

College Notices

The Library

SOME RECENT ADDITIONS

BROCKLISS L, JONES C: *The medical world of early modern France*. OUP, 1997; 800pp
Readers should not be discouraged by the rather academic title of this volume or its length. *The Medical World of Early Modern France* is a readable book with a logical structure. The authors have included a lot of eighteenth century material which provides an interesting contrast to the position in Edinburgh at that time. There is also much information on the growth of the French medical corporations and interesting anecdotes - visitors to Paris might like to note that the Pont Neuf was for a long time the meeting place where quacks and mountebanks carried out their business.

DOYLE D, HANKS G, MACDONALD N: *Oxford textbook of palliative medicine* 2nd ed. Oxford Medical Publications, 1998; 1283pp
The editors of *Palliative Medicine* have gathered together 134 contributors from all over the world to produce this splendid medical reference work. The sections range from the general which includes the challenge of palliative medicine, drug use in palliative medicine and symptom management to the more specific - the palliative care aspects of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and domiciliary palliative care. The editors have not neglected socio-cultural considerations and include chapters that cover spiritual issues and emotional problems. The book is all you would expect of a modern medical textbook with boxes, tables and lengthy reference lists.

FELDMAN M, SCHARSCHMIDT BF, SLEISENGER MH, KLEIN S: *Sleisenger and Fordtran's gastrointestinal and liver disease* 6th ed. WB Saunders, 1997; 1929pp
This major two-volume work covers all aspects of gastroenterology and liver diseases, including pathophysiology, normal biochemistry, diagnosis and treatment. The book (which is well produced) contains 122 chapters and 800 illustrations. This edition contains, for the first time, 22 chapters on liver disease.

SHORTER E: *A history of psychiatry: from the era of the asylum to the age of prozac*. John Wiley, 1997; 436pp
Edward Shorter, a professor of the history of medicine at the University of Toronto, takes a broad view of the evolution of psychiatry in this well written volume. The author outlines the major cultural and scientific forces that shaped the development of psychiatry as he takes the reader from the eighteenth century-madhouses through the age of psychotherapy to the present time. He covers many aspects of the specialty and details both the successes and the failures of all eras. And it is interesting to contrast the comparatively enlightened regime of the Crichton Royal Institution in Dumfries in the 1840s with some of the 'treatments' prescribed in the 10,000 bed Georgia State Sanatorium in the 1920s.

AN ARTISTIC REVIVAL OF AN ANATOMICAL PREPARATION USED FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION IN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY SCOTLAND

On 2 December video artist Gillian Wearing won the £20,000 Turner Prize, awarded annually to any artist under the age of 50 working in any medium. Scottish artist Christine Borland was one of the runners up.

Christine Borland was born in Darvel, Ayrshire in 1965 and graduated from Glasgow School of Art in 1987. She now teaches sculpture at Glasgow School of Art. Ms Borland has been fascinated with biology since she was at school; indeed she considered a career in forensic science or medicine. Much of her work involves skeletons, skulls or bones, or the psychological complexity of police work and human sensibility. However (according to a biographical note) 'she avoids the morbid through rigorous intellectual analysis'.

Earlier this year the College loaned an obstetrical model baby to the Wellcome Institute for their exhibition *Dr Death: Medicine at the End of Life*. The College's baby was one of the high points of the display and is similar to the models described by William Smellie as:

...obstetrical models made of real bones which are mounted and covered with artificial ligaments and muscle to give them the true motion, shape and beauty of natural bodies.

Christine Borland signed the Visitor's book at the Wellcome Exhibition in February 1997. Her Turner Prize exhibit included a work entitled *Phantom Twins*, which bears a marked resemblance to the College's obstetrical model.



FIGURE 1
Phantom Twins by Christine Borland. Photograph courtesy of the Lisson Gallery, London.



FIGURE 2
Obstetrical model baby.