

OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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BOOKS FOR HORSEMEN IN THE *BIBLIOTHECA OSLERIANA*



Horses as a topic occupy a very small percentage of the *Bibliotheca Osleriana*. Yet, in less than twenty volumes, books on *Equus caballus* and related species span some twenty-four hundred years of horsemanship, rural economy and veterinary science.

Agriculture

An agricultural work which includes interesting material on horses is Pier de' Crescenzi's *Libro della agricultura* (Vicenza, 1490), *Bibl. Osl.* 7427. The author lived about 1230-1310 (or as others have it, 1233-1321) and is believed to have written the *Libro* about 1309.

First printed in 1471, it was in and out of print until at least 1851, and translated from its original Latin into Italian, French, German and (allegedly) Polish. According to Stillwell, it is based on traditional works (Roman, Arabian and medieval), although Piero utilized them critically on the basis of experience on his own estate near Bologna.¹

Book 9 includes a section on horses, with notes on the characteristics of good horses, and their care and training. Most of the book is in fact devoted to the symptoms and cure of diseases, much derived from Giordano Ruffo. Reference is made to Varro and Palladius, but not to Xenophon, whose works seems to have been unknown to medieval horsemen.

Horsemanship

When the Greek scholar and manuscript hunter Aurisipa was in Constantinople in 1422-23, Manuel II presented him with a manuscript of Xenophon's works on horsemanship.² Thus, the Greek master's text returned to Europe. The first printed version appeared in the 1516 Junta Press Greek edition of Xenophon's works. *Bibl. Osl.* 5605 is the Basel, 1545 *Opera ... omnia*, which includes Joachim Camerarius' Latin translation, parallel with the Greek text, of Xenophon's major equestrian work, *De re equestri*. According to Sir Frederick Smith, Camerarius had been an accomplished horseman in his youth.³ Camerarius (1500-1574) published nearly 150 contributions to classical scholarship, including many Latin translations of Greek words. In another edition of the Xenophon tract, he added a glossary of equine terminology.

All but the most recent additions to our mailing list will recognize the author of "Books for Horsemen in the *Bibliotheca Osleriana*" as the former (and founding) Editor of the *Osler Library Newsletter*. Miss Ellen Wells launched this publication in June 1969 when she was at McGill University as Associate Osler Librarian. Knowing her keen interest in horses, as well as in the *Newsletter* and the *Bibliotheca*, the current Editorial Committee asked her to write this review of books for horsemen.

Ellen Wells' earliest memory involving horses is that of being hoisted on the back of a draft horse during the spring plowing of a Victory garden in Ohio in the 1940's. Then there were pony rides and later some summer camp lessons. The real equine education, however, came from a few officers in Cornell's Reserve Officer Training Corps, who taught riding in the University's Physical Education program in the late '40's. They had been trained at Fort Riley, Kansas, in the U.S. Cavalry, and gave a fine series of courses. After a hiatus of many years, Miss Wells "baby sat" a horse belonging to a McGill couple on sabbatical leave. Eventually she bought the mare and finally has a horse of her own.

Blessed with parents who encouraged her interests by giving books on appropriate occasions, a lifelong interest in horse books was nourished. This has become the stimulus for several projects – the compilation of a bibliography on horse books, travel to see horsebook collections, and the writing of articles and reviews. The Editorial Committee is very pleased that Miss Wells has been willing to include amongst her many projects the writing of this article for the *Newsletter*.

It has been said that, in building up his magnificent library, Sir William Osler cast his nets far and wide. Miss Wells' review provides excellent evidence of the truth of this statement.

The anonymous translator of one English version, *Bibl. Osl.* 5607, *Xenophon's Rules for the Choice, Management, and Training of Horses, Intended Principally for Officers of the Cavalry* (Westminster, 1802), claimed his to be the first in English. However, in his notes at the end, he referred to Richard Berenger's translation of 1771.⁴ The Westminster translator presented a different version, which is no better or worse than Berenger's.

The historiated letter which appears on this page is reproduced from Jean Ruel, *Veterinariae medicinae libri duo*, Basil., 1537. *Bibl. Osl.* 3850.

