

Miss Janet Long, Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing, has presented the Library the gray and white uniform and regulation cape worn by the RN at Strong Memorial Hospital. They will be added to the Nursing Archives collection in the History of Medicine Section of the Library.

A six-foot, free-standing anatomical diagram has been given to the Library by Dr. and Mrs. John Romano. The diagram was used by Mrs. Romano's great uncle when he was a medical student at the University of Cincinnati, 1870-80. He died of diphtheria just before he was to have been graduated.

The diagram will be on display in the History of Medicine Section of the Library.

HISTORY OF MEDICINE SEMINARS

Dr. Richard Satran will be the speaker at the History of Medicine Seminar to be held in the History of Medicine Section of the Library at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, February 21, 1974. His topic will be "Joseph Babinski fails his examination for tenure."

Future speakers will include:

Miss Gertrude L. Annan, Librarian Emeritus of the New York Academy of Medicine Library and internationally known consultant in the areas of history of medicine and rare books, who will talk on rare books and collecting, Tuesday, March 5; Mr. David B. Lovejoy, Jr., third year medical student, whose topic will be "American hospitals and government subsidy," on Thursday, April 18; and Dr. Joseph V. McDonald who will speak on "William W. Reid, Rochester physician and pioneer of orthopedics," on Thursday, May 16.

All seminars are held at 4:00 p.m. in the History of Medicine Section of the Library and everyone is invited to attend.

MEDICAL CENTER BIBLIOGRAPHY

The third annual bibliography of publications by the faculty, staff and students of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and the School of Nursing is published as a Special Supplement to the Edward G. Miner Library Bulletin.

The bibliography is a cumulation of the papers listed in the monthly issues of the Bulletin for 1973. In addition to the listing of papers, monthly and annual, the Library maintains a card catalog of publications by author which is housed in the Reading Room. Since 1967, the reprints have been bound and are shelved in the Reading Room.

The Library receives one copy of each journal article or book chapter from the Deans' offices. Authors are encouraged to check the Library's holdings and to forward copies of any papers not listed in order that the Medical Center publications listing is complete.

HISTORY OF MEDICINE SECTION

Rudolf Virchow Collection

Dr. Milton G. Bohrod, Clinical Associate Professor of Pathology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and former head of the Pathology Department of the Rochester General Hospital, has given the Edward G. Miner Library a collection of thirteen works by and about the great nineteenth century pathologist, anthropologist, archaeologist, etc., Rudolf Virchow. Although the collection is relatively small—Virchow's bibliography runs to over 2,000 items—it is very choice. His most important medical work, Die Cellularpathologie, the foundation stone of modern pathology and one of the greatest medical classics, is represented by the first London edition and the fourth, and last, German edition.

Wilhelm Haberling has written that, "The modern era of medicine may be said to begin with the year 1858, in which Rudolf Virchow published his famous work on 'Cellular Pathology.'" Happily, the Library does have a copy of the first edition, but the copy of the fourth edition presented by Dr. Bohrod is of the greatest interest, having once belonged to the famous embryologist Wilhelm Roux. It contains his book stamp on the fly leaf and his lightly pencilled autograph on the title page. The book is also heavily underlined, and it contains numerous marginal notes in what appears to be some form of shorthand. There is some doubt whether these notes are in the hand of Roux (a doubt which the Library is attempting to resolve), but even if they are not, this copy certainly has great association value. Roux was a student of Virchow, and it might almost be said that Roux did for experimental embryology what Virchow did for experimental pathology. Both men did pioneering research in their respective fields; both founded important research institutes; and both founded the leading journals in their fields, Virchow's Archiv and Wilhelm Roux's Archiv. Both journals are still being published and are still among the best.

Another classic in Dr. Bohrod's collection is Virchow's Die krankhaften Geschwülste, Berlin, 1863-67, 3 vols., which the Garrison-Morton checklist of medical classics calls one of the most important source books on cancer. It contains one of Virchow's few mistakes, however—the theory of the connective tissue origin of carcinoma. According to Dr. Erwin Ackerknecht, Virchow's biographer, this was Virchow's most ambitious literary undertaking. It was never finished, however, apparently because Virchow had doubts about his connective tissue theory.

The dissection manual written by Virchow for use at the Charité Hospital in Berlin, Die Sektions-technik, is represented by the fourth German edition, Berlin, 1893, and the 3rd American from the 4th German edition, Philadelphia, 1891. Dr. Andrew D. Smith of New York, a postgraduate student of Virchow's, recorded that while a medical student in New York he had seen a few autopsies, all of which were made for the sole purpose of discovering the immediate cause of death. The moment this was determined, the autopsy was considered finished. Virchow, however, used the autopsy as a means of teaching all of the pathology that a particular cadaver could be made to teach. Dr. Smith went on to give a most interesting description of how Virchow performed a postmortem examination—with great speed, yet with great thoroughness (cf. British Medical Journal, II, Sept. 13, 1902, p. 797).

