Book Reviews

Linnaeus—named Carl after the reigning king of Sweden—was born in 1707 and died in 1778. His work as a botanist has obscured the fact that he was also a doctor of medicine and colleague of the famous Swede—Nils Rosen von Rosenstein. In 1757 he wrote a dissertation Febris Upsaliensis based on his experience of treating malarial fever. Already in 1733 his tidy mind had drawn up 137 rules for good living called Diaeta Naturalis. This was followed by a Materia Medica in 1749. Although he suffered from migraine, as befits an obsessional personality, and probably had an attack of typhus or typhoid fever, the definitive cause of his death remains unknown.

This interesting and varied account of his life can be read with profit by his many admirers.

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