

College Notices

The Library

SOME RECENT ADDITIONS

BISHOP ML, DUBEN-ENGELKIRK JL, FODY EP: Clinical chemistry. Lippincott-Raven, 1996; 773pp
In the rapidly changing field of clinical chemistry this text (the revised third edition) is an invaluable guide and reference. Amongst the additions to this edition are chapters on immunochemistry, trace elements and nutritional assessment, as well as a glossary, an expanded case study section, objectives, and chapter outlines. The revision is comprehensive to all parts of the text including technological advances, new techniques, point-of-care testing, and recent topics associated with the subject matter.

DONALDSON RJ, DONALDSON LJ: Essential public health medicine. Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1994; 514pp

Essential Public Health Medicine is the renamed second edition of the established standard text, *Essential Community Health*. Building upon the strengths of its predecessor, the revised and updated title covers a range of public health issues – accidents, variations in levels of service, HIV, drug abuse, sexual health, clinical audit, and cardiovascular disease. Separate chapters have been given to mental health, the elderly, mothers and infants, and physical disability. The information is presented within the structural implications of the NHS and the book would be of interest to a broad spectrum of health professionals involved in public medicine.

DUFFIN J: To see with a better eye: a life of R.T.H. Laennec. Princeton University Press, 1998; 453pp

Although his claim to fame was the invention of the stethoscope, interest in Laennec's life reads long past this symbol of modern medicine. The author draws upon primary historical documents (Laennec's letters, unpublished papers, lecture notes and patient records) and reveals a stimulated mind very much involved in not only medical progress, but the broader scientific, philosophical, religious ideas of post-Revolutionary France. The book is structured along the progression of his medical career, from his initial research in pathological anatomy to the discovery and evolution of 'mediate auscultation' to the developments in disease and diagnostic practice that his research prompted. For readers interested in the captivating characters of medical history this title comes well recommended.

HEIFETZ MD: Ethics in medicine. Prometheus Books, 1996; 264pp

A commendable book that carefully outlines the essential elements involved in contemporary medical ethics. *Ethics in Medicine* covers many topics including the doctor-patient relationship, the right to self-determination, suicide, abortion, 'tragic' new-borns, euthanasia, human experimentation, and medical triage. Although the focus is occasionally American, the work will easily accommodate a reader looking for a subject-specific revision or a decent overview of current biomedical ethics.

JONES JV, TOMSON CRV (eds): Essential medicine, 1998; 546pp

An advantageous tool for any student of medicine, *Essential Medicine* has been designed for quick concise revision. With a well-considered design and layout, it is easy to navigate the book and quickly retrieve and remember the desired information. The text is greatly enhanced by the fact that it is written by specialist consultants who also teach medical students, and the result is a comprehensive medical reference volume that is created specifically for the student of medicine.

BOOK FROM THE COLLECTION

Piso, Willem (1611–1678) *Historia naturalis Brasiliae* Leiden, 1648

The College's copy also includes a work by Georg Markgraaff (d. 1643) *Historiae rerum naturalium Brasiliae*.

Willem Piso matriculated as a medical student at the University of Leiden in 1623 at the age of 12. He graduated from Caen in 1633 and became a leading physician in Amsterdam. He is known today for his work as the physician of the Dutch settlement in Brazil between 1636 and 1644.

While in Brazil, Dr Piso gathered information on fauna and flora and on the medical practices of the native inhabitants. He pointed out that Europeans might be healthier when living in the tropics if they adopted some of the practices and remedies of the native inhabitants, and was the first writer to distinguish between yaws and syphilis. In *Historia naturalis Brasiliae* Piso wrote that defective nutrition was the cause of hemeralopia (vision disorders), and prescribed ipecacuanha (Ipecac [syrup]) for dysentery. He gives a classic description of the chigoe (Trombiculid Mites) and the problems it causes, together with their treatment. He also describes sarsaparilla and guaiacum.

The work also contains a section on the natural history of Brazil by Georg Markgraaff, probably an assistant to Piso.

