

The Scottish Society of the History
of Medicine

(Founded April, 1948)

REPORT
OF
PROCEEDINGS

SESSION 1958-59

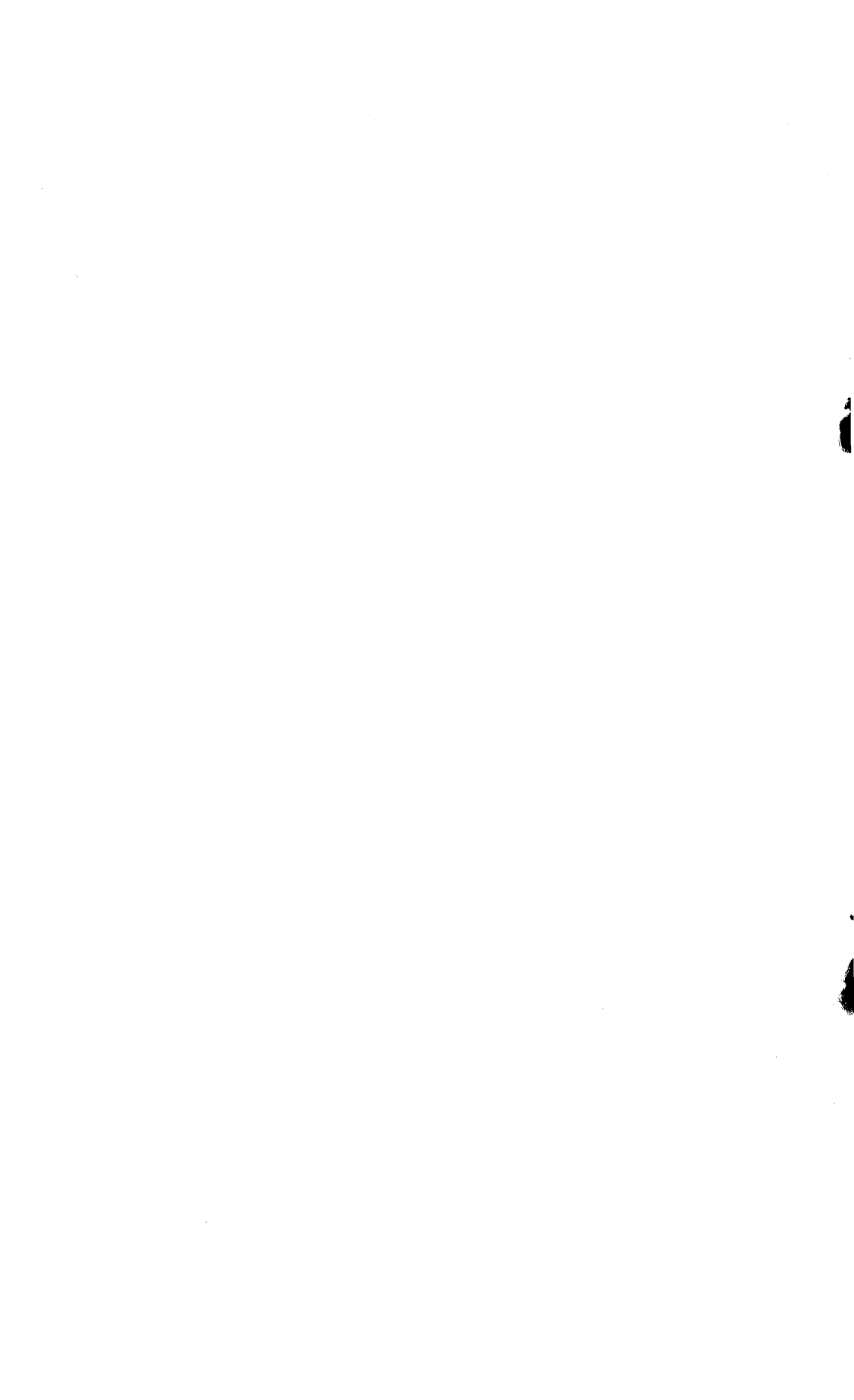
The Scottish Society of the History of Medicine.