Since Xenophon's work is the first surviving Greek text on riding *per se* (he refers to Simon and his dicta, which have not otherwise survived) it is of great interest even though it is very brief. He is quoted by horsemen in much the same way as Hippocrates by physicians, to show how clever the ancients were, and what insights they had. There is a tendency to overlook the passages that are now viewed as erroneous or have been shown to be inaccurate by modern standards. However, the horseman on reading it is impressed with the clear message of patience in training and the understanding Xenophon had of the psyche of the horse. The goal Xenophon had in mind was a balanced, willing, well-moving horse, useful for military, sporting and social occasions, much the same as the modern event horse must excel in dressage (a well-mannered way of going), cross country, and show jumping competition.

Charles Lewis Meryon (1783-1877), the physician and biographer of Lady Hester Stanhope, is apparently the author of the other text on riding, *Bibl. Osl.* 5146. *Riding Habits and Habits of Riding; or, An Inquiry into the Most Proper Position and the Most Becoming Dress for Ladies on Horseback* (London, 1865), is an interesting manual and polemic on riding for women of the 19th century. The pseudonym "Chevalier Califourchon, riding master at Straddleberg," is well chosen: "à califourchon" means "astride". Whether women could or should ride astride or side-saddle was to become a burning issue among riders in the early years of the 20th century. Before that time women of quality, or pretensions thereto, almost never even considered riding astride in Europe from medieval times onward. Early in the 19th century improvements in the design of sidesaddles made riding relatively safe and foolproof for women of less than Amazonian talents.

Although qualified medically to speak on the anatomical aspects of riding astride compared to sidesaddle, the author shows no sense of contemporary propriety when he suggests riding astride is really much more sensible [Figure 1]. Of course, Lady Hester, and other intrepid English ladies, are examples of the feasibility of riding astride. However, these ladies' peregrinations and eccentricities had already put them beyond the pale of Society, and it would not have occurred to most women to emulate them. Until the late 1920's riding astride for adult women was considered unnatural and unbecoming by the equestrian world, in spite of famous exceptions such as Queen Elizabeth I.



Figure 1: Lady Riding a Horse

Breeds and Varieties

One might consider the ass rather marginal to this essay, but *Bibl. Osl.* 3632 could be viewed as a prototype of the "complete horse book" that became common in the late 18th century and flourished into the 20th.

Christian Franz Paullini (1643-1712), a much-travelled physician and something of an antiquary, wrote a series of works "according to the standards of the Accademia Naturae Curiosorum," as well as his better known *Heilsame Dreckapotheke*. Among these unusual monographs were contributions on the dog, toad, mole, eel, hare, wolf, and *Bibl. Osl.* 3632, on the ass: *De asino, liber historico-physico-medicus ... scriptus variisque observationibus, memorabilibus & curiositatibus conspersus* (Frankfurt, 1695). Paullini follows a pattern in these monographs, gathering materials on the philological, historical, religious, medical and useful aspects of the subject. Thus, we read of the ass as a symbol on money, in art, on epitaphs (here a distinctly satirical element sides in). The ass in religion and law, miracles, superstitions and in literature is described. *Theses asininae* of Justus Onophilus (ass-lover) is cited as an example of the ass in literary satire.

Medical uses of the ass for treatment of different parts of the human body are described, and for internal disorders such as apoplexy, ophthalmia and epilepsy. Fever is treated by the blood from an ass's tail; ass milk, ground hooves and other asinine parts form essential ingredients in onopharmacology. This is all treated in what Thorndike calls "a big way and a petty manner."⁵ It is, of course, impractical for a breeder and trainer of asses, which was the major emphasis of later equine compendia.

A 14th century Arabic manual of horsemanship does provide such data and is a good example. A French translation was printed in Paris in 1852-60 by Nicolas Perron (1798-1876), the eminent French Arabist and scholar under the title *Le Nâcéri. La perfection des deux arts, ou Traité complet d'hippologie et d'hippiatrie arabes*, *Bibl. Osl.* 1715.

