
A series of six historical studies previously published in Dutch reviews:

I. Theobald van Hogelande (b. ab. 1560 in Middelburg, Zeeland, d. 1608), a very good type of xviith century alchemist of the best kind, that is, an honest and learned man, but lacking common and critical sense. Jaeger gives us a very elaborate study of his family, and of his life and work (p. 1-50).

II. David van Goorle as atomist, and the Van Goorle family in the N. Netherlands — David van Goorle was born in 1591, January 15 in Utrecht, he died in 1612, April 21 in Cornjum. He is known by two posthumous works: Davidis Gorlæi Ultrajectini Exercitationes Philosophicae quibus universa fere discutitur Philosophia Theoretica, et plurima ac praecipua Peripateticorum dogmata evituntur, Leiden, 1620; Idea Physicæ, cui adjuncta est Epistola cuiusdam Anonymi de Terræ motu, Utrecht, 1651. Gorlacus was an important personality, a forerunner of Descartes and also with the German Daniel Sennert (1572-1637), a forerunner of Robert Boyle (p. 51-98).

III. Anselmus Boëtius de Boodt (born in Brugge, Flanders 1550 — d. Brugge, 1632, June 21). Belgian naturalist and traveller, physician to the emperor Rudolph II. His main work is his Gemmarum et Lapidum Historia, quâ non solum ortus, vis et pretium, sed etiam modus quo ex illis olea, salia, tincturæ, arcania et magisteria arte chymica confici possunt, ostenditur. Hanau, 1609, which remained the standard book of mineralogy for a considerable time, and has been frequently published. A. de Boodt was a very learned and intelligent man, who although still a peripatetician has already a modern outlook; he was a Roman Catholic and his culture was chiefly Latin (as opposed to Germanic) (p. 99-149).

IV. Berend Coenders van Helpen, a xviiith century alchemist of Groningen. This Dutch alchemist was born in Groningen, 1601, June, he died in Copenhagen, 1678, January. His was rather an insignificant personality (p. 150 170). He is not included in Ferguson’s Bibliotheca Chemica.

V. Willem Homberg (born in Batavia, 1652, January 8 — d. 1715 September 24). A great chemical experimenter, to whom many discoveries are ascribed; not a great scientist. Jaeger gives us a list of his scientific papers, from 1591 to 1714, with critical notes (p. 171-197).
VI. Three hundred years of chemical teaching at the University of Groningen, followed by bibliographical lists (p. 198-254).

The author has provided many elaborate foot notes elucidating the text (ex. gr. giving information upon the persons quoted) and there is also a good index. His book is an important contribution to the history of Science in the Netherlands in the xvith and xvith centuries. For other publications of the same author see Isis, IV, 32-38, 83.

G. S.


The « Almanach noua », edited by the astronomer Justus Stöffler of Tübingen and Jakob Pflaum of Ulm, Ulm 1499 (1) had announced for the year 1524, an extraordinarily large amount of planetary conjunctions in Pisces and hence had predicted that extraordinary events would occur in that year. At first little attention was paid to this prognosis, but in 1517, Agostino Nirò, Suessano, published in Florence a book entitled De falsa diluvi. prognosticatione quae ex conventu omnium planetarum, qui in piscibus continget, anno 1524 divulgata est, which started a furious polemic, involving 56 authors (2) and causing at least 133 (3) writings to be printed. Never were so many books published on an astrological topic, and this is partly explained by the fact that this controversy occurred when astrology was at its height.

Hellmann's fundamental memoir is chiefly devoted to a masterly description of these writings, preceded by a short history of astrology in general and of this special controversy in particular. Most of these writings appeared between 1517 and 1524; a few of 1524 or of a later date, were published to explain why no flood happened on the fatidical year. The memoir is followed by 34 full-page fac-similes of the most important title-pages. It is to be noted that Nirò's writing of 1517 which started the controversy, if still extant, must be exceedingly rare, for Hellmann failed to discover a copy of it, although he applied to 52 Italian libraries; of the 2nd ed. (Naples, 1519) he knows

(1) Incorrectly described by Hain (15085) and Copinger. Described by Hellmann in his Neudrucke..., Nr. 13, 1901.
(2) Amongst whom, 20 Italian, 19 Germans and Austrians, 5 Spaniards, 4 Poles, etc.
(3) 62 in Latin, 50 in German, 10 in Italian, etc.