<i>Honorary President</i>	Dr. DOUGLAS GUTHRIE		
<i>President</i> - -	Dr. W. S. MITCHELL		
<i>Vice-Presidents</i> -	Mr A. L. GOODALL		
	Dr. M. H. ARMSTRONG DAVISON		
<i>Hon. Secretary</i> -	Dr. H. P. TAIT, 26 Cluny Drive, Edinburgh, 10		
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<i>Hon. Treasurer</i> -	Dr. W. A. ALEXANDER, 9 Randolph Crescent,		
		Edinburgh, 3	
<i>Council</i> - -	Mr LEONARD JOLLEY retires by rotation,	1959	
	Dr. T. R. R. TODD	„	1959
	Mr T. B. MOUAT	„	1960
	Professor ADAM PATRICK	„	1960
	Dr. R. S. DEWAR.	„	1961
	Dr. H. W. Y. TAYLOR	„	1961
	Dr. W. N. BOOG WATSON	„	1961
	Mr R. B. WRIGHT	„	1961
	THE SENIOR PRESIDENT,		
	ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY (ex officio).		



D^r TROTTER

AN:ÆT:37.



The Scottish Society of the History of Medicine

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

1958-59

It is satisfactory to report that the Society again had a successful session. Three meetings were held and the papers read aroused interest and stimulated considerable discussion. Attendances were encouraging and indicated that there was a keen interest among members in the history of medicine. Following on the warning given in 1957 by the Honorary Treasurer regarding the Society's financial position, it was unanimously decided at the Annual General Meeting held at Newcastle upon Tyne in October to amend Paragraph 5 of the Constitution, and to raise the annual subscription to One Pound. The amended paragraph of the Constitution now reads: "The Annual Subscription shall be fixed from time to time by the Council and reported to members of the Society." At the same meeting, Dr. Guthrie, our founder, after being successively President, Vice-President, and member of Council, demitted all office, and in recognition of his great services to the Society and to the history of medicine generally, he was elected, with the warmest approval, Honorary President with a seat on the Council. It was a fitting tribute to his personality and work that this proposal should come spontaneously from the members at the meeting. The Newcastle meeting was also noteworthy in that, for the first time, a paper was read by a lady member. Mrs. Mitchell gave a delightful sketch of the recipes and household remedies in the recipe book of Jane Loraine, dated 1685. It is to be hoped that this paper will be the first of many to be given by lady members. Dr. Ian Porter also read a paper on Thomas Trotter, M.D., Physician to the Fleet.

The thirty-third ordinary meeting was held in Glasgow in February, when Dr. Ritchie gave a paper on the Folk Medicine of Digitalis, and in May, the thirty-fourth meeting was held in Paisley, when tribute was paid to the memory of Dr. Robert Watt, compiler of the great *Bibliotheca Britannica*.

Death has removed two distinguished men who were keen and warm supporters of the Society. Mr. J. Hinton Robertson died on 12th September, 1958, at Glasgow. Mr. Robertson was one of the earliest members of the Society and he rarely missed a meeting. He was elected a member of Council in 1956 and gave much of his time and energy to the affairs of the Society. Mr. W. J. Stuart, our senior member, and one of our first two Vice-Presidents, died in Edinburgh on 23rd February, 1959. He has been described as one of Scotland's most remarkable men and we in the Society were always proud to count him one of our members. He, too, seldom missed a meeting, but so humble and self-effacing was he that he could never be persuaded to give to the Society his reminiscences of his early days in the Edinburgh Medical School. He always pleaded that what he would have to tell would either be already known or of little interest to the Society. We would pay our humble tribute to these two men and remember with gratitude their support of and services to the Society. Just as this report goes to press, the news has come that Dr. W. W. Francis, librarian of the Osler Library at McGill University died at Montreal on 10th August. Keenly

interested in the activities of our Society, we deeply regret the passing of one who had such close ties with the great Osler.

Dr. Guthrie was appointed Joint President of the Section of History of Medicine for the Joint Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association held in Edinburgh in July. His paper given to the Society in October, 1957, on the influence of the Leyden School upon Scottish Medicine was published in *Medical History* (1959, iii, 108-122). He also gave a most interesting paper on the Physic Gardens of Edinburgh to the Old Edinburgh Club in December, 1958, and contributed two articles to the *Scotsman* on Conan Doyle's model for Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Joseph Bell (23rd May, 1959), and on the need for medical history (20th July, 1959). He also contributed to a B.B.C. sound radio programme on Conan Doyle in connection with the centenary celebrations of that doctor-author. He wrote a short history of the Medical School of Edinburgh for the joint B.M.A./C.M.A. Meeting, and is presently engaged in writing a history of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, which celebrates the centenary of its foundation next year.