The *Kitab al-Nasiri* was written by Abu Bakr ibn Badr (fl. ca. 1298-1340), a veterinarian and stud-groom to the sultan Muhammad al-Nasir ibn Qala'un of Egypt and Syria. George Sarton described it as "the best-ordered and most complete book on both subjects, hippology and hippiatry written in medieval times."⁶

The great interest this book holds for horsemen of today is the material on the Arabian horse. Since the 17th century, Arabians had been imported to Europe in increasing numbers to upgrade local saddle breeds. Lighter horses had become militarily important since the decline of medieval-style warfare, and also socially, as used by nobility for the new forms of equitation, and the ceremonial occasions such as festivals and carousels. Arabians were used in England to develop a horse for racing. With Napoleon's invasion of North Africa and the continued French presence there, the romanticism of the time swept the Arab and his horse into Europe on a new wave of interest. The horse of the desert, its legendary beauty and endurance, kindled the interest of 19th century horsemen that has remained to this day. Throughout the century French studies of the history, archeology and contemporary role of the Arabian horse in North Africa were important contributions. It is no coincidence that the horses that French riders have often chosen for international competition have been the Arab-thoroughbred crosses.

Literature

The romantic view of the Arabian horse is epitomized in Eugène Sue's *Arabian Godolphin*, included in his anthology *Deleytar* (Brussels, 1839), *Bibl. Osl.* 5484. This fictionalized account of one of the progenitors of the English thoroughbred has been figured in 19th century paintings and prints, and even retold for children recently by Marguerite Henry (*King of the Wind*, first published in 1948).

Eugène Sue (1804-1857), son of physician Jean-Baptiste Sue, was not only a powerful novelist but a prominent dandy of Paris in the 1830's. He was an early member of the newly organized French Jockey Club. He owned at least one race horse, Mameluk, which ran unplaced in 1835. Sue was versed in the genealogy of thoroughbreds, and since Arabian stallions figure prominently in early thoroughbred pedigrees, he knew what there was to be known, at that time, of the Godolphin Arabian.

Arabian Godolphin came out in *La Presse* in serial form in 1838 and was a great success. A recent biographer of Sue calls it one of the best texts that French literature has devoted to the story of the horse.⁷ The novel relates the travels, hardships, trials and final triumph of an Arabian stallion, his faithful Muslim stable boy, and a cat. The horse and boy may have come from the stables of the bey of Tunis to France as a gift to Louis XIV.⁸ The small, heavy-crested bay, known in Arabic as Sham, was not thought highly of by the French. At that time they favoured the heavier, long legged Andalusian riding horse for equitation.

Eventually Edward Coke acquired him about 1730 and imported him to England, where he was used for breeding [Figure 2]. Often, crosses of Arabian and other so-called Oriental stock had proved very fast, and Sham's sons were no exception. Sham, the Byerly Turck and the Darley Arabian were to become the foundation stallions for the thoroughbred breed, nearly all of which today can trace their male lines to one or more of the three.

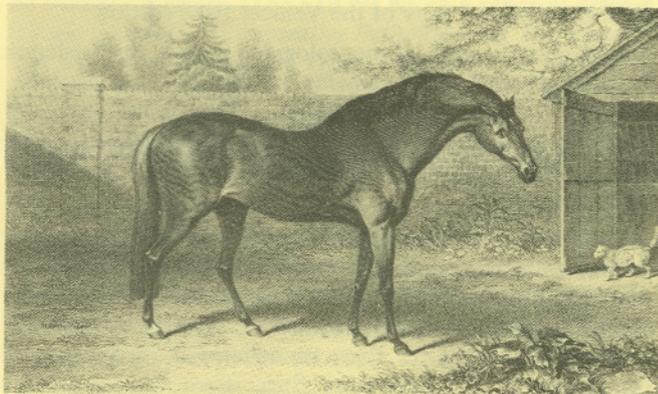


Figure 2: Horse and cat.

Stories circulated to the effect that Coke found the horse pulling a garbage cart in Paris. The horse was said to have been used after Coke's death only as a teaser for Lord Godolphin's favourite stallion Hobgoblin. The great episode in Sue's novel concerns an alleged breakaway from a groom, a fight with Hobgoblin, and his defeat, and the subsequent mating of the triumphant Arabian with Roxanna, a prized pure-white mare. Milord is supposed to have been furious. Three years, we find the colt, Lath, winning races, and the renegade Arabian suddenly esteemed!

