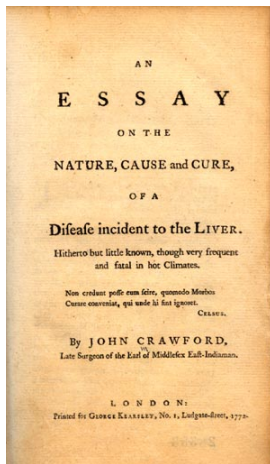


The Crawford Collection

By Richard Behles

John Crawford died greatly in debt, following the substantial decline of his practice. Scorned by much of the medical profession for his theories, and not having acquired great personal wealth, his dwindling professional reputation eroded the last of his financial resources. In spite of his professional disfavor, however, he managed to cultivate and enjoy a friendship with the great Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia. In his diary dated Nov. 16, 1808, Rush wrote of Crawford:

This evening Dr. Crawford of Baltimore drank tea with me ... The doctor said he had lost all his business by propagating an unpopular opinion in medicine, namely, that all diseases were occasioned by animalculae. He said he was sixty-two years of age and not worth a cent, but in debt. 1

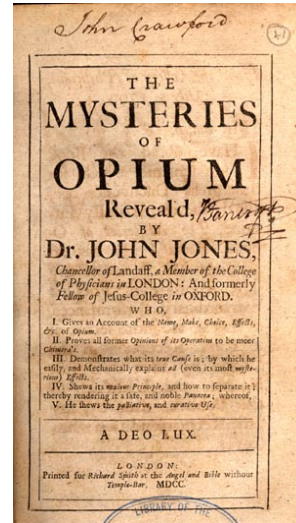
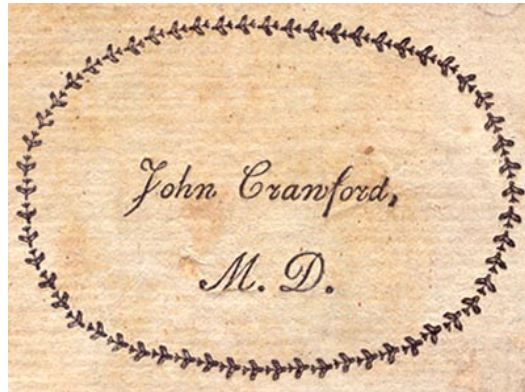


Crawford's library is reputed to have been a collection unparalleled in the city of Baltimore. He is known to have business arrangements with George Keasley, a London bookseller, who had published in 1772 one of Crawford's earliest works, entitled AN ESSAY ON THE NATURE, CAUSE AND CURE, OF A DISEASE INCIDENT TO THE LIVER. It is he to whom the doctor owed a substantial sum. Crawford's will discussed the distribution of his Masonic papers, making allowance for their eventual publication and sale, in order

... that the profits of these publications may be applied to the payment of my debts, particularly that which I owe to Mr. George Keasley, Bookseller in London. I will and direct that all the residue of my property estate and effects of every kind, including my Library of Books, shall be sold and the money arising therefrom applied to the payment of all just claims against me... 2

Although we do not have any records officially documenting the transaction, we read according to Eugene Cordell that the University's Faculty of Physic purchased the Crawford library in 1813 "from his widow," a purchase supposedly made possible by a subscription of \$500. This claim is somewhat in error, as Crawford's will never mentions a wife. In actuality, it is known that his daughter Eliza Godefroy, who had participated in the doctor's earlier literary efforts, was actively involved in the administration of his final affairs. Regardless of the specific details, the real significance of the transaction is that it brought a library to the University which had been lacking one since its founding six years earlier. By way of modern-day observation, the acquisition of this collection by the University's mother campus represents the origin of the entire University of Maryland Library System.

The Crawford collection of 569 volumes is the centerpiece that graces the Library's beautiful Theodore E. Woodward Historical Reading Room. The items in the collection represent several languages, a perfect reflection of the make-up of its original owner's personal education. Besides English, other languages include Latin, French, German, and Dutch. Crawford's bookplate and inscription are visible in many of the volumes.