Mr. A. L. Goodall addressed the Osler Club in London on 23rd January, 1959, on Robert Burns and the Medical Profession (*Scot. Med. J.*, 1959, 4, 133-140), and Dr. J. Menzies Campbell contributed two articles to dental journals. The first dealt with Professor J. W. Webster, the murderer of Dr. George Parkman (*Dental Magazine and Oral Topics*, June, 1958, 1-8); the second on Nitrous Oxide, Ether, Chloroform (*Dental Practitioner*, 1959, ix, 116-119) concerned the contributions to general anaesthesia in its early days of four dentists, Wells, Morton, Robinson and Imlach.

Medico-Historical Notes

The outstanding event of the year was undoubtedly the Joint Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association held in Edinburgh from 18th-24th July, 1959, an event unique in the medical history of the capital. Details of this historic meeting have been recorded elsewhere but it is of special significance to note that there was a section of History of Medicine, the joint Presidents of which were Dr. Guthrie and Professor Lloyd G. Stevenson of Montreal, whom members of the Society will recall was a guest of the Society at its summer meeting at Torphichen Priory in 1950. Dr. Tait was Honorary Secretary of the section, which held its meeting in the Hall of the Royal Medical Society on the afternoon of Wednesday, 22nd July. Before an audience of some seventy, six papers were read, three by British contributors and three by Canadian. The subjects discussed at the section meeting were: (a) Proposals for a Reform of the Course of Instruction in History of Medicine, read by Professor Stevenson in the absence through ill-health of the author, Dr. L. F. G. Sennewald, London, Ontario; (b) The Varying Phases in Medical Education, by Professor H. E. Rawlinson, Edmonton, Alberta; (c) The Anti-Scurvy Club, 1604, by Dr. A. L. Murphy, Halifax, Nova Scotia; (d) Sir Charles Bell, by Professor E. W. Walls, London; (e) Douglas of the Pouch, by Dr. K. Bryn Thomas, Reading; and (f) Some notable Members of the Royal Medical Society, by Dr. W. A. Alexander, our Honorary Treasurer. Unfortunately, owing to other events in that crowded week, there was not time for any discussion on the papers. At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Guthrie was presented with a diploma of membership of the Order of the Good Time, the modern survivor of the Anti-Scurvy Club, by Dr. Murphy on Nova Scotia ground on the Castle Esplanade.

We are indebted to Dr. Guthrie for the following information concerning previous meetings of the Section of History of Medicine of the British Medical Association. The first meeting was held at the Annual Meeting of the Association in Edinburgh in 1927, when Dr. John D. Comrie, who presided, felt constrained to entitle his remarks, "A Vindication of the Section." Sir Humphry Rolleston

read a paper on "Clinical Variations in Disease from the Historical Point of View" and this was followed by Dr. Matheson Cullen's paper on "World Epidemics in relation to social conditions." Other papers were by Professor A. J. Clark on "The Historical Aspect of Quackery," and by Professor W. J. Dilling on "The Methods of Introducing Drugs." There was a Section of History at Cardiff (1928) and Manchester (1929). At Winnipeg in 1930 the Section was called Medical Sociology and History as it also was at Bournemouth (1934) and Melbourne (1935). The title History of Medicine was used alone at London (1932), Dublin (1933), Oxford (1936), and then, after a long gap, Newcastle (1957).

Three historical exhibitions were on view during the joint meeting. The largest of these exhibitions was at the Royal College of Surgeons where Professor D. E. C. Mekie had arranged a unique display dealing with the various aspects of the work of Sir Charles Bell. A smaller one dealt with Burke and Hare, the notorious West Port murderers of 1828. Copies of this exhibition catalogue are still available and may be had from Professor Mekie or from Dr. Tait. Members of the Royal Medical Society prepared a most admirable display of some of their treasures and dissertation manuscripts and the Society has generously agreed to the inclusion of the list of its exhibits in this report where it will be found in Appendix II. At the Royal College of Physicians also a display of historic documents and other items was on view.