C.M. Prior squelched all of this in an excellent study in the 1930's. He had access to a manuscript inventory of Coke's horses, upon their passing to Lord Godolphin at Coke's death in 1733. The manuscript was lost to researchers from the 1740's to the 1930's. Prior, using it, showed that in fact Sham was used steadily over a twenty-year period at stud, although not heavily by modern standards, and was indeed prized. Hobgoblin was still on the track at the time of the alleged battle.⁹ In modern times, perhaps the most famous and influential descendant of the Godolphin Arabian has been Man O'War.

General Works

Compendia on the horse in all its aspects are not the exclusive development of the 19th century, but earlier publications claiming "complete information" generally were primarily veterinary and stable manuals. The cultural history of the horse began slowly in the 18th century (with Berenger), but flourished in the 19th. With the improvement of roads, and carriages, the horse as transportation and a military force had its heyday in the first half of the century.

John Lawrence (1753-1839) contributed an interesting volume, *Bibl. Osl.* 3184, *The History and Delineation of the Horse, in All His Varieties* (London, 1809). He wrote on veterinary, agricultural and sporting topics. He was against cruelty to animals, and was an early exponent of painless killing of animals for food. *The Sporting Magazine* said of him at his death that he was "certainly an eccentric, but if the shell was husky, the kernel was sound."¹⁰

The book is not innovative, although it is full of common sense and sensitivity to the horse. He advises when shoeing a horse not to take away too much when preparing the hoof, as had been the barbarous fashion for centuries. Possibly aware of the new knowledge of equine anatomy then being published, particularly on the hoof, he recommends paring only so that it will present a flat surface to shoe and ground.

However, he advocated soaking horses' hooves in water daily, unthinkable now. Xenophon also recommended against it. Lawrence also said that "a Thoroughly managed horse is spoiled for other purposes." This is a reference to classical 17th and 18th century methods of producing a collected, completely controlled horse, dependent completely on cues from the rider. Most of Lawrence's readers would have wanted an obedient horse, but one which could "find his way" and follow hounds without what many Englishmen saw as overdirection on the part of *manège* (or riding school) riders.

The illustrations and design elements of the book are also interesting. The added engraved title page has a charming vignette, based on details in a painting of George Stubbs of a mare and foal in a field. There are many engraved plates of famous contemporary and earlier thoroughbreds and Arabians, including the Godolphin Arabian with his cat, [Figure 2]. The woodcut vignettes, decorating each chapter's end, reflect the horse of the people, carting, hunting with poachers, struggling with heavy loads on muddy roads, dying, or in a blacksmith's shop. These were cut by Thomas Bewick, the 19th century master of woodblock engraving [Figure 3].



Figure 3: Horse and blacksmith.

With regard to the thoroughbred, an interesting attempt to trace the breed to its sources was made by the Cambridge classical scholar Sir William Ridgeway in *The Origin and Influence of the Thoroughbred Horse* (Cambridge, 1905), *Bibl. Osl.* 3804. Ridgeway brought his vast experience in the classical field in the critical examination of data, particularly coins from ancient times, to bear on this complex topic.

His thesis was that the development of the modern thoroughbred stemmed from a "Homeric" ancestor through a mixture of indigenous North African horses and zebraic equidae, to develop the "Arabian" horse during the rise of Islam. The book is dedicated to James Cossar Ewart, an experimental zoologist and developmental anatomist whose publications on the horse influenced him. Ewart performed numerous hybrid breeding experiments with horses, ponies, zebras and asses, and examined the results in relation to the theory of telegony. He believed, as a result, that the first mate of a female did not influence the offspring ("infect the mare's germ plasm") by subsequent mates. Ridgeway was to use some of Ewart's admittedly inconclusive data in his arguments. Ewart's work, *The Penycuik Experiments*, was published in London in 1899, shortly before the "rediscovery" of Gregor Mendel's work, and reflects this. Ridgeway too remained uninfluenced by Mendelian theories of heredity.

