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men the supreme example of literary artistry applied to a clinical theme. It dwells on the character and death of a young man who died of phthisis and is written in the form of a letter to the patient's older friend. It was not published until 1690, eight years after the author's death, and has been assumed to be almost his last work. The treatise is obviously founded on fact, but the identities of the patient and his friend have never been convincingly determined. Professor Huntley demonstrated in a paper published in 1951 and now again in this book that the patient was Robert Loveday, a brilliant young man who published a translation of Calpreriède's *Cléopâtre* as *Hymen's Præcludia*, or *Love's Master-piece* in 1652. He died in 1656; he belonged to a Norfolk family, and had certainly been a patient of Browne's. The older friend was Sir John Pettus, also a Norfolk worthy, well known to Browne and an authority on mines. Pater had divined many years before that the *Letter* was related in theme to Browne's more famous *Hydriotaphia, or Urne Buriall*, 1658, to which it is a song of prelude, but only now does Professor Huntley show with convincing details that this suggestion is correct, and that the *Letter* cannot have been composed later than 1657. It was certainly revised at later intervals, but could not be published until after the death of Sir John Pettus which took place in 1689. Dr. Edward Browne, the author's son, then promptly had it printed and it was published in 1690. The only serious discrepancy is that the patient of the *Letter* died in May, whereas the actual Loveday died in December. This may, however, be allowed to be a literary device, since Browne's chosen date afforded him astrological overtones which suited his purpose. Professor Huntley's elucidation of this long-standing puzzle is a major contribution to literary history and adds interest to a work which is one of the most remarkable instances of Browne's stylistic artistry.

Hydriotaphia and *The Garden of Cyrus*, published together in 1658, have been regarded by most critics as essentially unrelated and they have wondered why they appeared together in one cover. The first is prized as one of the finest pieces of sonorous prose in the English language. The second is dismissed as the acme of Browne's tendency to unbridled quaintness. But Professor Huntley has no difficulty in showing that the juxtaposition was a deliberate contrasting of related themes—death and life, ignorance and knowledge, darkness and light. The famous 'organ peal' of the concluding paragraphs of *Hydriotaphia* is universally admired; equal admiration may be paid to the lovely passages at the end of *The Garden of Cyrus*. In the one 'the iniquity of oblivion blindly scattereth her poppy'; in the other we are reminded that 'the Quincunx of Heaven runs low, and 'tis time to close the five ports of knowledge'. Browne's artistry runs like a thread through the whole wondrous tapestry, and we have to rub our eyes and remember that he, more than any other writer in the seventeenth century, related not only religion, but also art, with science. Professor Huntley's book is both scholarly and humane and is just the kind of tribute to Sir Thomas Browne that his admirers will most value and enjoy.

GEOFFREY KEYNES

From Farriery to Veterinary Medicine, 1785–1795, by L. P. PUGH, Cambridge, W. Heffer & Sons, 1962, pp. 178, illus., 30s.

The appearance of a book dealing with any aspect of the history of veterinary medicine is such a rare event that if only for this reason the publication of *From Farriery to Veterinary Medicine* is to be welcomed. The story unfolded by Professor Pugh is, however, so fascinating that one is reluctant to lay down his book until the last page has been turned.

The events leading to the foundation of the London Veterinary College in 1791, the

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difficult period through which the new school passed until rescued from near-bankruptcy by the timely intervention of the State and the moves towards the final fulfilment of the original Plan by the grant of a Royal Charter in 1844 are here described with a wealth of detail. It is only recently that all the documents consulted in the writing of this book have become available for study, thus making it possible to piece together the details of the story, many of which had been lost to sight for over a century and a half.

The recovery of the minute book of the Odiham Agricultural Society by the Registrar of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1956 revealed the first tentative moves which led eventually to the founding of the College. The youngest son of the village grocer, later to become Bishop of Salisbury, proposed that young farriers should be provided with a scientific education, and in so doing initiated the movement which culminated in the formation of the London Committee of that Society. The discovery by Professor Pugh of a copy of the *Plan for Establishing an Institution to Cultivate and Teach Veterinary Medicine* among the books and papers of the Bath and West and Southern Counties Agricultural Society enabled the exact details of the original proposals for the creation of a veterinary profession to be investigated. The patronage by Granville Penn (grandson of William Penn of Pennsylvania) of Benoit Vial, a French emigré trained at the Lyons Veterinary School, had provided the stimulus which resulted in the Frenchman's proposals being accepted by the London Committee of the Odiham Society and had attracted the attention and support of the nobility, the medical men and the businessmen of the day. Vial adopted the name St. Bel when he arrived in England and by that name is more generally known today. Finally, access to the first minute books of the London Veterinary College meant that the story could be continued until the professional status of the veterinarian was established.