Other events of interest to members of the Society should be mentioned. It was announced in September, 1958, that the pavilion, pump-room and spa gardens, extending to about eight acres at Strathpeffer had been purchased by a new company which intended to develop and modernise the spa which, before the First World War had an international reputation, its sulphur and mineral waters ranking with the best on the Continent.

In February, 1959, it was announced that the Signet Library in Parliament Square, Edinburgh, one of the oldest libraries in the country, had decided to dispose of books in certain categories and to concentrate its efforts on the full maintenance of those sections of the library which were to be retained. The announcement went on to say that "Consultations have taken place between the Society (of Writers to Her Majesty's Signet) and the National Library, the outcome of which it is hoped will make it possible to arrange for the acquisition by the National Library of certain books of interest, thus securing their retention and permanent preservation in Scotland." In the same month, the death took place of Miss Constance de la Cour, a former secretary of Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake. Dr. Guthrie and the Honorary Secretary conveyed their greetings to Professor Edvard Gotfredsen of Copenhagen who was presented on 14th February with a *tabula gratulatoria* on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday.

A Chair in Infectious Diseases was founded at Glasgow University in March when Dr. Thomas Anderson was appointed first incumbent. This is the first such chair in the United Kingdom, and the third in Europe, the other two being at Copenhagen and Stockholm.

A new Family Doctor Centre, the first of its kind in Britain, was opened at Livingstone House, Edinburgh, on 1st June. The centre will give doctors an opportunity to carry out advanced diagnoses of some "problem" patients, thus relieving the strain on hospital out-patient departments. The centre will provide laboratory, X-ray, and electrocardiographic facilities, and Dr. W. A. Alexander has agreed to act as honorary medical adviser to the centre.

Following the pattern set in previous reports, mention must be made of some anniversaries which have occurred in the year under review. On 5th August, 1858, Alexis Soyer, the famous chef, and collaborator with Florence Nightingale, died. She wrote of him that "Others have studied cooking for the purpose of gourmandising, some for show, but none but he for the purpose of cooking large quantities of food in the most nutritious manner for great numbers of men.

He has no successor." Another of Miss Nightingale's collaborators was Isambard Kingdom Brunel who designed the first hatted hospital for Scutari. He died in September, 1859, and deserves to be remembered along with Soyer.

On 23rd November, 1858, the first session of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom was held. This body, constituted under the Medical Act, 1858, was referred to from its earliest days as the General Medical Council but the title was not officially adopted until 1951. Its present President, Sir David Campbell, was a former member of the Society.

In December, 1858, the Universities (Scotland) Act was passed, and the event was celebrated at Edinburgh in 1959 by a public address given by Professor D. B. Horn of the Chair of History. The Act, in so far as Edinburgh was concerned, ended the long standing war between the University and the Town Council. The Act gave to students the right to elect their Rectors and, among other things, instituted the General Councils of the Universities which gave graduates a say in University administration. In the same month a hundred years ago, there appeared in the advertisement columns of the *Scotsman* "Horae Subsecivae. Locke and Sydenham; with other occasional papers: by John Brown, M.D." This was the introduction of those delightful essays, including *Rab and His Friends*, which have given so much pleasure and content to readers over the English-speaking world.

Havelock Ellis, pioneer sexologist, artist, philosopher, scientist and mystic, was born on 2nd February, 1858, and to mark the centenary of his birth, two books dealing with his life and work have appeared. These are *Havelock Ellis* by A. Calder-Marshall and *An Artist of Life* by J. S. Collis.

Scotsmen should especially remember Dr. John Jamieson, author of the "Etymological Dictionary of the Scottish Language," who was born on 3rd March, 1759. His two-volume work, sponsored by Creech, Constable and Blackwood, appeared in 1808. Jamieson was a minister of religion, but his notes on folk-lore, customs, etc., have much of interest to the medical historian.

Social and paediatric historians remembered the death two hundred years ago, on 12th April, 1759, of George Frederick Handel, who had such an intimate association with the early days of the Foundling Hospital in London. In 1750, Handel personally opened the organ which he had presented to the Hospital chapel, with a special performance of the oratorio "Messiah," a performance which increased the hospital funds by over £700.

Arthur Conan Doyle was born at Picardy Place, Edinburgh, on 22nd May, 1859, the brief announcement of the birth in a local paper reading, "At Edinburgh, on the 22nd inst., the wife of Charles A. Doyle, Esq., of a son." Little more need be said about this centenary since tributes have been paid to Doyle and his creation, Sherlock Holmes, in books, papers, radio and television programmes.