Ridgeway could serve the unwary historian as a sad example, in *The Origin*, of "a little knowledge ... but not enough." He was not a zoologist, anthropologist or horseman, and classical-historical training was not enough to save him from calamity.

A basic question in the history of the horse is: are all modern horse breeds and types descended and selectively developed from a common prehistoric ancestral species, or were there more than one? If so, can they be identified, and where did they develop? Ridgeway plunged into this debate with gusto.

Prevailing opinion is and has been for most of this century that if there were more than one species or type, they might be described as the "European" and "Asiatic", or cold and

Editorial Committee for the *Newsletter*: E.H. Bensley, Editor; Susan Biggs, Associate Editor; Philip Teigen, Librarian; Karl Holeczek, Photography.

hot blooded types. Selection, interbreeding and environmental factors could produce the racers, ponies, draft horses we see today. Some zoologists are willing to consider the Arabian a distinct species, representative of an Asiatic type. Paleontological and anatomical evidence is inconclusive.

Soon after the publication of *The Origin*, Richard Lydekker, geologist, paleontologist and specialist in mammals, remarked that Ridgeway's "... theory of the origin of Arab type from the zebra-quagga group has not a leg to stand upon."¹¹ Geneticists attacked his coat color and breed theories. Arabists claimed he had no idea of the desert Arabian culture and tribal breeding practices. His great mass of accumulated data simply did not stand up to critical evaluation. The academic reputation of the author still impresses unsophisticated horsemen, who are unaware of the criticism it evoked when published.

Veterinary Medicine

The earliest item of interest to the horseman in the *Bibliotheca Osleriana* is Jean Ruel's Latin translation of the Byzantine collection, *Hippiatrika*, under the title *Veterinariae medicinae libri II* (Paris, 1530), *Bibl. Osl.* 3851. Ruel was a learned physician who prepared editions of Hippocrates, Galen and other medical writers. He became Dean of Faculté de médecine, Paris, and court physician to François I. In his edition of the *Hippiatrika*, he collected the writings of various authors on a topic, such as feeding, and presented all the authors' commentaries. Soon after, Simon Grynaeus, a professor of Greek at Heidelberg, and later a physician of Zürich, produced a Greek edition (Basel, 1537), admired for its literary quality. Like Ruel, Grynaeus (although thought only second to Camerarius in scholarship) did not identify the manuscripts from which he worked. This is unfortunate as the two works are not exactly the same in their contents.

Carlo Ruini (ca. 1530-1598) died before his work, *Anatomia del cavallo* (Bologna, 1598), was published but his son saw it through the press. It ran into many editions and the illustrations were plagiarized into the late 18th century. *Bibl. Osl.* 918 is a copy of the Venice, 1618 edition.

Of the contributions of the Bolognese lawyer, Sir Frederick Smith expressed what remains to this day the majority opinion: "At the hands of Ruini ... the subject of equine anatomy jumped at a single bound from the blackest ignorance to relative perfection, the degree of which it is difficult to exaggerate."¹²

Ruini did for the horse what Vesalius did for man, making available illustrations and commentary based on actual dissections. The early editions of both texts are blessed with finely drawn and printed illustrations. As with Vesalius' *De corporis humani fabrica*, there are debates on the identity of the illustrator of Ruini's work. Suggestions that Leonardo's drawings were used, or that an *écorché* bronze of "the studio of Leonardo" have been made. H.P. Bayon concluded that whoever was responsible, the artistic excellence of the illustrations was not afterwards approached until George Stubbs' *The Anatomy of the Horse* of 1766¹³. Indeed, anatomical dissection for veterinary purposes was not revived again until the 18th century with the founding of the first veterinary schools in France.

Ruini's work is not, as was also the case of Vesalius, a violent break with the past; nor was it perfect. Cole points out that although Ruini described the lesser circulation (a strong

reason for Sir William Osler to add it to his collection), his work is not as definitive as that of Michael Servetus. He also missed the pancreas and described the first rib as a clavicle (which horses do not have).¹⁴

The second part, "Infermità del cavallo et suoi rimedii," is now generally ignored as a typical Galenic-medieval composite of descriptions of equine diseases and disorders and their causes and cures. Little space is devoted to important leg and hoof problems.

