

College Notices

The Library

SOME RECENT ADDITIONS

EASTWOOD M: *Principles of human nutrition*. Chapman & Hall, 1997; 566 pp

Principles of human nutrition represents excellent value for money at £30 for 566 pages of highly readable text. Its production as a single author text is impressive and will prove to be extremely useful and essential reading for dietitians and food technologists. The biochemistry of the nature of nutrients and their metabolism is clearly written in a user-friendly text with excellent illustrations, information boxes and summary points. Although the book is not primarily aimed at clinical disorders of nutrition, the next edition could usefully include a chapter on obesity within the section on nutrition in the aetiology of disease. Overall, the book can be strongly commended to undergraduates and postgraduates in the fields of nutrition, medicine, dietetics and health and food sciences.

BEIGHTON P & BEIGHTON G: *The person behind the syndrome*. Springer-Verlag, 1997; 230 pp; 100 illus

The title is somewhat misleading. The book consists of concise biographies, and often photographs, of men and women who have had their name attached to a particular disease or syndrome. Surprisingly, there are 100 such. A few of the names - Addison, Charles Bell - are familiar in Britain; most are not. The book cannot be read as an entity, but is a source for some personal and historical information not readily found elsewhere. There is a good index.

EMERY AEH: *Diagnostic criteria for neuromuscular disorders*. European Neuromuscular Centre, Baarn, The Netherlands; 1994; 72 pp

This booklet summarizes information from ENMC workshop meetings and presents, often in tabular form, various features of specific neuromuscular diseases. These include clinical and laboratory detail and what is known of applicable genetic research. It is a state of the art source book for specialists with a clinical and scientific interest in the complex field of neuromuscular disorder.

CROFTON E: *The Women of Royaumont: a Scottish Women's Hospital on the Western Front*. Tuckwell Press, 1997; 347 pp; 42 illus

This is a remarkable book. In the first place it is a meticulous history of a WW1 hospital in France run by women, with a host of references, biographies of some of the staff and - most attractively - photographs of many of them. But what Lady Crofton has also achieved is to make a story out of it all; about the prejudices and problems of female staff; the battle with gas gangrene as the killer; the characters and steadfastness of the staff and the appalling pressures during times of battle casualties. To be taken for a few hours into another world which will not come again, read this book - it has a charm.

DALLY A: *Fantasy surgery 1880-1930*. Rodopi (Clio Medica), 1996; 359 pp

This is one of the Wellcome Institute series in the History of Medicine and is a scholarly account, as the subtitle says "with special reference to Sir William Arbuthnot Lane". Sir Willie published nearly 200 articles on chronic intestinal sepsis which he believed at the root of a whole series of conditions ranging from rheumatoid arthritis to pancreatic diabetes. The remedy - remove the colon!

His text, "Operative Treatment of Chronic Constipation", appeared in 1909 and the procedure became fashionable, though he had his opponents and detractors. In 1914 Guy's did 40 colectomies; in 1920 none - the fashion had passed. Lane retired from surgical practice in 1926 and devoted the rest of his life to a "New Health Society" offering advice - some sensible - on diet and lifestyle.

This is a book to be read; it seems appalling to us that no attempt seems to have been made, on either side, to assess the outcome of various procedures and that there was no concept of what we now call audit. And this is not all that long ago - Lane died an old man in 1943.

WATTERS D & KIIRE C: *Gastroenterology in the tropics and subtropics*. Macmillan, 1995; 446 pp; 91 figs. The subtitle, "A practical approach" exactly describes the book, which has been prepared by 20 authorities with experience in the tropics. It has been very well edited and presented in a readable form. There are "further reading" lists and references and this should be a good initial source book.

SACKETT D *et al*: Evidence-based medicine: how to practise and teach EBM. Churchill Livingstone, 1997; 250 pp

This pocket-sized book has been well reviewed in the Lancet and the BMJ. The early chapters on how and where to get reliable information are good. The later ones on assessing, applying and teaching evidence-based medicine are harder reading. The subject and its development are important and this book has an up-to-date and wide coverage.

FRY J & HORDER J: Primary health care in an international context. Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, 1994; 166 pp

This short book is well worth looking through and should be obligatory for any UK medical going – even on holiday – to one of the developed countries, and these include Hong Kong and Singapore. It describes the various health service systems in an attractive and readable way. It is astonishing to take note of the differences, which are outlined by paragraphs “strengths” and “weaknesses” at the end of each State account.

BOOK FROM THE COLLECTION

Various *West Port Murders*, Burke and Hare Ephemera, Edinburgh 1829

Various *West Port Murders Atlas*, Lithographic Prints, Edinburgh 1829

In his fascinating account of the trial of William Burke and Helen MacDougal in the January issue of *Proceedings* Professor Kaufman mentions the enormous volume of contemporary literature that was produced both during the trial (which opened on Christmas Eve, 1828) and shortly afterwards. The ‘Book from the Collection’ for this issue features two collections of contemporary ephemera *West Port Murders* and *Wretched Illustrations* which represent the genre.