The co-discoverer of Radium, Pierre Curie, was born in the same month and year as Conan Doyle.

The bicentenary celebrations of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, were held on 2nd June, 1959, when an international gathering met. On the 24th June, 1859, the battle of Solferino was fought. This battle was memorable for it gave birth in the mind of Jean Henri Dunant of the Red Cross idea. On 27th June, 1959, a memorial made from slabs of stone sent by national Red Cross societies was unveiled at Solferino. There are today some eighty-two national Red Cross societies throughout the world with more than 127 million members.

Two centenaries in the nursing world should also be noticed. William Rathbone of Liverpool initiated an experiment in 1859 which led to the establishment in that city of an organised service of trained district nurses,

and in due course by a linked chain of developments, to the founding of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing. Mrs. Mary Stocks has written a book, "A Hundred Years of District Nursing," which will appear later in 1959, but extracts from this book have appeared in *District Nursing*, the journal of the Queen's Institute, during the April, May and June numbers. An appropriate memorial to William Rathbone is the new Staff College for district nurses opened recently in Liverpool by the Institute. The other nursing centenary celebrated in June was that of the foundation of the first school of nursing at La Source, Lausanne. A thanksgiving service was held in Lausanne Cathedral, a statue was unveiled, and a commemorative service held in the Théâtre du Palais de Beaulieu.

A museum was opened at the Depot and Training Establishment of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps at Hindhead on 22nd May by Princess Margaret, Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps. The idea of such a museum was given official approval in 1950 and in 1953 the work of assembling material and gifts was begun. Already an attractive and interesting collection of exhibits has been gathered.

The *Nursing Mirror* has endowed a series of five annual lectures to be delivered at Edinburgh University, and the first lecture on The Education of the Nurse to Meet the Needs of Today was delivered by Dame Elizabeth Cockayne, D.B.E., on 1st May, 1959.

Book Notices

Professor Fraser Brockington has made a further contribution to the history of public health in a series of articles contributed to the *Medical Officer* (1959, ci, 173-177, 185-190, 197-200, 211-215, 243-246, 259-260, 278-280, 287-290), dealing with Public Health at the Privy Council, 1858-71. This time, Brockington has turned to the small band of medical officers who worked with John Simon in the era when the Privy Council was the central department of health. Doubtless these fascinating articles will later be issued in book form as was his former series on Medical Officers of Health, 1848-1855. *World Health* (1958), a volume of the Pelican Medical Series, has also come from the pen of this gifted writer, and the story he tells is an absorbing one.

Of autobiographies, *Plague Fighter* (1959) by Dr. Wu Lien-Teh tells the story of the important part played by the author in bringing under control the outbreak of plague in Manchuria in 1910-11. It also gives a picture of medical life in China in pre-Communist times. Dr. Lien-Teh was for long editor of the Reports of the National Quarantine Service, Shanghai, many of which contained medical historical articles by the editor and other contributors.

Four biographies claimed attention during the year. The first, *Viscount Addison: Leader of the Lords* (1958) by R. J. Minney, deals with a brilliant anatomist who forsook medicine for politics and became the first Minister of Health; *The Strange Story of Dr. James Barry* (1958) by Isobel Rae, throws new light on the mystery of the little doctor who rose to be Inspector-General of Hospitals, and who was discovered on death to be a woman. Reading this tale brought to mind another woman, Mrs. Richard Welsh, wife of a soldier in the Royal Scots, who enlisted and became a dragoon in the Royal Scots Greys because she was not content to remain at home while her husband went away to the wars with the Royal Scots. It was when lying unconscious after being wounded at the battle of Ramillies that her identity was disclosed. She was retained in the army, however, but in female attire, and when she died in 1739 she was given a funeral with full military honours; *Sir Alexander Fleming* (1959) by Andre Maurois, translated by Gerard Hopkins, is an uneven and somewhat disappointing book; *The Life and Times of Sir Charles Hastings* (1959) by W. H. McMenemey has just appeared most appropriately in time for the Joint Annual Meeting of the B.M.A. and C.M.A.

The Story of Medicine by Kenneth Walker, noticed in a previous report, recently appeared as a Grey Arrow book (1959) and is the only general history of medicine included in our book notices this year.

