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it deserved, and this handsome volume, the work of the Professor of History of Medicine at the University of Padua, who, incidentally, has recently published the first Italian translation of Harvey's *De Motu Cordis*, is therefore all the more welcome. The classical treatise by Johann Ludwig Choulant appeared in 1852 in the original German edition, but was not translated into English until 1920. It is hoped that a translation of the present work will not be so long delayed, although, even to those who do not read Italian, it may well be of great value as it stands. A clear account is given of the means of depicting anatomical structures; the longest of the nine chapters, naturally enough, being those devoted to Leonardo and Vesalius. Not only is each chapter furnished with a series of references, but there is also, at the end of the book, a general bibliography and an index of names. The clear print and adequate spacing make it a pleasure to read. As for the plates, they alone are well worth the very reasonable price of the book. Some of them, as may be expected, are familiar, but the majority are new, and of much interest.

To anatomists and artists, to all medical historians, and to medical readers in general, this work may be cordially recommended, and Professor Premuda is to be congratulated for having shown that the name of Padua, which stands so high in medical history, still holds a leading place in the dissemination of anatomical knowledge.

DOUGLAS GUTHRIE

BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS

The *Directory of Medical Libraries in the British Isles* (Library Association, Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C.1, 1957; pp. viii+91, 13s.; 9s. 6d. to Members of the Association), which has been compiled by a subcommittee of the Medical Section of the Library Association, gives information on 147 of the more important medical, dental, pharmaceutical and veterinary libraries and lists about 400 smaller libraries. The information provided relates to staff, hours of opening, class of reader provided for, subjects covered, special collections, number of books and periodicals held, seating accommodation, bibliographical and other services provided, microfilm facilities, catalogue, classification and policy regarding co-operation with other libraries. This invaluable publication reflects the enormous progress made by medical librarianship in this country, especially since the end of the Second World War. It will be indispensable for every library and for everyone concerned with medical literature. The information concerning historical and other special collections should serve to remind the historically minded of the vast stores of virtually untapped material which exist in our medical libraries—and not only in the larger institutions.

Two books which appeared almost simultaneously in England and America respectively are designed to provide instruction for medical men in the use of the medical library. *The Physician's Own Library, its Development and Use*, by Miss Mary Louise Marshall, Librarian of the Rudolph Matas Medical Library, Tulane University (Blackwell Scientific Publications, 24-25 Broad Street, Oxford, 1957; 87 pp., 22s. 6d.), is an excellent little book in which the soundest advice is presented in the most pleasing form. Miss Marshall's work is beautifully printed and bound, and is a model of book production. The British production is *How to Use a Medical Library: A Guide for Practitioners, Research Workers and Students*, by Mr. Leslie T. Morton,

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Information Officer, *British Medical Journal*. Mr. Morton's guide is an old friend which now appears in a third edition and which has also achieved the unusual distinction of having been translated into Japanese. Both of these books can be highly recommended: they are basically similar in scope and method of approach, but Miss Marshall's work perhaps reflects American practice in being a little more concerned with problems of organization and routine, such as budgeting, record keeping, and the physical care of the collection, whereas Mr. Morton places more emphasis on the literature itself and the guides to its use.

World Medical Periodicals (World Medical Association, 1957; 340 pp., obtainable from Publishing Manager, British Medical Association, B.M.A. House, London, W.C.1, 30s.), which has also been compiled by Mr. L. T. Morton, gives particulars of about 4,250 journals of medicine, pharmacy, dentistry and veterinary medicine which were either in existence in 1957 or have ceased publication since 1900. The work is a considerably enlarged and improved edition of a similar list which first appeared in 1950, and it will be invaluable. New features include lists of the principal international abstracting and indexing journals. All the entries are indexed by subject and by country of origin, and wherever possible the address of the publisher of the journal is given. Title abbreviations are provided according to the Rules of the *World List of Scientific Periodicals* as modified by the International Code for the Abbreviation of Titles of Periodicals. A compilation of this kind represents an enormous amount of painstaking labour, and where so much has been provided it is perhaps a little ungracious to ask for more. There is, however, little doubt that the great value of this list would have been still further increased had the year of first publication been included in each entry. Information regarding the period of time covered by any particular journal set is of value from the point of view of retrospective bibliographical research; and, furthermore, by the indirect evidence which such information provides in regard to stability, status, cost of acquisition and *shelf space required*, it can be a great help in the preliminary selection of journals, especially in the case of new libraries which have to build up their periodical holdings from scratch.

Classics of Librarianship: Further Selected Readings in the History of Librarianship, by John L. Thornton, Librarian, St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College (Library Association, London, 1957; pp. x+203, 24s.; 17s. 6d. to Members of the Association), is a worthy sequel to this indefatigable author's *A Mirror for Librarians*. The book is, as the sub-title indicates, an anthology of passages from the bibliothecal writings of distinguished librarians, together with biographical sketches from the pen of the compiler. Of the twenty-four librarians whose writings are here drawn upon, one—Gabriele Naudé—creator of the great Mazarine Library, was a truant from medicine, and another—Dr. John Dee, the celebrated mathematician and astrologer—if not actually a medical man certainly had strong medical affiliations. The name of W. R. B. Prideaux (1880–1932) is mainly associated with the Reform Club, of which he was Librarian for the greater part of his career, but he also served the Libraries of the Royal College of Physicians and the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, and those medical librarians who are old enough to remember him look upon him as one of themselves. Here some of the greatest men who have devoted themselves to the service of libraries have set down their mature thoughts on their calling. Open this fascinating volume where you will and you will find treasure. Librarians in charge of historical collections might well take to heart the exhortation

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of Abbé Cotton des Houssayes, Librarian of the Sorbonne towards the end of the eighteenth century:

The custodian of a literary deposit should especially guard himself against that unfortunate disposition which would render him like the dragon in the fable jealous of the treasures entrusted to his keeping, and lead him to conceal from the inspection of the public riches which had been brought together solely with the view of being placed at its disposition.

We have space for only three more brief quotations from this admirable anthology:

'A library is good only as the librarian makes it so.' (John Cotton Dana, Librarian, Newark Public Library, New Jersey.)

'It is questionable whether the selection of books for a library should be undertaken by a committee.' (John Winter Jones, Principal Librarian of the British Museum.)

'Why need the women-folk (God forgive me!) bother themselves about the inside of a man's library, and whether it wants dusting or not?' (William Blades, the biographer of Caxton.)

W. J. B.