The author of *Bibl. Osl.* 3925, Filippo Scaccho da Taglicozzo, is virtually unknown except for his *Opera di mescalzia* (Rome, 1591). It has little to offer save as a good example of the lack of real anatomical knowledge of the horse before and long after Ruini. The information from experimental biology or anatomy that had been learned in the medical schools was unavailable to or unknown by the horse leeches or farriers. The many woodcuts are interesting, although as F.J. Cole remarks, insofar as accuracy is concerned or compared to Ruini's publication, they are [to us] "the grossest caricatures."¹⁵ The Osler copy came from the collection of a prominent Parisian veterinarian of the middle 19th century, Léon Barthélemy.

History and Bibliography

Louis George Neumann (1846-1950) contributed a good collection of *Biographies vétérinaires* (Paris, 1896), *Bibl. Osl.* 6743. Neumann was a veterinary parasitologist, educated at the Ecole vétérinaire d'Alfort. He taught at the Ecole vétérinaire de Toulouse, and was the author of several works on his specialty as well as this work. It is alphabetically arranged, with bibliographic references, a subject index, and some portraits, "dessinés par l'auteur." The coverage is good, particularly for French 19th century veterinarians, but is by no means limited to them; there are some good sketches of British veterinarians, for example.

Sir Frederick Smith (1857-1929) wrote a series of articles for the *Journal of Comparative Pathology and Therapeutics* that interested Sir William Osler, who wrote for reprints of those parts published from 1914-1918. Smith sent them with the following comment: "I hope to live to complete the task, but should I not, I have the satisfaction of feeling that by far the most difficult part has been dealt with, and that the remaining part of the road though long is quite easy. That someone will be found willing to make the journey I have little doubt."¹⁶ Smith was able to see the proofs for volume 3 but it was left to a colleague, F. Bullock, to complete volume 4. Bullock included biographical notes on Smith in volume 4 as well.

Smith was a diplomate of the Royal Veterinary College, London, who spent most of his professional life in the Army Veterinary Service. He served in India (1877-1878), the Nile campaign (1898), and South Africa (1899). His particular contribution was the improvement of grooming, hygiene, and saddle pads which greatly reduced sore backs in cavalry horses, a common problem. He also improved shoeing practices in the cavalry by encouraging the proper training of farriers. He taught at the Army Veterinary School, Aldershot, and produced important papers on veterinary medicine. Throughout his life he was zealous and tireless investigator.

The Early History of Veterinary Literature and its British Development was finally published in book form from 1919-1924 in London in 4 volumes, of which the first two form *Bibl. Osl.* 7345. It examines the development of the literature (mostly equine and bovine anatomy, surgery and therapeutics) from Babylonian times into the late 19th century. It is as accurate and informative as Smith could make it with the information he could gather. Unfortunately, all the titles he discusses are cited in their English translation; this is very misleading. Smith brings his knowledge and that of his time to bear on that of his predecessors in a way that often implies they should have known better than practise veterinary medicine in such an ignorant way. His comments are often scathing and the earlier volumes make for lively reading.

Only once has an attempt been made to list all publications dealing with horses, that of Captain Frederick Henry Huth, who published an extensive and almost exhaustive *Bibliography of Works on Horsemanship* (London, 1884). However, he did not give any biographical data, bibliographical details or critical evaluation. General Gabriel René Mennesier de La Lance (1835-1924) succeeded admirably in his *Essai de bibliographie hippique*, 2 vols. and supplement (Paris, 1915-1921), *Bibl. Osl.* 7208 (main volumes only).