Of special histories which have been noticed: *Medical History of the Second World War: R.A.F. Medical Services*, vol. III (1958) deals with Campaigns, and completes the official history of the R.A.F. medical services; *Army Medical Services*, vol. III (1959) concerns the campaigns in Sicily, Italy and Greece (1944-45) and reveals the disastrous effects of malaria on the troops in Sicily. *Anatomies of Pain* (1957) by J. D. Keele, gives a masterly survey of the history of views on pain; *Modern Medical Discoveries* (1958) by J. G. Thwaites, is addressed to teen-agers but is profitable reading for others; *The Surgeon's Tale: A Story of Modern Surgery* (1958) by R. G. Richardson, gives a readable and reliable account of surgery over the past hundred years; *The Story of Heart Disease* (1958) by Terence East, constitutes the Fitzpatrick Lectures given before the Royal College of Physicians in 1956 and 1957; *Circulation: Proceedings of the Harvey Tercentenary Congress* (1958), edited by Professor John McMichael, contains a summary of the contributions at the Congress in 1957, including some eight short articles on Harvey himself; *A Century of International Ophthalmology, 1857-1957*, (1958) by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder is an interesting historical record.

Psychiatry and the Public Health (1958) by G. R. Hargreaves constitutes the published Heath Clark Lectures for 1957; *The Teaching of Hygiene and Public Health in Europe* (1957) by F. Grundy and J. M. Mackintosh is a valuable compilation of information concerning education in preventive medicine and public health in Europe, and should have a wide appeal; *The School Health Service* (1959) by S. and V. Leff contains much useful historical data concerning the development of this service, and should be read in conjunction with the *Health of the School Child* (1958), which is the Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Education for 1956 and 1957. This latter publication has a short historical review of the School Health Service, 1908-1957. A Pelican book, *Health in Industry* (1959) by Donald Hunter, is a shortened but valuable version of Hunter's greater work, *The Diseases of Occupations* (1955, 1957). The historical chapters are outstanding in their scope in this shortened edition.

Call the Doctor (1958) by E. S. Turner, is a social history of medical men, and a well written and attractive one it is; a short history of the *Order of St. John* (1958) by E. D. Renwick is an attractively produced booklet with excellent illustrations; *Shakespeare and Medicine* (1959) by R. R. Simpson is the first book of its kind since Bucknill's work published in 1860; *Medicine and the Navy*, vol. II (1649-1714) (1958) is the second volume of the four volume history projected by the late Commander J. J. Keevil, whose untimely death has deprived us of a fine medical historian.

A book with medical implications, especially to the psychiatrist is *The Trial of Peter Manuel* (1959) by J. G. Wilson: it is a brilliant study of the trial of a man who may be said to have talked too much.

Of interest to those concerned with medical museums is *Medical Museum Technology* (1959) by J. J. and M. J. Edwards, a work which, apart from its technical aspects, contains in the first seventy pages historical data dealing with early methods of preparation of specimens, early medical museums and the discovery of formalin preservation.

The World Health Organisation has recently published two important works, viz., *Publications of the W.H.O., 1947-1957* (1958) and *Medical Education: An Annotated Bibliography, 1946-1955* (1958).

Collections of essays and philosophical aspects of medicine have a special appeal to some members and note might therefore be taken of the following: *Brain, Memory, Learning* (1959) by W. R. Russell; *Science, Medicine and Morals* (1959) by Charles E. Raven; *The Nature of Experience* (1959) by Sir

Russell Brain ; *The Rewards of Medicine* (1959) by Hugh Barber ; and *A Doctor Looks at Miracles* (1959) by Harley Williams. It is also of interest to note in passing that Samuel Smiles' *Self-Help* has recently been published in a new edition, with a preface by Professor Asa Briggs, to mark the centenary of its original appearance.

From the United States of America have come several books which deal with specialised aspects of medical history. Thus members might be interested in : *On the Utility of Medical History* (1957), edited by Iago Galdston. It is a small monograph, No. 1 of a series issued by the Institute on Social and Historical Medicine, the New York Academy of Medicine, and has contributions by the editor, George Rosen, Owsei Temkin, Gregory Zilboorg, and E. H. Ackernecht and others. An extremely useful and well written book, *The Medical World of the Eighteenth Century* (1958) by Lester S. King should be in every medical historical library. *Disease and Destiny: Logan Clendening* (1958) by Ralph H. Major, constituted the eighth series of Logan Clendening Lectures on the History and Philosophy of Medicine at the University of Kansas. In this slim volume, Major deals with the plague of Athens, the Black Death, disease and Napoleon's and Hitler's campaigns in Russia, and other matters, as well as giving an appreciation of Logan Clendening, whom he knew well.

