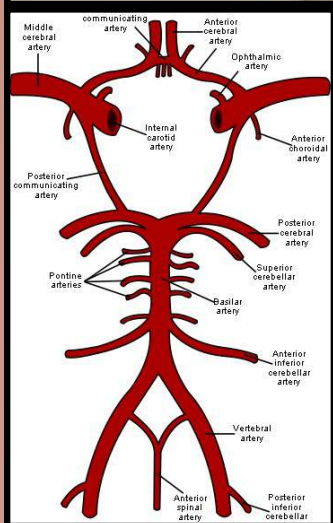
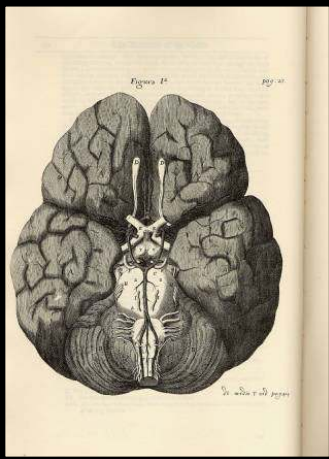
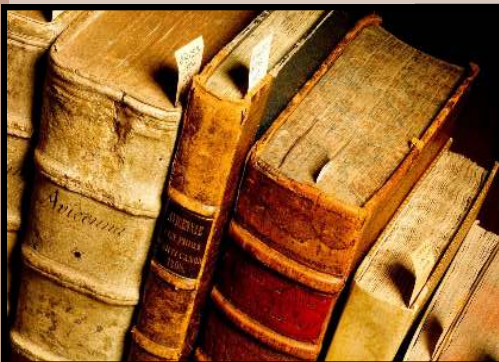
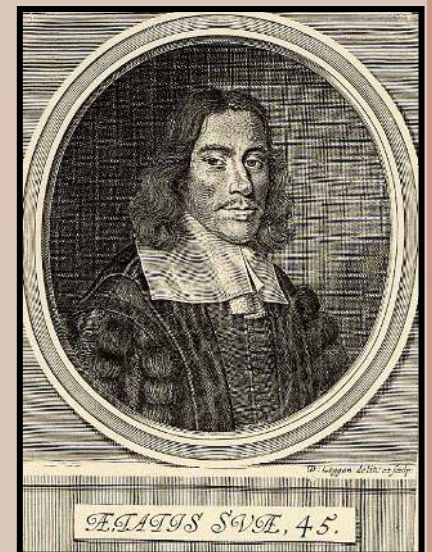


Notes from the John Martin Rare Book Room February 2015

THOMAS WILLIS (1621-1675). *Cerebri anatome: cui accessit Nervorum descriptio et usus*. London: Typis Ja. Flesher, 1664.



Willis, a graduate of Oxford, practiced medicine and taught there until 1666, when he went to London, where he attained a large practice and was known as an outstanding physician. In addition to his practice he carried on extensive research and published a number of important works on medicine, anatomy, and pharmacology. Willis suggested that fermentation was an activity of the intestines, he gave an early description of epidemic typhoid fever, and noted that urine has a sweet taste in diabetes mellitus. This work was first published in London in 1659. Willis' *Cerebri anatome* was "the most complete and accurate account of the nervous system which had hitherto appeared. Its illustrations are by Sir Christopher Wren. Willis' classification of the cerebral nerves held the field until the time of Soemmerring (Garrison-Morton 1378). Included are his descriptions of the "circle of Willis" and the cranial nerve now called the "nerve of Willis." The circle of Willis (circulus arteriosus cerebri) is an anastomotic system of arteries that sits at the base of the brain. The "circle" was named after Thomas Willis by his student Richard Lower.



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