

The Works of William Harvey, M.D.

Translated from the Latin with a Life of the Author by Robert Willis. (The Sources of Science, No. 13.) Pp. xvi+624. (New York and London: Johnson Reprint Corporation, 1965.) 25 dollars.

THE Johnson Reprint Corporation are publishers of an excellent series, "The Sources of Science", in which they reprint the original work of pioneers, such as Boyle, Newton, Kepler and Grew. This compendious volume contains the works of William Harvey; a reprint of *De Motu Cordis*, *De Circulatione Sanguinis* and *De Generatione Animalium*, which were prepared for the Sydenham Society by Robert Willis and published in 1847. Willis also included some of Harvey's letters to foreign medical correspondents, the report on Thomas Parr, a transcript of Harvey's will and a memoir of Harvey.

Robert Willis, M.D. Edinburgh, was Librarian of the Royal College of Surgeons from 1828 to 1845. After this he was in general practice at Barnes. A good linguist, he translated Wagner's *Physiology* from the German and *Rayet on Skin Diseases* from the French. He died in 1878.

Willis had had a classical education, and his translations of Harvey's works were an improvement on those of previous translators. Harvey wrote excellent Latin, *pace* Aubrey, but his English translators, including Willis, are not sufficiently accurate for those doing either historical or experimental research. Willis's translations of *De Motu Cordis* and *De Circulatione Sanguinis* have been superseded by the scholarly translations of Prof. Kenneth J. Franklin (now obtainable in the Everyman edition). Prof. Franklin has exceptional gifts for translating the works of Harvey, being a physiologist, classical scholar and medical historian. This reprint of Willis's English translation is, therefore, chiefly of historic interest, although until Prof. Franklin's translation is published it is the best available of *De Generatione*.

ARTHUR MACNALTZ

Le Message Héritaire

Par Jean de Grouchy. Pp. xi+196. (Paris: Gauthier-Villars, 1965.) 26 francs.

IN the past ten years molecular genetics has advanced in a spectacular way, and several people have felt the urge to communicate these developments to a wider public. There has been a spate of books written at various levels which should ensure that the present generation of sixth formers and undergraduates can easily assimilate the major developments. Even the youngest of the masters, James Watson, has recently given us a stimulating and informative summary, *The Molecular Biology of the Gene*.

Le Message Héritaire is written at an intermediate level, suitable for students in general biology, and— with its several examples from human disorders—for medical students. It follows the general pattern set by Dr. de Grouchy in 1958 with his *L'Hérédité Moléculaire*. Comparison of the two books is instructive because it reminds us how radically views have changed during the past seven years. During this time the roles of transfer-RNA, messenger-RNA, polyribosomes, enzymatic transcription and coding have all been clarified, and a beginning has been made in the analysis of mechanisms controlling expression of genes. Dr. de Grouchy conveys his message with simplicity and clarity, quoting most of the classical examples from microbial and human genetics. Even controversial subjects such as control mechanisms are handled tactfully. The Jacob-Monod system is fully presented, but some recent microbiological evidence which has led to conclusions at variance with the Parisian orthodoxy are mentioned. Suggestions that a number of human disorders are due to abnormalities of control mechanisms are quoted, even though one does not, unfortunately, know

in any single case whether this is the correct explanation of the observations.

The material is adequately illustrated and systematically presented, so the absence of an index is no great handicap. The book is accurate and well written, and it will doubtless be widely read by French students; but the language barrier, and the fact that excellent alternatives are available in English, will probably limit its use in Britain and the United States.

A. C. ALLISON

Outline of Endocrine Gland Syndromes

By Prof. T. S. Danowski. Pp. ix+374. (Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Company, 1965. Distributed in the U.K. by E. and S. Livingstone, Ltd., Edinburgh.) 50s. net.

OUTLINE of *Endocrine Gland Syndromes* provides a synopsis of present knowledge regarding the aetiology, clinical features, differential diagnosis, prognosis and therapy of endocrine diseases with the exception of diabetes mellitus which is discussed in a companion volume. Although the style of writing is in places somewhat cryptic, most of the relevant information is presented, the sections dealing with the thyroid, parathyroids and adrenal cortex being more comprehensive than those concerned with the anterior and posterior pituitary and the gonads. The bibliography on purely clinical topics is generally adequate and includes many recent references. However, the value of hormone assay procedures in the diagnosis and management of endocrine diseases is not greatly emphasized, and it is to be hoped that in later editions of the volume this aspect of the subject will be expanded. The book in its present form should prove valuable not only to the clinical endocrinologist but also to the general physician who is anxious to acquaint himself with recent developments in this speciality.

JOHN A. LORRAINE

Bibliography of Statistical Literature

1940-1949. By Dr. Maurice G. Kendall and Alison G. Doig. Pp. 190. (Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd, Ltd., 1965.) 55s.

THIS is the second volume to appear of the projected three-volume bibliography which is intended to provide a complete bibliography of statistical literature from its earliest beginnings until 1958, when the *International Journal of Abstracts of Statistical Theory and Method* commenced its coverage. The volume for the period 1950-58 appeared in 1962, and will already be familiar to many statisticians. The high standard set by this earlier volume has been maintained. In each volume papers are listed alphabetically by the name of the author followed by the title and exact journal reference.

Since there is at present no indexing by subject, the bibliography as it stands is of little direct use to the statistician, but the availability of this almost exhaustive list of statistical articles will make it easy to compile specialized bibliographies for any particular purpose. There is also a reasonable hope that a subject index, such as that already prepared by M. J. R. Healy (described in the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, series A, 126, 270; 1963), will eventually be published. The work is therefore likely to gain in value as time passes.

A serious defect of the work is that quite a high proportion of the titles in foreign languages are not translated into English, although in some cases a French or German translation is given. It is often fairly easy to guess the meaning of those in Portuguese or Italian, but occasional Swedish titles, for example, may be completely baffling. No doubt the authors, with inadequate resources and limited time, have done far better than could reasonably be expected. The fault lies rather with the authorities who failed to provide assistance when it would have done most good.

D. F. KERRIDGE