

## Book Reviews

VAIDYA BHAGWAN DASH, *Tibetan medicine with special reference to Yoga Śataka*, Dharamsala, Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, 1976, 8vo, pp. xvi, 390, £6.00.

Reviewed by Marianne Winder, M. A., A. L. A., Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.

Here is a book by a man who is a physician, a scholar, and active in public life, three qualities not often combined in one person. The work under review is a reconstruction of a Sanskrit ayurvedic text by means of an extant Tibetan translation of it, aided by comparison with a similar Sanskrit text on the same subject and with a Sinhalese version. Much is also known from commentaries about the original Sanskrit text which was called *Yoga Śataka*, Tibetan *sbyor.ba.brgya.pa* "Collection of a hundred prescriptions". It was composed by one of the great men called Nagarjuna, who could have lived between 225 B.C. when a Nagarjuna was mentioned on the Aśoka pillars, and A.D. 401 when Kumarajiva mentions Nagarjuna. The colophon gives the full name of Tharpa who translated it into Tibetan, and we are on firmer ground with the editor and annotator of the Tibetan text: the historian Bu-ston who lived A.D. 1299-1364. The second Sanskrit text was written by Vararuci.

As all Sanskrit and Tibetan paragraphs have been also translated into English, they are accessible to any interested reader. There is an informative introduction as well as useful comments and observations at the end, with bibliographical notes and glossaries. The word-for-word interlinear version is made particularly valuable by the passages where translation and transmission mistakes between the Sanskrit and the Tibetan version are traced. For instance, on p. 135, in verse no. 27, Vararuci's Sanskrit mentions *āmalakī* (*Embllica officinalis* Linn.). The Tibetan text translates what presumably Nagarjuna had as well by *ta.ma.la.ki* which would be a loanword from Sanskrit *tāmalakī* (*Phyllanthus niruri* Linn.). Apparently no special harm came to the patients as the result of such mistakes. Most remedies are herbal but some are quite strong poisons made innocuous by processing with other ingredients.

AHMAD Y. AL-HASSAN, GHADA KARMI, and NIZAR NAMNUM (editors), *Proceedings of the First International Symposium for the History of Arabic Science, University of Aleppo, Institute for the History of Arabic Science, April 5-12, 1976, volume II, papers in European languages*, Aleppo, Aleppo University Press, 1978, 4to, pp. 365, illus., [no price stated].

Reviewed by A. Z. Iskandar, D. Phil., Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.

The First International Symposium for the History of Arabic Science (Aleppo University, 5-12 April 1976) was held in celebration of two occasions: the inauguration of the Institute for the History of Arabic Science, which has published successfully two volumes of the *Journal for the History of Arabic Science*; and the foundation of the Syrian Society for the History of Science. Papers read in occidental languages, representing the tireless efforts of Arab scholars and arabists, each in his own field of research or interest, are amassed in this voluminous publication, which also has summaries (in English, French, or German) of articles printed in Arabic in Volume I of the same *Proceedings*. An adequate list of contents harbours all the titles, which are classed under "Basic sciences" (pp. 29-192), "Engineering, technology, and

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agriculture" (pp. 193-267), "Medicine". including pharmacology (pp. 269-357), and "Sociology" (pp. 359-365). This volume is printed on good-quality paper, and is beautifully bound in glossy paper covers. One could easily appreciate the amount of work that was put into the preparation of the manuscripts of this volume, and in seeing them through the press. This review only covers the section that deals with medicine and pharmacology. Some papers are well documented with adequate references to sources; others – apart from the translated summaries of Arabic papers appearing in Volume I – are without any scholarly apparatus. Unfortunately, a paper on 'The title of a work of Rāzī with reference to "al-ṭīn al-Nīshābūrī"', printed earlier (in F.N.L. Poynter, *Proceedings of the XXIII International Congress of the History of Medicine, London 2-9 September 1972*, London, Wellcome Institute of the History of Medicine, 1974, 2 vols., vol. 2, pp. 1073-1076), appears again in the present volume (pp. 338-340), but without any scholarly apparatus or even a warning that it was printed elsewhere. Such costly and unwarranted duplication should have been avoided by the editors of this volume. Interestingly enough, an earlier case of unwarranted reprinting of material also concerned one of Rhazes' books: 'Bur<sup>3</sup> al-sā<sup>c</sup> a li-Muḥammad Ibn Zakariyyā al-Rāzī', first printed in *al-Machriq* (1903). Printing errors, arising from inaccuracy and inconsistency of transliteration occur in some papers on medicine and pharmacology. The only way to minimize such errors (which are bound to occur, no matter how careful editors may be) is to supply each author with a set of galley-proofs, to be followed by the final page-proofs that should be also carefully revised by the editors.

We offer our heartfelt congratulations to the editors of this volume on their achievements, and wish them every success in forthcoming publications.

A. J. YOUNGSON, *The scientific revolution in Victorian medicine*, London, Croom Helm, 1979, 8vo, pp. 327, £9.95.

M. JEANNE PETERSON, *The medical profession in mid-Victorian London*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, and London, University of California Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. x, 406, £12.25.

*Reviewed by Christopher Lawrence, M.B., Ch.B., M.Sc., Medical Historian to the Wellcome Museum at the Science Museum, London SW7 2DD.*

To judge by titles alone it might be thought that these two books would cover a great deal of common material. This however is far from the case, not least because A. J. Youngson's title *The scientific revolution in Victorian medicine* is frankly misleading. I approached the book expecting a study of microscopy, embryology, cellular pathology, instrumental diagnosis, experimental physiology, bacteriology, and so forth, and an account of how these disciplines entered the Victorian medical curriculum. No such comprehensive study exists. For the early century, and the case of chemistry, Morris Berman's *Social change and scientific organisation* begins to fill this gap. For the later period Gerald Geison's *Michael Foster and the Cambridge school of physiology* does much the same. Youngson however does not tackle this question at all, rather he recounts in traditional fashion the introduction of anaesthesia and antiseptics into surgery and midwifery. The great men, Lister, Syme, Simpson, are his focus and his account adds nothing to the older sources, whereas a detailed empirical study of the