatomische Sektion in bildlicher Darstellung, by G. WOLF-HEIDEGGER and ANNA MARIA CETTO, Basle, Karger, 1967, pp. vi, 612, 355 plates, S.Fr./DM. 150.

In the first part of this book on the representation of anatomical dissection Wolf-Heidegger offers a history of human dissection in different cultures, the place and time of the earliest dissections in Europe and America, prosectors and anatomists, the teaching procedures, anatomical theatres, the procuring of cadavers, their preservation, and the instruments used in dissection. Frau Cetto has been responsible for a catalogue of the illustrations, and gives the size, author, location, biographical and technical information, together with concise references. The book is beautifully printed and richly illustrated, including some exquisite coloured reproductions; indeed this work exceeds any previous attempts and complements for human dissections the classic study on anatomical illustration by Choulant (1852). Wolf-Heidegger discusses in great detail certain controversial problems, in particular the Arabic contributions to human dissections and the stand of the Catholic Church up to the Renaissance; the arguments presented and the wealth of references quoted give to this historical introduction an exhaustive character. Furthermore, the systematic