Selections from NDL collections

Small Exhibition in the Kansai-kan (25): Marvels of the Human Body—past and present



The Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library held a small exhibition from February 21 to March 19, 2019, entitled *Marvels of the Human Body—past and present*. The human body is truly a marvel. Since ancient times, humans have sought to understand what the human body is made of, how it works, and what causes disease. Although there are some outdated notions about the body that seem nonsensical to us today, our modern understanding of the body was reached largely as a result of trial and error. Even as modern research continues to advance, it returns valuable results that contribute not just to medical care but a wide variety of other fields.

In this article, we will take a closer look at some of the materials that were used in this exhibit, a complete list of which is available in Japanese on the <u>NDL website</u>.

Utsukushii jintai zukan: Mikuro no me de miru saibou no sekai

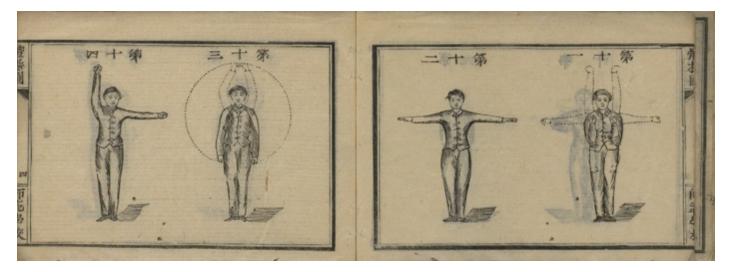
Utsukushii jintai zukan: Mikuro no me de miru saibou no sekai. (Science Is Beautiful: The Human Body Under the Microscope) Edited by Colin Salter, editorial supervision for Japanese edition by Nobuo Nara, translated by Akiko Mimura, published by Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd. In November 2014. NDL Call No. SC71-L155.

Despite being just 2 micrometers or 0.002 mm in size, mycobacterium tuberculosis bacteria have a definite shape. Our bodies are home to numerous cells, bacteria, and viruses that perform a variety of functions that cannot be observed with the naked eye.

This book contains full-color photographs made using optical and electron microscopes and that capture the unexpectedly beautiful and intriguing appearance of microscopic organisms. The commentary to each photo explains why things have the shape they do, and how they work in the body.



Taisozu: Monbusho seitei





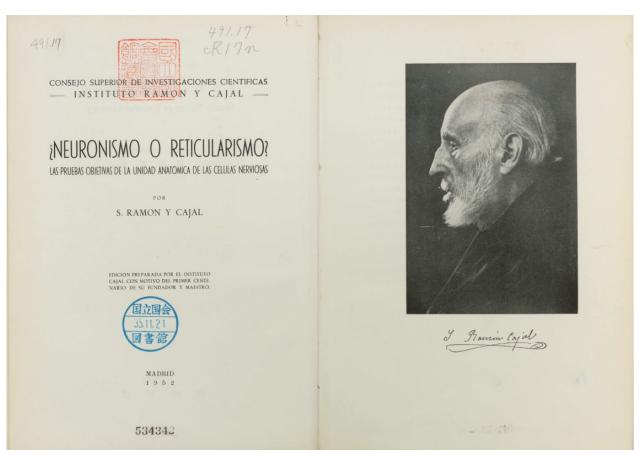
Taisozu: Monbusho seitei. (Gymnastics: As Promoted by the Ministry of Education) Edited by Shihan gakko, published by Hamada-ken (present Shimane Prefecture) during the Meiji period. NDL Call No. 特 53-833. *Available in the NDL Digital Collections.

Gymnastics were incorporated into school curriculums during the Meiji period as beneficial to both physical and mental health. This book, which is marked "As Promoted by the Ministry of Education," was compiled at a normal school using illustrations from a gymnastics textbook published in the United States in the 1870s, and was probably used as an elementary school text book. A variety of gymnastic methods are presented in simple diagrams, giving a glimpse into what early gymnastics education might have been like.



National Diet Library Newsletter

¿Neuronismo o reticularismo?



¿Neuronismo o reticularismo? (Neuron Theory or Reticular Theory) Written by S. Ramon Y Cajal, translated by Tetsuo Fukuda, published by Nagai Shoten in 1960. NDL Call No. 491.17-cR17n.

S. Ramón y Cajal, (1852-1934) was an early advocate of neuron theory, and this book is a Japanese translation of his comprehensive review of neuron theory, which was written in his later years and published in 1933. There was great controversy during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries over which of these two theories more accurately modeled the mechanism of nerves. Neuron theory maintained that nerves comprised many independent neuron units, while reticular theory insisted that nerves were a continuous reticulated net. In 1906, Cajal received a Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his research into the structure of the nervous system, but so did Camillo Golgi, who had championed reticular theory. The neuron theory was later proven correct when the gap between cells was observed with an electron microscope.

In a separate but related event, on March 2, 2019, the NDL sponsored a lecture at the Kansai-kan entitled *PD-1 and Cancer—New frontiers in cancer immunotherapy* by Dr. Yasumasa Ishida, associate professor at the Nara Institute of Science and Technology.

(Translated by Mika Oshima)

Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

• Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan (24) "Full bloom!

The World of Gardening" (No. 220, October 2018)

- <u>Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan (23) "Every dog has his book–From history to research and stories–"</u> (No. 217, April 2018)
- <u>Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan (22) "Making and utilizing light: from illumination to architecture and art"</u> (No. 214, October 2017)
- <u>Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan (21) "All kinds of</u> <u>Ume–Japanese poetry, paintings, and delicacies"</u> (No. 216, February 2018)
- <u>Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan (20) "Robots are evolving! –from myth, mechanical dolls to the latest robots"</u> (No. 209, December 2016)
- <u>Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan (18) "A collection</u> of living creatures from all times and places: real, virtual and extinct creatures"</u> (No. 202, October 2015)
- <u>Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan (17) "Tomorrow's</u> <u>dinner will be a full-course meal: Find the recipe you</u> <u>want to cook"</u> (No. 199, April 2015)
- <u>Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan (16)</u> "Dreams of <u>Space, from the ancient view of the universe to the Hayabusa Project</u>" (No. 196, October 2014)
- <u>Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan (15) "Modernization</u> of Japanese sake and domestic production of Western liquor" (No. 193, April 2014)