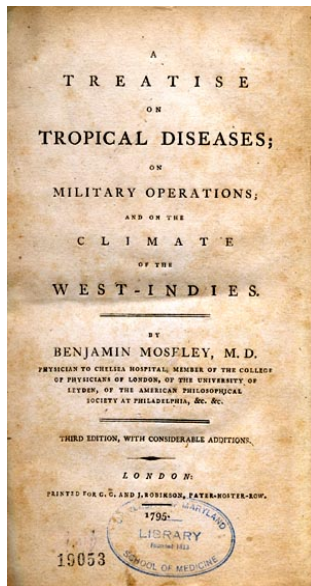


Collection Highlights:

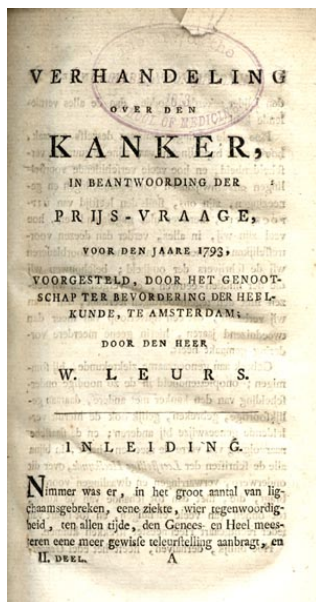


The KREUTTERBUCH of Hieronymus Bock is the earliest imprint (1565) in the Crawford collection, and the second earliest in all the Library's collections. Along with his contemporaries Otho Brunfels and Leonhard Fuchs, Bock was part of the "German Fathers of Botany." While the others drew upon the descriptions set down by such earlier authorities as Theophrastus and Dioscorides, Bock wrote fresh, original descriptions of what he actually saw in the local flora of Germany. This volume also exhibits some very interesting features of book arts technology. The ornately-decorated cover material is worn away at the corners to reveal the solid wood boards underneath, and thick raised bands and fore-edge clasps add to its artifactual charm as well.



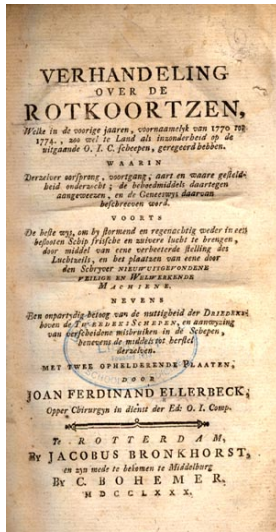


Benjamin Moseley was a surgeon and apothecary at Kingston in Jamaica. This title, originally published in 1787, continued on through four editions up until 1804. Moseley authored a number of works, on various subjects such as cow pox, dysentery, hydrophobia, plague, and yellow fever, and also a book entitled **A TREATISE CONCERNING THE PROPERTIES AND EFFECTS OF COFFEE**. It would seem that Crawford must have identified well with Moseley -- of particular significance is the fact that in 1808, Moseley also wrote a **REVIEW OF THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON ON VACCINATION**. This was only a few years after Crawford's own experimentation, introducing the practice into Baltimore.

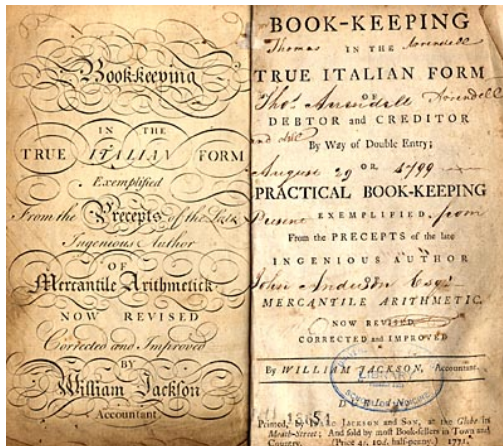


This book on cancer by Willem Leurs appeared as volume 2 of the set of Prize essays from the Society for the Advancement of Surgery of Amsterdam. The society was founded in 1790, and it issued its **PRIJSVERHANDELING BEKROOND DOOR HET GENOOTSCHAP TER BEVORDERING DER HEELKUNDE TE AMSTERDAM** as six volumes published in three, between 1791 and 1807. A second series began a few years later, appearing as the **NIEUWE PRIJSVERHANDELING...** between 1809 and 1838. Leurs also authored the 1791 essay on scrofula, and another book in that same year on fractures.





