

### Book Reviews

But this is understandable; it is from mummified remains that the best preserved evidence has been obtained.

Like the written record and the art form (paintings, sculpture and the like), preserved remains are no less difficult to interpret, or are open to misinterpretation. As Wells states, 'It no longer seems extraordinary that palaeopathologists occasionally make a wrong diagnosis. The wonder is we ever make a right one.' In a most useful survey, Wells points out the pitfalls of pseudopathology with the many traps that lie in wait for the unwary. One danger not mentioned is the practice of placing newer mummies in older coffins to enhance their sale value. That this contribution should be the first sets the remainder in perspective and illustrates the careful examination that should be undertaken before any conclusions are drawn.

Palaeopathology is a rich and growing field for research, and as new techniques are devised older studies are re-investigated and freshly-discovered material submitted to more sophisticated examination. This places a large burden of responsibility on the archaeologist excavating in the field and the curator preserving the material in the museum. Again and again contributors refer to specimens housed in museums or, more rarely, to specimens which can no longer be traced. A specimen inadequately housed is often lost to science and indirectly this book is a plea that the whereabouts of specimens should be recorded and for the curator to document his specimens as fully as possible, a plea well substantiated by Morse in his study of tuberculosis. It is also a plea for most careful excavation, a plea well illustrated by Brothwell in his description of the finding of calculi in a Somerset Dark Age Cemetery. It is not only human remains that need careful preservation and documentation. The associated remains are often equally important as the only means of dating the site—the problem mentioned by Goff when dealing with the effect of syphilis on bones. Equally the palaeopathologist should be aware of the limitations in dating his material and of the information that museum records ought to reveal. This work can be read with profit by all three.

This is a well-produced book and a single reading has revealed less than a dozen typographical errors. The figures, being from many different sources, vary in quality but are generally good. Figure 5a, on page sixty-two, has been reproduced upside down, and some of the maps and graphs could have been improved. Each chapter has a good list of references though their typographical layout varies. Retailing in this country at £17 17s. 6d. it is doubtful whether its sale will be large, but it should be in every library where there is an interest in palaeopathology.

C. A. SIZER

*The Lives of the Professors of Gresham College*, by J. WARD, facsimile of the London 1740 edition, New York and London, Johnson Reprint Corporation, 1967, pp. xxiv, 156, illus., \$20.00.

The reprint series to which this volume belongs deserves the highest praise both for its standard of reproduction and quality of binding. Prices too are reasonable. Projects such as this enable libraries with limited budgets to avoid the ruinous antiquarian market and yet build up collections of scientific classics. Ward's *Lives* has always been, and remains, a classic biographical reference book in which one can

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learn about a fascinating segment of English seventeenth- and eighteenth-century learning. The section which particularly concerns the medical historian runs to 41 pages in which pieces of varying length describe the lives of eleven professors, including Matthew Gwinne, Paul de Laune (Gideon's brother), John Mapletoft and John Woodward. The occasional doctor can be found in other sections, e.g. Wren in 'Astronomy', Peter Turner in 'Geometry', Thomas Baynes in 'Music' and William Croone in 'Rhetoric'. One is forced, however, to criticize this reprint of a very desirable book on the grounds that it contains no editor's introduction—not even a preface. If one had been provided, as in most other members of this series, it could have been the means of informing the reader that Ward's own annotated, interleaved copy of the *Lives* is in the British Museum.

E. GASKELL

*Dr. med. Johann Friedrich von Herrenschwand. Ein Berner Arzt im 18. Jahrhundert*, by HANS JENZER, Berne, Francke, 1967, pp. 266, illus., S.Fr./DM.29.

The material for Herrenschwand's biography (1715–98) was gleaned from family papers, local and Polish archives, and letters, forty of which, from Herrenschwand to Haller, were found in the collection of Haller's letters. Biographers in the past have often confused Johann Friedrich with his brother Anton Gabriel. A convincing picture is given of the eighteenth-century endeavour to improve the lot of the rural population by introducing public health measures, as exemplified by J. P. Franck's work in Austria and by improving the medical education of the country doctor whose function in remote country districts had to be that of vet, surgeon, obstetrician, alienist and general practitioner in one.

At the age of fifty, Herrenschwand followed a call to the court of Stanislas August, king of Poland, for whom he wrote a detailed memorandum on the proposed foundation of a Medico-economical Academy providing courses in all the subjects needed by future country doctors and the introduction of a vast programme of Public Health for agrarian Poland. The suggestions were not put into practice but remain an impressive document foreshadowing later developments in Europe.

Herrenschwand's medical chef d'oeuvre on the principal and most frequent diseases, published in 1788 simultaneously in French and in German, was kept traditional, ignoring Cullen's systematization of diseases. His favourite plan was the foundation of a school for young doctors and surgeons in Berne, but only the part of his memorandum which dealt with a School of Midwifery was put into practice in 1781. His other claim to fame was a remedy against tapeworms, the recipe for which he seems to have appropriated from a local widow without due acknowledgement.

Adroit in his social role, Herrenschwand undertook successful political missions. Amongst them was the bringing about of an alliance between Switzerland and France in 1777. But the lasting importance of his work lies in his influence upon rural medicine.

By consulting a library containing Sénac's works, the author could have resolved the doubts expressed on page 142: the second edition of Sénac's *Traité de la Structure*, published in 1774 contains already, as part VI, *Les Maladies du Coeur*. This small criticism should not detract from the value of this conscientious biography.

MARIANNE WINDER