Even observing the limitations of language (only those published or translated into Latin or French are included), about 4,500 titles are listed, about the same as Huth came up with. Information on translations into other languages is included. The biographical notes are unique in hippobibliography. Physical details on size, pagination, and graphic aspects are carefully presented. Most printed formats are included: monographs, journals, series, annuals, studbooks, selected articles when he had a reprint, or even series of prints are included. When in rare instances the General did not actually examine a copy he noted this. He possessed a substantial personal collection, part of which is now at the Beinecke Library at Yale and which has been briefly described.¹⁷

The chief value, perhaps, lies in the critical annotations. The General knew the texts and never hesitated to criticize or applaud. His evaluations of the works known to him have stood the test of time. As Sir William Osler said in his enthusiastic review, "Students of the horse in all its relations owe a deep debt of gratitude to General Mennesier de La Lance for this comprehensive and valuable work, so full of accurate and careful scholarship."¹⁸

NOTES

1. Margaret B. Stillwell, *The Awakening Interest in Science During the First Century of Printing* (New York, 1970), p. 193.
2. Sir John Edwin Sandys, *A History of Classical Scholarship*, 3 vols. (Cambridge, 1903-1908), vol. 2, p. 266.
3. Sir Frederick Smith, *The Early History of Veterinary Literature*, 4 vols. (London, 1919-1933), vol. 1, p. 128.
4. Richard Berenger, *The History and Art of Horsemanship*, 2 vols. (London, 1771), vol. 1, pp. 219-270.
5. Lynn Thorndike, *A History of Magic and Experimental Science*, 8 vols. (New York, 1929-1958), vol. 8, p. 48.

6. George Sarton, *An Introduction to the History of Science*, 3 vols. in 5 (Baltimore, 1927-1948), vol. III: 1, p. 826.
7. Jean Louis Bory, *Eugène Süe, le roi du romain populaire* (Paris, 1962), p. 215.
8. Judith Anne Dorothea Blunt-Lytton, Lady Wentworth, *Thoroughbred Racing Stock*, rev. ed. (London, 1956), p. 188.
9. Charles Matthew Prior, *The Royal Studs of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries* (London, 1935), p. 131.
10. *Sporting Magazine* (1839), XIX (ser. 2), 63.
11. Richard Lydekker, *The Horse and its Relatives* (New York, 1912), p. 156.
12. Smith, *The Early History of Veterinary Literature*, vol. 1, p. 209.
13. H.P. Bayon, "The Authorship of Carlo Ruini's Anatomia," *Journal of Comparative Pathology and Therapeutics* (1935), XLVIII, 138-148.
14. Francis Joseph Cole, *A History of Comparative Anatomy* (London, 1949), p. 96.
15. *Ibid.*, p. 89.
16. Sir Frederick Smith, Excerpts of letter to Sir William Osler, February 17, 1918, inserted in *Bibl. Osl.* 7345.
17. Thomas Marston, "Books on Horses," *Yale University Library Gazette* (1965), XXXIX, 105-134.
18. Sir William Osler, "Essai de bibliographie hippique," *Veterinary Review*, (1918), II, 1-4, p.4.

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GOLDEN MIRROR OF MEDICINE

An encyclopedia of classic Chinese medicine*

The "encyclopedia", the *Golden Mirror of Medicine*, (Yi-Tsung Chin-Chien) was one of the best treatises on general medicine at its completion during the early Ching dynasty. It was compiled by a staff of 80 persons of the Chinese Academy of Medicine in compliance with an imperial order of the Emperor Ch'ien Lung, and issued in 1740.

The Emperor stated, "You physicians of the Royal College are required to revise the works on medicine and to prepare a new edition, whereby the healing art may be improved."

The *Golden Mirror of Medicine* thus is much more a compilation than an original treatise. It combines new medical works of the time with traditional works, some of which date back as far as the 3rd Century A.D. For example, the first seventeen sections of *Golden Mirror* (Shang Han Lun) and the eight sections which follow (Chin-kui Yao-lueh) were composed by Chang Chung-Ching and originally pub-

lished in 217 A.D. The greatest physician that China has ever produced, Chang Chung-Ching, is often spoken of as the Chinese Hippocrates and is venerated as the "Sage of Medicine."

The work, then, is made up of extracts, revisions, corrections and summaries. As stated in an abstract of the *Golden Mirror of Medicine* published in the early 19th century, "The compilers of the new work propose ... to arrange each disease under its proper head; to exclude what is contradictory, to retain what is perspicuous and practical, and to add the discoveries of modern practice."**

The "encyclopedia," which is a term used for convenience, consists of 30 books, which comprise 90 sections. The following is a more detailed explanation of the sections and their contents.

