

Book Reviews

completion, and when the project is complete it should comprise nineteen volumes in all. This volume is an edition of Arnald's *Tractatus de consideracionibus operis medicine sive flebotomia*. It contains a detailed introductory essay (in Spanish) by Pedro Gil-Sotres together with the text of Arnald's treatise on phlebotomy edited by Luke Demaitre. The volume is complete with bibliography and indices.

Gil-Sotres's excellent introduction begins with a detailed analysis of the nature of phlebotomy in terms of both its theory and practice (pp. 9–47). Here he outlines the theoretical assumptions derived from Galenic and Arabic sources that lay behind the art of blood-letting. In particular, he discusses the actions of derivation (the practice of withdrawing corrupt humours directly from the affected part of the body) and revulsion (the practice of reducing corrupt humours in one part of the body by acting upon another part). In his section on the indications and contra-indications of phlebotomy, Gil-Sotres examines the particular circumstances in which blood-letting is called for, together with their natural, non-natural and contra-natural causes. A detailed account of blood-letting is then given, including descriptions of the necessary preliminaries to blood-letting, the method of locating the vein, the art of incision, the different forms of phlebotomy, the quantity of blood to be let, complications that could occur, and the special care that had to be taken of a patient who had just been phlebotomized.

The second part of Gil-Sotres's introduction is given over to an analysis of the *Tractatus de consideracionibus operis medicine* itself (pp. 48–83). Here he discusses the date of the work, the occasion for its composition, and its sources. He examines the contents of the treatise from four perspectives. He views it, in turn, as an introduction to therapeutics, as a work on phlebotomy, and (probably most interesting of all) as an anti-Averroist medical text. He also argues that it can be interpreted as a polemic reflecting the author's part in at least three different disputes concerning the action of air on the humours, the treatment of pain, and the quantification of the amount of blood to be let. Gil-Sotres concludes his essay with an analysis of the discussions on phlebotomy to be found in Arnald's other writings (pp. 83–120), including the *Parabola* and the treatise *De simplicibus*. Under this heading he also includes works more doubtfully attributed to Arnald such as the short work entitled *Omni tempore* and the text beginning *Flebotomia est incisio vene*.

Luke Demaitre's critical edition of the *Tractatus de consideracionibus operis medicine* together with his prefatory note on the text and manuscripts of the *Tractatus* forms the second half of this volume (pp. 123–267). Demaitre explains that this edition provides a collation of the fourteen surviving manuscript copies of the work, eight of which date from the fourteenth century. As his base he has chosen to rely upon the fourteenth-century manuscript copy to be found in Paris, BN lat. 17847, fols 57r–87v, supplementing it with occasional emendations from another fourteenth-century manuscript copy, Oxford, Merton College 230, fols 33r–44v. Demaitre has wisely chosen not to record every minor variant reading which can often weigh down a critical apparatus with trivialities. Even so, those who turn to this volume in search of nothing more than a readable text may wish to quibble with Demaitre's policy of noting all the—sometimes strange—variant readings to be found in the six fifteenth-century manuscript copies, especially as he himself recognizes that these six copies are more corrupt than any of their predecessors. However, he rightly points out that this policy does help to highlight this very process of corruption, and reveals some of the connexions that can be drawn between the later copies.

In all, it is a joy to see the high standards adopted in the first volume of the Arnald of Villanova project being maintained here in the fifth.

Cornelius O'Boyle, Wellcome Unit, Cambridge

CHARLES B. SCHMITT, *Reappraisals in Renaissance thought*, ed. Charles Webster, Collected Studies Series, London, Variorum Reprints, 1989, 8vo, pp. 330, £34.00.

This collection of papers by Charles Schmitt (1933–1986) should be essential reading for every student of Renaissance medicine, science, and philosophy. Not least, because these today

discrete areas of knowledge were in the sixteenth and seventeenth century closely related and interacting. Whether dealing with the anatomist Harvey, the physician Daléchamps, the astronomer Galileo, or the philosopher Zabarella, Schmitt was always aware of the wider context, and his insights into one speciality often illuminated another.

As Charles Webster points out in his introduction, these selected essays also reveal a methodological development within Schmitt's work over two decades. They pass from studies of single problems or single documents, through the signposting of new data or new approaches, to broader syntheses. All were based on an extensive and detailed knowledge of the manuscript sources, mostly unpublished and frequently located in obscure Continental libraries. They also served as models for others, whether investigating the classical tradition in the Renaissance, or reconstructing the networks of intellectual correspondence that linked scholars of Europe and that supplemented the printed book. Above all, they made accessible much of his great learning, which, whether orally or by correspondence, he was always ready to share with anyone interested in intellectual history.

This encouragement to others to exploit his own discoveries was typical of his own modesty. Characteristically, the last paper is entitled 'Towards a history of Renaissance philosophy', for he was conscious always of his own limitations and of the great amount that needed to be done before a proper historical perspective could be gained. When he read his beloved Jakob Brucker's massive *Historia critica philosophiae* (unfortunately misprinted on p. xi), he was conscious both of his debt to his great eighteenth-century predecessor and of the weaknesses of much subsequent scholarship. His early death prevented him from achieving all he set out to do, but these essays show how far he had succeeded in realizing Brucker's implicit claim that to understand the intellectual life of the past it was necessary to be historical, critical, and philosophical.

Vivian Nutton, Wellcome Institute

GEOFFREY KEYNES, *A bibliography of the writings of Dr William Harvey 1578–1657*, 3rd ed., revised by Gweneth Whitteridge and Christine English, Winchester, St Paul's Bibliographies, 1989, 8vo, pp. xvi, 136, illus., £38.00.

The first two editions of this bibliography were printed in very small runs, totalling little over a thousand copies; this new edition therefore provides the first opportunity for many libraries and collectors to obtain a copy of a standard reference. Despite Keynes's blithe comment in the Preface to the second (1953) edition, many of the collations have had to be corrected and clarified, especially when Harvey's writings form part of a larger whole. The section headings in the Contents notes have also been more accurately transcribed, though separating the pagination statements from these notes could have clarified further the description of works in several parts.

The decision to retain so much of the original—its methods, numbering, and wording—has complicated the revisers' task. Retaining the numbering is of course a worthy principle but no effort has been made to distinguish the six items to which two different numbers now apply; 26 new items are fitted into the old numbering. Half of these were not noted in the previous edition; of the modern additions the most important are Gweneth Whitteridge's editions of three previously unpublished works by Harvey. The manuscript works are treated separately in both the bibliography and the introduction, and this has led to some repetition.

David McKitterick has pointed out that Keynes's bibliographies often provided the first reliable indication of the rarity of particular books; the census of copies of the first edition of *De motu cordis* is such an index and is made more reliable by the addition of provenance notes which make it possible to trace the wanderings of individual copies. The census has now reached 70, locating 25 more copies than were noted in the second edition, or 24 according to the statement in the text.

Since Keynes changed his own mind about the worth of an account of 'The reception of Harvey's doctrine during his lifetime', it seems reasonable enough to include this Appendix to