Review Articles

Bibliotheca Walleriana


Now that the catalog of this remarkable collection of some 21,000 volumes has been published, it is not an exaggeration to say that this is a bibliographical event of a high order. The catalog presents a collection the possession of which has made Uppsala one of the world's centers for research in the history of medicine and science.

The material has been classified systematically. The list of 150 incunabula is followed by the main section, medicine, subdivided into veterinary medicine and dentistry. This material forms volume 1 and includes some 10,800 items. Volume 2, with some 10,000 additional items, is arranged in the following sections: natural sciences in general, chemistry (including alchemy), physics, botany, zoology, astronomy, other natural sciences; history of science in general, history of medicine, and history of natural sciences; biography (general) and biography (special); bibliography, with a sub-section, literature on autographs; and finally, miscellaneous. The largest sections in this second volume are those of history of medicine, with about 3,000 items; biography, about 2,300 items; and bibliography, over 1,300 items.

The material has been arranged alphabetically, with the one exception that works of some of the most important authors whose production has been treated in modern bibliographies were classified in accordance with the bibliographical treatment concerned, and under the numbers there established. For instance, the comprehensive Hippocrates collection has been arranged in accordance with the catalog of the British Museum.

The titles are given in full. Printers' and publishers' names are indicated for imprints prior to 1700. There are detailed data on number of pages, type pages unnumbered or paginated by a special method, illustrations, number of plates, and supplementary material, if any. Information, when considered of interest, is given in a special type of print, e.g. references to bibliographies, data on provenience, etc. The volume ends with an extremely detailed general index to the entire catalog. The catalog is written in English and contains 56 full-page plates, including 8 color plates. The format is 182x260 mm.

The catalog of the Bibliotheca Walleriana will be welcomed as a valuable reference work by librarians, scholars, book collectors and booksellers. In addition to reliable bibliographic information, the comprehensive index with thousands of entries refers to the literature of a variety of fields in the area of medicine and historical research. No reference library attempting to cover these fields can afford to pass up these volumes.—T. P. Fleming, Columbia University.

Future of the Book


The subtitle of this collection gives a better indication of its content than does the more provocative wording, "The Future of the Book," for in the main the ten authors do not indulge in prophecy but derive opinions from careful study of past and present realities: they have used the microscope rather