Sections 1-17: Treatise on Fever (Shang Han Lun)

The theoretical nature of the internal disease. Often related to theories of Ying and Yang (i.e., cold and heat), it is discussed in depth in these sections. It is important to point out here that Shang Han Lun, often erroneously translated as "typhoid fever," actually deals with diverse types of fever, the various causes, the state of development and the appropriate treatment.

Sections 18-25: Synopsis of the Golden Chamber (Chin-kui Yao-lueh)

Diagnosis and treatment of internal disease, i.e., stroke, pulmonary infection, cardiac disturbance, jaundice, food intoxication, dietary treatment.

Sections 26-33: Prescriptions of the Celebrated Physicians

Revised edition. Includes herbal, dietary and chemical preparations.

Section 34: The Four Medical Examination Methods

The four methods: (1) inspection; (2) auscultation; (3) pulse examination; (4) symptoms and signs.

Section 35: The Essence of Breath Control

Is a dissertation, intended to be very profound and ingenious, "De Natura Rerum," the origination of all things, as well as disease, from nothing.

Sections 36-38: The Diagnosis and Treatment of Fever

The practical diagnosis of the cold or hot nature of the disease, and their interaction with one another.

Sections 39-43: The Essence and Treatment of the Various Diseases

Treatment of apoplexy, beri-beri, haemorrhage, epilepsy, asthma, cholera, dysentery, etc.

Sections 44-49: Gynaecological and Obstetric Treatment

Treatment of menstrual disorder, discharge, diagnosis of pregnancy, diseases in parturition, puerperal diseases, etc.

*Recently purchased by the Osler Library using funds donated by the Friends.

**A. Pearson, "Abstract of the contents of a work on Chinese Medicine..." *Transactions of the Medical and Physical Society of Calcutta*, 1826, 2: 122-136.

Sections 50-55: Paediatric Treatment

Infantile disease and its specific care.

Sections 56-60: Diagnosis, Treatment and Inoculation of Smallpox

Particularly of interest in these sections is the treatment of the complications of smallpox.

Sections 61-76: The Essence of Surgical Treatment

The general treatment of tumours, ulceration and infection, as well as the application of ointment and anaesthetics. Also the specific treatment of tumours, ulcerations and infections.

Sections 77-78: Ophthalmological Treatment**Sections 79-86: The Essence of Acupuncture and Moxibustion**

These sections are richly illustrated with diagrams showing the points of the meridian for acupuncture. They also point out the method of needle insertion, the correct location on the body and the relationship to the treatment of different diseases.

Sections 87-90: Orthopaedic Treatment

Deals with treatment of the fracture of bones and the dislocation of joints.

This recent purchase by the Osler Library has great value in its antiquity. The Library was able to obtain the *Golden Mirror* almost in its entirety; only sections 64-65 and 80-83 are missing.

The *Golden Mirror of Medicine* is not merely a set of rare and old books, string bound and well illustrated. It is also a work rich in historical and philosophical detail tracing the development of Chinese medicine.

P.Y. Han, M.D.
Faculty of Medicine
McGill University

FRIENDS OF THE OSLER LIBRARY

With this issue of the *Newsletter* an appeal for funds for the 1974-75 academic year is launched by the Friends of the Osler Library. Friends who wish to contribute to this appeal are asked to fill in the enclosed pink form and to return it with their cheques to the designated address.

In addition to making possible the publication of the *Newsletter*, the contributions from the Friends have enabled the Osler Library to purchase an 18th century Chinese medical encyclopedia, the *Golden Mirror of Medicine*. Dr. P.Y. Han, a keen student of Chinese history and culture, was asked to examine this work. He very kindly consented and his description of it appears in this *Newsletter*.

For 1974-1975, the *Bibliotheca Osleriana* is being made available to our Friends at the reduced price of \$40, (instead of the regular \$65). Most of the copies of this 1969 reprint have been sold but a few remain. The Osler Library would like to make these more accessible to the Friends in appreciation for their support. A blue order form has been inserted. Please note that, in order to take advantage of this reduction, it is necessary to submit your order to the Friends of the Osler Library at the Montreal address.

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