Joan F. Ellerbeck was Chief Surgeon to the Dutch East India Company. This work addresses the subject of plague, as it prevailed between the years 1770 and 1774, specifically from the standpoint of the Company's ships and their tendencies to transport the rats responsible for spreading the disease. This book includes two interesting illustrations depicting a large, elaborate ventilation shaft device intended to bring fresh air down into the recesses of the lower decks.



While not a medical book, Jackson's accounting text undoubtedly would have been a handy reference useful to Crawford in his administrative duties. Originally published in Dublin in 1771, and accepted internationally, this work enjoyed a long bibliographic history. Copies began being published in America in 1801, with editions originating from several different publishers in Philadelphia and New York, continuing well until at least 1816. The American editions were included as part of the Early American Imprints series. In addition to general rules of practice, this valuable guidebook also includes sample ledgers and tables of foreign currency exchanges.



One volume had a particularly unique individual history. The collection includes a copy of ELEMENTS OF NATURAL HISTORY, AND OF CHEMISTRY, by Antoine-François de Fourcroy (London : G.G.J. and J. Robinson, 1788). The second volume in this set contains an extended inscription on its front free endpaper that reads:

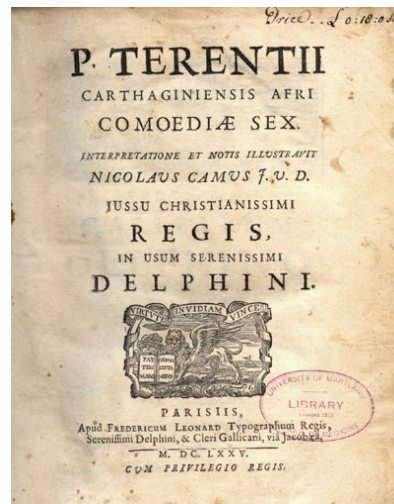
This single vol. 2 (instead of the 5, 1788-9) was received through the Medical Library Exchange, 1939. The translator of the 1. ed. was Thos. Elliott

(Index Catal.). J. Crawford (1746-1813) whose book plate is opposite, was an interesting man, who suggested infection through insects. See Osler's note on him at #994. A smaller, circular, form of his plate is pictured in Bulletin, Sch. Of Med., Univ. of Maryland, 1938, 23:56. W.W.F.

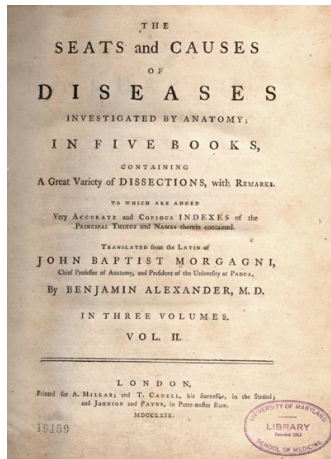
The Curators (Trustees) of the Osler Library gladly donate this to the Medical Library of the University of Maryland, so that after some 128 truant years it may rejoin the other volumes of Crawford's set. W.W. Francis, Librarian 20 Oct., 1941



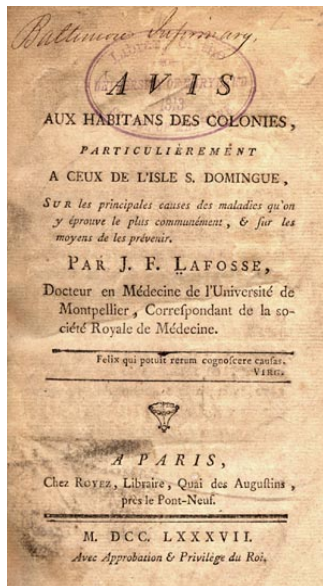
It is perhaps not a surprise that a classical education such as Crawford's would have included exposure to the six comedies of Terence. This edition, with its elaborate frontispiece, is dated 1675.