West Port Murders collects together a trial transcript, phrenological pamphlets, press cuttings and broadsheets. The *West Port Murders Atlas*, also published in 1829, contains pictures of the dramatis personae and a series of coloured prints entitled *Wretched Illustrations* which parody the events in a Shakespearean style. Nineteenth century satirists were just as vicious as the contemporary variety, although interestingly the preface to *Wretched Illustrations* claims that the pamphleteers’ profits were to be given to the relations of one of the murderer’s victims ‘*the late most innocent, inoffensive well known and well liked Daft Jamie*’.

Figure 1 attacks both Dr Robert Knox and the continuing loyalty of some of his students. Knox is shown delivering his January Inaugural Lecture and is pictured saying ‘*I will do as I have done heretofore*’ The artist is supposedly Quintin Quizzical esq; Quintin (who bears a distinct resemblance to the lecturer) can be found in the middle row of students second from the right.

Figure 2 is the 6th and final picture from the *Wretched Illustrations of Shakespeare* series and shows Act 4, Scene 1 of Macbeth. ‘*Another yet? - a seventh? - I’ll see no more: - And yet the eighth appears, who bears a glass, which shows me many more*’.

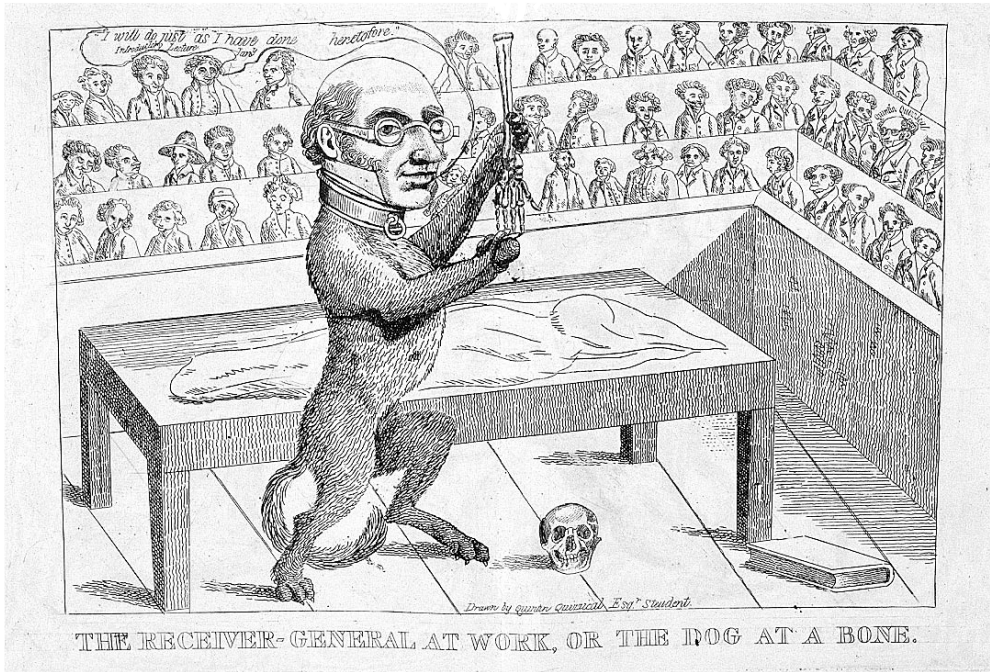


FIGURE 1

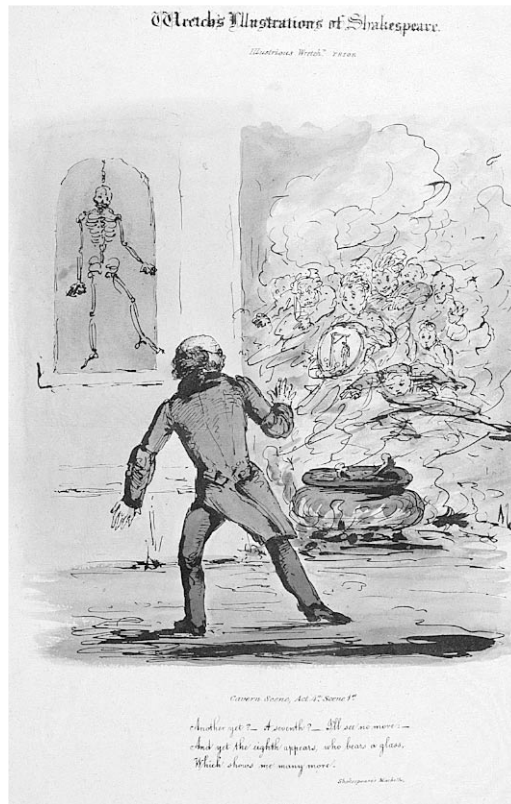


FIGURE 2