

is based upon the concepts of animal and natural vital *functions* and upon the experimental analysis of the *ownership* of these functions. The *organs*, built by specific tissues, are the seats of these *functions* and through experimental analysis it is possible to understand how each *function* is put to use, that is, the nature of the *ownership* of each *organ*. The experimental analysis is led by the selective suppression of the function of an organ in a given animal and by the observation of the functions that as a result are suppressed. Di Palo analyses also the experimental language of Bichat, in which we find a new relationship between observation and experimentation. Experimentation and observation are no longer in contrast, as in previous French natural philosophy, because Bichat presents the experiment as a more wide ranging form of observation.

The most valuable aspects of di Palo's book are, first, that it gives quantitative proof concerning the way in which this new physiology emerges, based on a computational analysis of the language (the book is sold with a DVD containing the results), and, second, this analysis is placed in a classical historical perspective, offering some excellent chapters on the culture, medicine and philosophy of Bichat's epoch. The only drawback to this focus on linguistic analysis is that the complete conceptual explanation of Bichat's text is not given due consideration.

**Fabio Zampieri,**  
Université de Genève

*A catalogue of printed books in the Wellcome library, vol. 5: Books printed from 1641 to 1850, S–Z*, London, The Wellcome Trust, 2006, pp. x, 532, £80.00 (+ £5 p&p) (hardback 1-84129-061-0). (Orders to: The Wellcome Library, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE, UK.)

The publication of this volume completes the five-volume catalogue of printed books 1641–1850 in the Wellcome Library, begun

in 1962. The scope and size of the Wellcome's collection ensures that its catalogue also functions as an essential bibliography of the history of medicine. The completion of the fifth volume finally removes the difficulties always experienced in using an incomplete published catalogue. At last the user can follow up the cross-references to Sir James Young Simpson, and other authors, from volumes 1–4. The richness of the Wellcome's collections is now fully displayed with the incorporation of Thomas Sydenham, the many entries for G E Stahl and G W Wedel, and others. The range of material is illustrated by six editions of Eliza Smith's *Compleat housewife*, twelve entries for Joanna Southcott, the prophetess, and numerous works of travel and botany.

For the user there is both pleasure and utility in the presentation of an author catalogue. One of the principal benefits of a printed catalogue is in the layout, giving the opportunity to see all the works of the chosen author in a single sequence. The ubiquitous online catalogue does not do this; indeed it can be difficult to obtain a full list of an author's works in a comprehensible order. From this point of view the completion of the catalogue in printed form is all the more welcome. However, this volume relies on being used alongside the online version, lacking as it does added entries and translators. It also lacks shelfmarks, which were sometimes noted in previous volumes: these too must be sought in the online catalogue.

The introduction recognizes that a number of compromises have been necessary in order to complete this catalogue. Some of these lead to incompatibilities and inconsistencies. The lack of added entries and cross-references has been mentioned. Title entries and institutional entries appear at the end of the volume. The arrangement of entries under author is alphabetical by title, while in previous volumes it was chronological—a potential trap for the unwary. The forms of names now follow AACR2 and are not necessarily consistent with those found in the earlier volumes.

To illustrate further how changes in practice over a period of time have created

inconsistencies, Eliza Smith's *Compleat housewife*, mentioned above, has a cross-reference in volume 1, from the heading COMPLETE, to Smith, E., *The compleat housewife*, by E.S. [c. 1726, etc]. This leads the reader to the correct heading in volume 4, but there is no undated or 1726 edition. Another cross-reference from COMPLETE to Wolley, H. leads nowhere since the author is now entered as Woolley, Hannah.

Nevertheless, the present volume, despite all its compromises, offers the best available solution at a time when the cost of production of large printed catalogues is virtually prohibitive. It continues and echoes the changing aspirations, intentions and achievements of the outstanding scholar-librarians who have worked to complete this catalogue over so many years. The particular contribution of John Symons, the former curator of early printed books, to the completion of the Wellcome catalogue cannot be overestimated.

**Alison Walker,**  
British Library

**George K York and David A Steinberg,**  
*An introduction to the life and work of John Hughlings Jackson with a catalogue raisonné of his works, Medical History, Supplement No. 26, London, The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, 2006, pp. viii, 157, £35.00, €52.00, \$68.00 (hardback 978-0-85484-109-7).*

John Hughlings Jackson (1835–1911) was the most influential clinical neurologist of the nineteenth, and probably also the twentieth, century, certainly in the English-speaking world. When he died in 1911 eight of his colleagues at the National and London hospitals eulogized him in the *British Medical Journal* and the word “genius” appears several times. William Gowers, a neurological giant himself, elsewhere referred to him as “the master”. The Second International Neurological Congress, which was held in London in 1935, coincided with the centenary of his birth and was

therefore dedicated to Hughlings Jackson. In their 1998 biography the Critchleys refer to him as “the father of English neurology”.

The key to Jackson's achievements was his great capacity for detailed clinical observation combined with a remarkable power of scientific and philosophical generalization. He was always searching for general principles: the brain as a sensory-motor machine, the concept of cerebral localization of function and the representation of movements in the motor cortex; the relationship of simple unilateral “epileptiform” convulsions to generalized epilepsy (now acknowledged in modern classifications as Jacksonian epilepsy); the evolution and dissolution of the nervous system and the concept of positive and negative symptoms; and the relationship of brain to mind, which led to his doctrine of concomitance. Unlike Robert Bentley Todd, Jackson was not an anatomist, physiologist or pathologist, and never did an experiment. He studied the experiments of disease on the nervous system in his patients. Unlike Gowers he never applied numbers or collected statistics. Unlike S A Kinnier Wilson, perhaps the nearest to him in career-long dedication to his field and enquiring outlook, he never wrote a textbook, and he was not a good lecturer.

Influenced himself by Thomas Laycock and Herbert Spencer, Jackson left a deep impression on his peers and a generation of younger neurologists, first, by his grave, upright and modest personality, not without a tinge of humour, which elicited great respect, even awe, and, second, by his prodigious literary output. His widespread neurological publications, however, have never been easy to read and there has never been a complete catalogue of his writings. Although Jackson strove for accuracy and truth, his frequent qualifications, repetitions and footnotes more often obscured than clarified his ideas. Thomas Buzzard, who knew him well, thought he lacked artistic perception, which undermined lucidity.

In this scholarly introduction to Jackson's life and work, York and Steinberg devote 115 out of 157 pages to a detailed catalogue