

EDITORIAL AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL PREFACE

Editorial Policy:

Fortunately we are not the first to have dealt with Rush's manuscripts. Lyman H. Butterfield and George W. Corner have presented excellent models in their editorial presentations of Rush's letters and autobiography, respectively. We have adopted the following editorial policy.

I. Spelling:

Rush's spelling is reasonably consistent and correct, but such errors as there are have been corrected to late eighteenth-century standards. His misspellings of proper names are sometimes interesting, and in such cases they have been left uncorrected in the text, but footnotes or brackets always give the proper spelling.

II. Punctuation, Capitalization, and Emphasis:

Rush's punctuation, even by contemporary standards, is not very good. Here we have tried to play the part of an eighteenth-century editor. As for capitalization, by Rush's time the practice of capitalizing all nouns (still the convention in modern German) was rapidly dying out; but the clear-cut rule of capitalizing only proper nouns had not yet been completely standardized. Rush's capitalization is largely arbitrary. He often capitalizes words beginning with s, d, and sometimes e,

for no apparent reason. He will begin words like Unity and Universe with capitals, then with lower case a page later. We have tried to smooth out these discrepancies, while remaining alert to such capitalization as may have some significance. Rush capitalizes the name of the deity, but never the pronouns referring to it. Rush also underlines words for emphasis. These have been underlined in the present text. However, here, too, he is very inconsistent and careless, and again we must try to be the eighteenth-century editor, hopefully preserving Rush's intent while eliminating inconsistencies.

III. Editorial Indications:

What we have in these Lectures on Physiology is an organic composition which grew and changed over a period of some nineteen years. Rush has added passages, deleted passages, even made deletions within additions, and additions within deletions. Besides scoring through, Rush sometimes put brackets around certain passages; it is not clear what he meant by this. Sometimes these passages are also wholly or partially scored through. These may have been sections about which Rush had doubts; they may have been optional, to be included in the lecture if time permitted; they may have been deleted from the lecture as delivered, without being repudiated by Rush. For the sake of

convenience, we have treated these bracketed passages as deletions.

Rush's later additions to the 1791 manuscript are enclosed as follows: [+ . . . +].

Later deletions are enclosed: [-. . .-].

The notation [- . . . [+ . . . +] . . . -] , indicates that additions were made to a passage, but that later the entire passage was deleted.

The notation [+ . . . [- . . . -] . . . +] , indicates that a passage was added, but part of it was later deleted.

When two consecutive passages were both added, but apparently at different times, this is indicated by [+ . . . +], [+ . . . +]; vice-versa for deletion.

Insubstantial deletions are omitted without comment.

Footnotes:

All personalities but the most famous, e.g. Mohammed, Shakespeare, have been briefly identified. When possible we have tried to go further by giving the precise sources of Rush's information. In citing books, as a general rule, we give the first edition or earliest English translation. Unfamiliar terms have been explained in footnotes, and where Rush's occasionally tortuous syntax obscures his meaning, this has been clarified.

Dates and biographical information have been obtained from such standard sources as the Dictionary of American Biography (New York, 1928-1936), The Dictionary of National Biography (London, 1885-1900), the Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie (Berlin, 1875-1912), Chambers's Biographical Dictionary (New York, 1961) and The Oxford Classical Dictionary (Oxford, 1970).

Abbreviations:

The abbreviations listed below are used routinely in the footnotes. Unless indicated otherwise, the books and manuscripts are by Benjamin Rush and the manuscripts are located at the Library Company of Philadelphia.

- ABR George W. Corner, ed., The Autobiography of Benjamin Rush (Princeton, New Jersey, 1948). This volume plus LBR are essential for understanding Rush, his time, his peers and friends.
- AL Herman Boerhaave, Academical Lectures on the Theory of Physic (London, 1742-1746).
- DOM Medical Inquiries upon the Diseases of the Mind (Philadelphia, 1812).
- ELMP Essays, Literary, Moral and Philosophical (Philadelphia, 1806)
- EP Albrecht van Haller, Elementia Physiologiae (Lausanne, 1757-1768).
- EV Earlier version (probably 1791) of LOM.

- LAL Lectures on Animal Life. Also published initially as Three Lectures upon Animal Life (Philadelphia, 1799) while later versions of LAL are in MI and are dated accordingly. See our p. 62 for a further discussion.
- LBR Lyman H. Butterfield, ed., The Letters of Benjamin Rush (Princeton, New Jersey, 1951).
- LOM Lectures on the Mind. (College of Physicians of Philadelphia).
- MCB Medical Commonplace Book, 1794-1803. These are Rush's notes based on his extensive reading of the medical and allied literature.
- MI Medical Inquiries and Observations (Philadelphia, 1805). We routinely used this second edition. If another, earlier or later, edition was used, it was dated as such.
- MN (1802-1804) Medical Notes, 1802-1804. Rush calls this the second volume of his medical commonplace book.
- MN (1804-1809) Volume III of Medical Notes.
- RC Rush Collection. Rush was both an avid reader and an ardent collector of the books that interested him. Most of this collection went to his son James who in turn left them to the Library Company of Philadelphia, where they remain today. In a preliminary attempt to show the sources Rush owned and read, we have checked the card catalog

for all the authors cited in footnotes and have indicated RC or non RC. The reader must be cautioned that this is not completely accurate, for James Rush also collected books and they are intermingled with his father's library. Edwin Wolf 2nd hopes to prepare a detailed catalog of the Rush Collection. Such a catalog will be made more complete by checking each book for provenance (Rush often but not universally signed his name in the books, or made notes and marks; many of his volumes were also presentation copies), and by using his manuscript lists of books purchased and of books loaned to his friends. It will be a very useful guide to the literature available in the United States in the late eighteenth century to an intellectually curious and widely read physician.

SIL Sixteen Introductory Lectures (Philadelphia, 1811).

XYZ A manuscript of an unknown student's lecture notes in the National Library of Medicine. It is listed in the Surgeon General's Catalogue as Rush, Benjamin [Lectures on the practice of medicine.] MS. 2512. 4o. [n.p., n.d.] (Note: This is incorrect; it should be Institutes of Medicine.)