Giambattista Morgagni, the great pathological anatomist and Professor at Padua, was certainly very similar in mind to Crawford. In this volume, Letter 27, which is devoted to diseases of the belly, speaks directly to the subject of Crawford's theories:

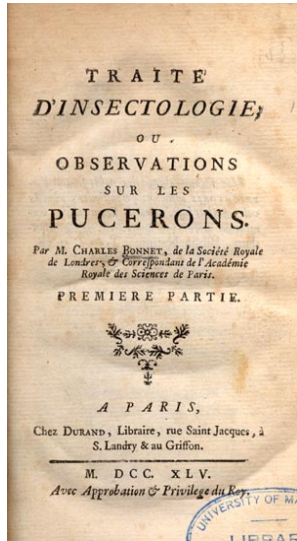


On the other hand, when in the appendix, which is subjoin'd to the scholia of the observation, the question is of worms in the human body, causing excessive hunger, by their peculiar magnitude, or number, there is no reason for hesitation thereon. For these creatures live in their proper places, and feed on their natural provision: and if their place, and provision, be not in proportion to their magnitude, or at least to their multitude, it is evident that the animal, in which these worms are, being defrauded of its nourishment, must be often troubled, with an incredible hunger, and often even with an incredible thirst. 3

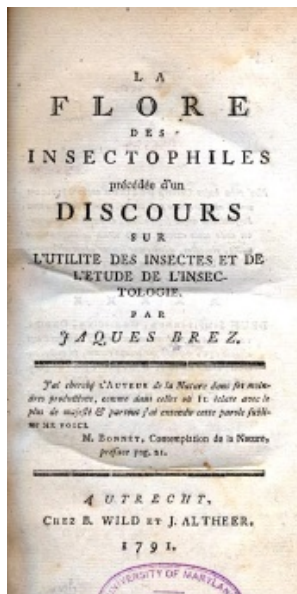


The French medical school at Montpellier, founded in the year 738, was one of the most celebrated medical institutions of Europe. As indicated by his credentials, then, Lafosse's position there as well as his status in the Royal Society, made him a reputable authority as a source of helpful information for the benefit of the French colonies. This work focuses on the particular fevers and other conditions known to be prevalent in that region, including such disorders as whooping cough, smallpox, chicken pox, tetanus, and syphilis.





Charles Bonnet's *TRAITE D'INSECTOLOGIE* was a pioneering work on the subject of parthenogenetic reproduction. In his early years, Bonnet read the works of Reaumur, and his scientific curiosity led him into the study of natural history. He intensively experimented with insects, and at the age of twenty-six, he discovered that a female spindle-tree aphid which he carefully had raised, produced ninety-five offspring without mating. In other experiments, he observed that species of worms which had been cut into twenty-six pieces, would regenerate into twenty-six fully-intact new worms. These discoveries certainly must have impressed Crawford as he investigated the proliferation of insects in disease etiology. Bonnet's extensive experimental research, and his resultant natural philosophy, remained profound influences upon the naturalists of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.



Jaques Brez was a learned naturalist who traveled widely, and wrote other accounts of the flora and fauna of many of the regions he visited. Interestingly enough, he here acknowledges the mentorship of Bonnet by quoting him in the epigram. This work focuses on many of the species known to be useful insects, which he had occasion to observe. A major feature of this book is the section entitled "Flore Insectologique," an extensive catalog of plants and the insects associated with them, according to their Linnean nomenclature.

REFERENCES

1. Julia Wilson, "Dr. John Crawford, 1746-1813," Bulletin of the School of Medicine, University of Maryland 25 (1940) : 117.
2. Julia Wilson, "Dr. John Crawford, 1746-1813," Bulletin of the School of Medicine, University of Maryland 25 (1940) : 118.
3. Morgagni, Giambattista, The Seats and Causes of Diseases, Investigated by Anatomy (London : Printed for A. Millar, and T. Cadell, 1769), v. 2, p.5