

Book Reviews

based on thorough documentation and of continuing use in medical libraries is a list of early American journals conveniently grouped under state-names; amongst them is a title curiously unnoticed in Austin's *Early American Medical Imprints*, that of the first medical journal published in the United States about 1790, a translation from the French (*Journal of the practice of medicine . . . in the military hospitals of France*) of which only one part appeared.

E. GASKELL

Albrecht von Haller—Marc Antonio Caldani. Briefwechsel 1756-1776, ed. by ERICH HINTZSCHE, Berne and Stuttgart, Hans Huber, 1966, pp. 257, S.Fr. 22.80.

Albrecht von Haller published himself a part of his correspondence with contemporary scholars in six volumes. But he omitted any passages that might cause offence, be they of a personal nature or on controversial scientific theories. The first to fill in the gaps was H. Sigerist who in 1923 published Haller's letters to Gesner. In 1961 P. de Pietro published Haller's correspondence with Spallanzani. The year 1964 saw two publications of Haller letters: F. Berg published his correspondence with Rosen von Rosenstein, and E. Hintzsche his letters to Morgagni. In 1965 Hintzsche published Haller's letters to Ignazio Somis, and A. Simili, the correspondence with James Plancus, i.e. G. Bianchi of Rimini. There exists as yet no definitive biography of Haller.

This correspondence with a difficult young colleague shows Haller from his most benign side. As a Roman Catholic Caldani had little hope of securing a university chair in Germany where he turned after lack of success in his own country. Haller comforts and helps him and, apart from a wealth of detail about the scientific work of both, we hear much about the scramble for university chairs in Italy and elsewhere, and about the personal and scholarly antagonisms of such people as Morgagni and Fontana. Haller proves a staunch friend in all the troubles assailing Caldani who seems to have been gauche and tactless and helps him even to achieve his life's ambition: to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

MARIANNE WINDER

Las ciencias médicas en Guatemala. Origen y evolución, by CARLOS MARTÍNEZ DURÁN, 3rd ed. Guatemala, Editorial Universitaria, 1964, pp. 710, illus.

The interest in this standard medical history of Guatemala is indicated by the fact that the previous editions of 1941 and 1945 are now out of print. The chapters devoted to the pre-Columbian period have now been enlarged with an entirely new text and many illustrations, and the colonial section condensed. The study on Flores, the outstanding medical figure of Guatemala, has been enriched with recently discovered information. Martínez Durán, formerly Rector of Guatemala's University, promises to follow up his excellent text with a study of Guatemalan medicine in the present century.

F. GUERRA