BOOKS IN REVIEW

Readers are reminded that suggestions of titles for review will be gladly received. Publishers are invited to send copies of works of bibliographical interest to the Review Editor. Reviews will be printed, whenever possible, in the language of the book under review: French or English. We shall be pleased to hear from subject specialists who are willing to review new publications in their field. Progress reports on works in preparation for the press are welcomed.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Professor John Hare of the University of Ottawa and his colleague Professor Jean-Pierre Wallot of the University of Toronto, are preparing the second volume of their *Les Imprimés dans le Bas-Canada, 1801-1840: bibliographie analytique*. The first volume was reviewed in the last issue of these *Papers*. The new volume, which covers imprints of the period 1811-1820, is approaching completion: the bibliographical descriptions are finished, as are the locations of copies for most of the entries. The compilers expect to complete the manuscript during the present summer, and to have it ready for the press by the end of 1970. It will be published by Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal.

The Editor takes this opportunity of expressing his thanks publicly to contributors, who worked to a close deadline and for the most part without even the incentive of personal review copies, and to others who have made helpful suggestions of suitable titles for review.

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Bibliotheca Osleriana, edited by W. W. Francis, R. H. Hill, and Archibald Malloch, with a new introduction by Lloyd G. Stevenson, and corrigenda and addenda. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1969. xlii, 792 p. \$65.00

The McGill-Queen's University Press has re-issued by photo-reprint this catalogue which was first published in 1929 by the Clarendon Press. Lloyd G. Steven-

son, Professor of the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins and formerly Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at McGill, has supplied a short prologue to this new edition, and the useful device of a "running foot" (analyzing the entry numbers in the catalogue by section) has been added to the voluminous index. Six pages of Addenda and Corrigenda provide additions to the index and make corrections to "actual errors appearing in the original printing."

The *Bibliotheca Osleriana* is to be found on the reference shelves of all major libraries and there has long been a demand for a new edition, but its reappearance provides an opportunity to assess the nature and appeal of the work itself. It is not a bibliography of the works of medical men and scientists: it is concerned rather with particular copies of works. It is not, on the other hand, a library catalogue in the strict sense of the term: even within the walls of the Osler Library in Montreal it did not serve to locate books until the Osler librarian, the late D. W. W. Francis, had shelf marks added in the margin of the library's working copies; and the celebrated notes in the *Bibliotheca* are an amalgam of technical detail, autobiography, and reminiscence by Osler concerning the acquisition of his particular copy. If the phrase is properly understood, the *Bibliotheca* can be called a bio-bibliography, the life in question being that of the collector, Osler himself. The volume describes some 7800 works, but not so much in their own right as in their relation to the man who collected, read, and loved them.

Attitudes towards books have changed significantly since Osler's day, and someone now reading the *Bibliotheca* for the first time will be surprised to recognize how fully Osler accepted his books and their authors as part of the living human community in which he moved. The phrase "comes viae vitaeque," which he applied on his deathbed to his favourite volume of Sir Thomas Browne, could in a sense have been applied to any book in his library. The friends and colleagues who completed the *Bibliotheca* after Osler's death experienced the remarkable sensation that they remained in contact with Osler through their work on his books. The generosity that made 13 Norham Gardens, Oxford, the "Open Arms," also made provision for a library in Montreal where his books continued to offer the welcome which he had offered during his lifetime. The *Bibliotheca Osleriana*, in recording the relation of Osler to his books, records also a particular phase in the history of books themselves.

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A Bibliography of Lambton County and the City of Sarnia, Ontario, compiled by Edward Phelps. London: General Library, University of Western Ontario, 1970. Library Bulletin Series. No. 8. [viii], 146 p. \$2.00