By his research Professor Pugh has put into perspective the role of John Hunter in the foundation of the College. A number of historians dealing with this period have described Hunter as the 'life and soul of the Undertaking' and have implied that he played a major part in setting up the College, but we now learn that it was not until nine months after the decision to found the College was taken that he attended a meeting of the College Committee as an honorary member. It is true that after the death of the first Professor, it was John Hunter who came to the rescue by persuading the medical members of the College to help the stranded veterinary students in difficult cases and to admit them free to their lectures, but it was this action, though of tremendous assistance at the time, that was largely instrumental in establishing the control of human over animal medicine which was to continue for the next half century.

The part which Granville Penn played in the Odiham Society's activities and the major role he filled in the correspondence in the *Gentleman's Magazine* together with the enormous help he gave to Benoit Vial in the preparation of his third plan are well described. Although Professor Pugh does not specifically say so, the only known evidence that Penn was the man concerned in the two latter activities is contained in a manuscript found among the papers of Bracy Clark after the latter's death in 1860. This manuscript document, reference to which is included in Professor Pugh's bibliography, was published in John Gamgee's *Edinburgh Veterinary Review*, February 1861. Gamgee published this document as 'a letter written from Switzerland in 1798' and the letter was signed 'Oxoniensis', written from Urbe, near Geneva, 31 March 1798. 'Oxoniensis' is believed to be Bracy Clark, who was in Switzerland at that time, and certainly the letter contains sufficient evidence for that

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view to be held with every degree of certainty. In this letter it is recorded that Granville Penn was concerned with the correspondence in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and that he 'also took a considerable interest in correcting the works of St. Bel, and rendering them more to the public taste'. Some of the other statements in this letter are not believed to be accurate but Clark knew St. Bel intimately and no doubt we can accept his information regarding Penn. If, in fact, Penn wrote as 'Phillipos' in the correspondence in the *Gentleman's Magazine* during 1790, it is strange to read in the second letter dated 21 October 1790 that he had been absent from England since his first letter in March of that year. Penn was elected to the London Committee of the Odiham Society on its formation in August 1790, and for want of further evidence we must presume he was present at this meeting. If he was 'Phillipos' such a statement must have been made in order to conceal his identity. If Penn wrote as 'Zoophilos' also, such harmless deceit can no doubt be excused, considering the importance of drawing the attention of the readers of the correspondence to such a worthy cause. This examination of evidence is not intended to detract from the worth of Professor Pugh's story but rather to underline the interest which it can raise when set against the accounts of these events previously available.

It is tempting to speculate what one might read in the proposals circulated by St. Bel in 1788 and 1789 but no record of these is known to exist. Unknown to Professor Pugh, another copy of the *Plan* around which his book is written was discovered by chance some ten years ago (and therefore prior to the finding of the copy in Bath), but was known only to the present owner and a few others to whom he had communicated his discovery. A protracted and diligent search might well lead to the discovery of the two earlier plans and to further evidence of the part played by Penn in St. Bel's introduction and the acceptance of his proposals.

We are told that Granville Penn had a severe illness in 1794-5 after which his interest and drive were never the same. His absence from the scene at a critical time, when Coleman was chosen as Principal of the College, would seem to have been a great misfortune for the young Institution, and it is to be regretted that those who replaced Penn in authority were content to allow the training of the students to remain in such hands.

The few references in the text and the scarcity of footnotes makes it difficult, at times, to decide whether the author is expressing his own opinion or referring to previously available evidence. We are, however, given a number of important documents in full in the appendices. This finely and lavishly illustrated book will, no doubt, stimulate further study of this formative period in the history of the veterinary profession and will, it is to be hoped, encourage an equally detailed investigation into the subsequent events in veterinary history.

J. BARBER-LOMAX

Catalogue of Printed Books in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library, vol. 1, Books printed before 1641, London, The Wellcome Historical Medical Library, 1962, pp. xv, 407, £10 10s. and \$30.

It is planned to publish a complete catalogue of the Wellcome Library, and the enormous undertaking starts, very wisely, with this volume, which has just been followed by another, on the manuscripts. The rest of the books, between 1641 and 1850 will be dealt with alphabetically in subsequent volumes, leaving it for another generation to decide what to do about the growing later collection.

For medical historians this volume covers an important and easily identifiable field, and because of the scope of the Wellcome Library it is more than a local catalogue,