Sir William Osler wrote of Virchow, " . . . he has been one of the most powerful advocates in Germany for sanitary reform; and it is not too much to say that it is largely to his efforts that the city of Berlin owes its magnificent system of drainage. His work in this department has been simply monumental, and characterized by the thoroughness which marks the specialist" (cf. Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, 125, Oct. 22, 1891, p. 426). Two books from the Bohrod collection illustrate Virchow's contributions in this area, the Reinigung und Entwässerung Berlins, Berlin, 1873, and Die Anstalten der Stadt Berlin für die öffentliche Gesundheitspflege und für den naturwissenschaftlichen Unterricht . . . Berlin, 1886. The first is a report of the work of a committee appointed by the city to investigate the problem of providing drainage canals for the city of Berlin, and was written by Virchow in his capacity as a member of the city council. Virchow was deeply involved in politics, city and national, throughout his career, and he even referred to cells as citizens in the human body politic, as it were. Before Virchow's time, the city of Berlin had no central water supply, and most people obtained their water from wells which had been polluted because of the lack of adequate sewage disposal—this at a time when outdoor privy's were in abundance. Virchow's report contains several tables showing mortality from various communicable diseases which could be traced to water pollution and a beautiful colored topographical map of Berlin showing the different types of soil, groundwater, etc.

The Anstalten der Stadt Berlin is a detailed and profusely illustrated work on Berlin's public health institutions, including hospitals. It is a Festschrift presented by the city to the 59th congress of the Versammlung Deutscher Naturforscher und Aerzte. The various sections of the book were compiled from original reports by various administrative bodies and specialists, and the whole work was supervised by Virchow and edited by Albert Guttstadt. It is a mine of information about every aspect of public health in Berlin at this time, and it contains numerous views of buildings, floor plans, maps, tables, etc.

The Bohrod gift also contains the two important collections of Virchow's papers, the Gesammelte Abhandlungen zur wissenschaftliche Medizin, 1856, and the Gesammelte Abhandlungen aus dem Gebiet der öffentlichen Medizin und der Seuchenlehre, 1879 (vol. 1 only). Still another important work in the collection is the Handbuch der speciellen Pathologie und Therapie, Erlangen, 1854-1857, 2 vols. in 3. This was edited by Virchow and others and contains a long introductory chapter in the first volume by Virchow in which he gives the first general synthesis of his ideas about the nature of life and disease processes.

Ackerknecht states that this chapter was entirely based on "pathological physiology" with very little morphology and almost no microscopy entering the picture. Virchow had to cover a number of fields outside his area of expertise and was forced to report the observations and theories of others, a fact which gives it great historical importance today but which deprived it of originality and the force of his own authority. It had little impact, and Virchow, realizing its shortcomings, began to develop a new synthesis entirely his own which resulted in the publication four years later of his great work on cellular pathology.

Carl Posner's biography of Virchow in the Meister der Heilkunde series is the only book in the collection which contains Dr. Bohrod's beautiful bookplate. The bookplate, which depicts a bearded scholar looking up from his books and obviously daydreaming about more pleasant things, was designed by Dr. Bohrod's brother Aaron, one of the most famous contemporary American artists.

The Bohrod collection of Virchowiana forms a substantial addition to the small collection already in the Library, and it gives the Library a strong foundation on which to build.

Medical History Articles by Rochesterians

The lead article in the May/June 1973 issue of the Bulletin of the history of medicine is by Dr. Edward C. Atwater, Associate Professor of Medicine and Assistant Professor of the History of Medicine. Entitled "The medical profession in a new society, Rochester, New York (1811-60)," it was based on a paper which Dr. Atwater read before the 45th annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, held in Montreal, May 4, 1972. Dr. Atwater also presented this paper before the George Washington Corner History of Medicine Society. In this same issue of the Bulletin of the history of medicine is a book review by Dr. Atwater of Dr. Gerd Brieger's anthology, Medical America in the nineteenth century, published by the Johns Hopkins University Press. Dr. Atwater, whose own specialty is 19th century American medicine, gave the work a very favorable review.

Gifts

The Department of Microbiology, through the good offices of Miss Agnes Clark, Executive Secretary of the Department, gave the Library several interesting pieces of laboratory glassware which had been in the Department since the early days of the medical school. We have not yet succeeded in fully identifying this glassware, and we would be happy to show it to anyone willing to help us identify it more precisely.

Correction

Professor James Rieger has pointed out that Dr. John William Polidori, mentioned in connection with the notice on the acquisition of Giovanni Aldini's An account of the late improvements in Galvanism in the December, 1973 issue of the Bulletin, did not appear as a character in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. He did, however, figure largely in the recent television adaptation, billed as "the true story" of this classic work. All of which proves conclusively that the undersigned saw the play but did not read the book.

Philip J. Weimerskirch
History of Medicine Librarian