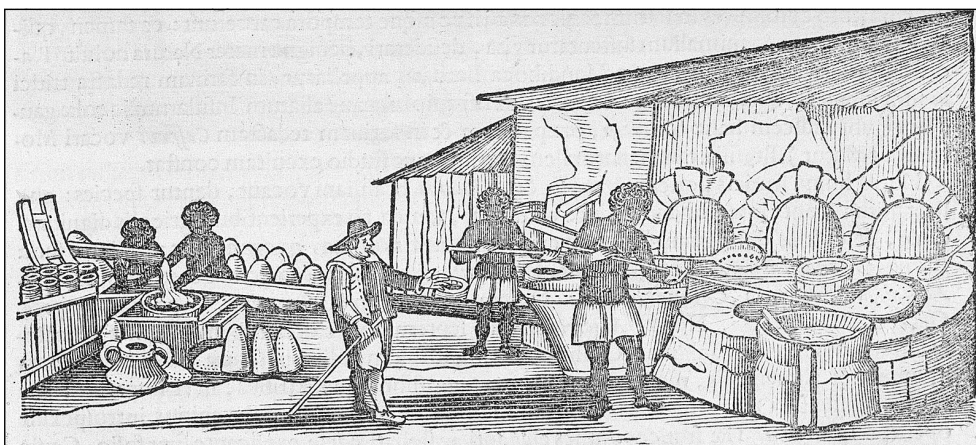
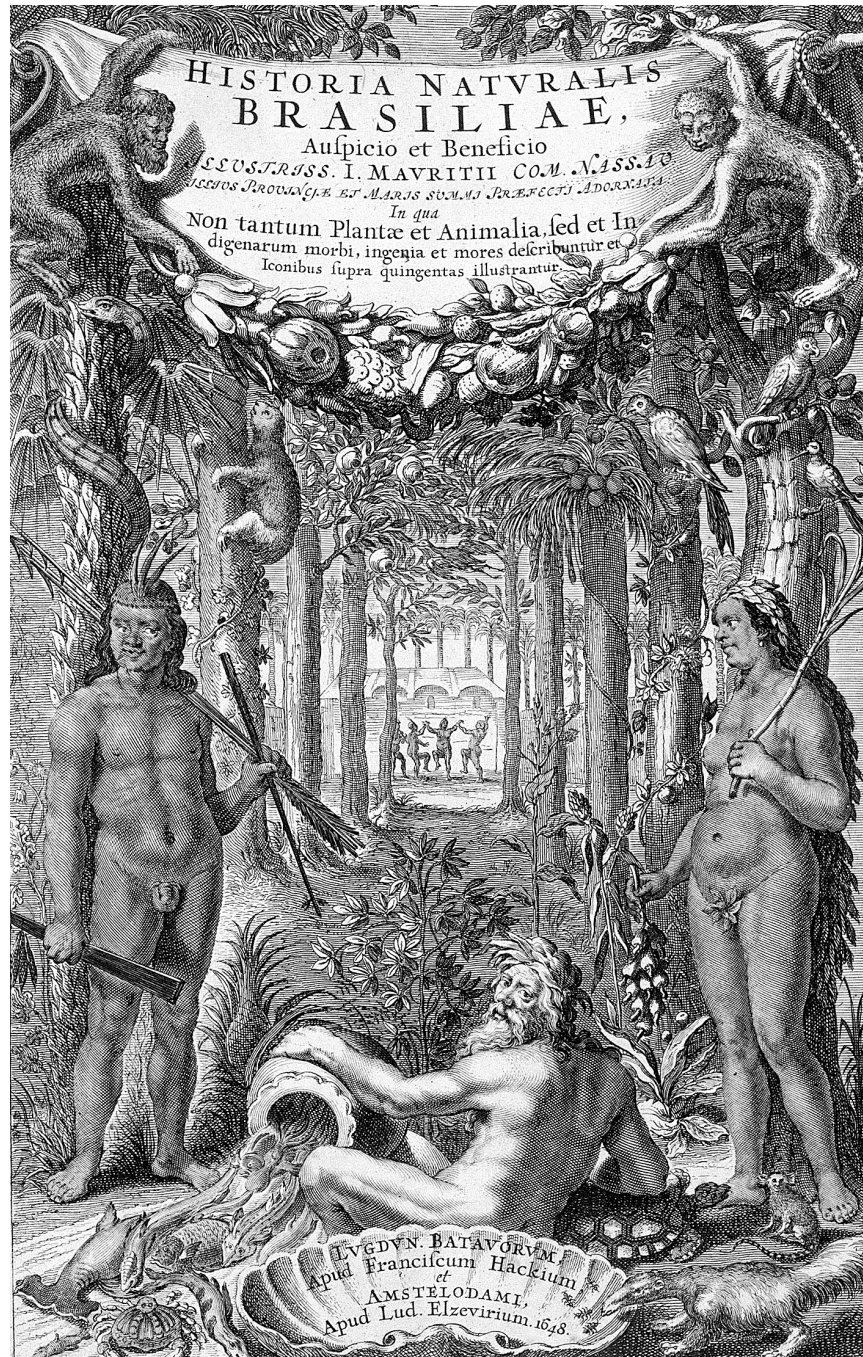


Illustration from *Historia naturalis Brasiliae* showing 'Smelting'.



Title page of *Historia naturalis Brasiliae*.