Last year note was taken of George Rosen's *History of Public Health* (1958), and in September, 1958, he delivered the First Annual Victor Robinson Lecture at Temple University School of Medicine. He dealt sympathetically with Robinson, revealing something of the man and his approach to medical history. Two companion volumes to Rosen's *History of Public Health* are *A History of Neurology* (1859) by Walter Riese, and *A History of Ophthalmology* (1959) by George E. Arrington, both books forming part of a series of monographs on medical history published by MD Publications, Inc., New York. The authors of these two works approach their subjects from unusual angles which is all the more refreshing. *A History of American Medicine* (1959), edited by Professor Marti-Ibanez, is a symposium on various aspects of history of medicine in America, each essay being complete in itself but a general picture given.

From Professor Marti-Ibanez himself have come two extremely interesting volumes. The first, *Men, Molds, and History* (1958), deals with the historical aspects of antibiotics, the influence of antibiotics on the future of medicine, an appreciation of Sir Alexander Fleming, and other matters pertaining to antibiotics in medicine. *Centaur: Essays on the History of Medical Ideas* (1958) is a quite remarkable book in which, ranging over a wide field and comprehending in a series of essays events, times and figures in the history of medicine, art, philosophy and psychology, the erudition of the author is manifest but in no ostentatious way. It is impossible to do full justice to this unusual book in the space at our disposal, but the author is at his best when discussing such subjects as books in the physician's life, the physician as author, as alchemist, and as traveller, medicine in the Spain of Don Quixote, the histories of endocrinology and of curare, his appreciations of Cajal, of Ehrlich and of Sigerist, and his essays on the artists Modigliani, Utrillo and Braque.

The Thirty-Second Meeting *and Tenth Annual General Meeting*

The Thirty-Second Meeting and Tenth Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 1st November, 1958, in the Howden Room, Medical School, Newcastle upon Tyne, Dr. W. S. Mitchell, President, in the chair. The Annual Report for 1957-58 was presented and unanimously approved. The Honorary Treasurer, in presenting his financial report, recalled his warning to the Society last year of the urgent need for a review of the annual subscription rate. On behalf of the Council, Dr. M. H. Armstrong Davison, seconded by the Honorary Treasurer, moved the following resolution: "That the Constitution of the Society, Paragraph 5, be amended to read, 'The Annual Subscription shall be fixed from time to time by the Council and reported to members of the Society.'"

This proposal to amend the Constitution, having been already intimated to members of the Society three weeks before the meeting to conform with Paragraph 8 of the Constitution, was then put to the vote and carried. The meeting then proceeded to discuss the amount of the subscription and this was finally decided upon as One Pound.

On the motion of Col. J. Morison, seconded by Dr. R. Mowbray, the President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Treasurer and Secretary, and members of Council eligible for re-election, were unanimously re-elected and Drs. R. S. Dewar, H. W. Y. Taylor and W. N. Boog Watson elected members of Council in place of Mr. T. Gibson, Dr. W. P. D. Wightman and Dr. Guthrie, who retired by rotation. Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Goodall, proposed Mr. R. B. Wright as a member of Council in place of the late Mr. J. Hinton Robertson and this was endorsed. In thanking the retiring members of Council for their services during their period of office, the President paid suitable tribute to Dr. Guthrie, who demitted all office in the Society. A proposal that Dr. Guthrie be elected Honorary President of the Society was warmly acclaimed by the meeting, and in a few felicitous remarks, Dr. Guthrie accepted this office which carried with it a seat on the Council.

The Society resolved to hold its February meeting in Glasgow and to have a summer meeting independent of the Section of History of Medicine of the combined B.M.A.-C.M.A. Annual Meeting in Edinburgh in July, 1959. Paisley was suggested as a meeting place for the summer meeting.

Public Business took the form of two papers, the first by Mrs. A. C. Mitchell, wife of the President. Speaking on "Jane Loraine's Recipe Book, 1685," Mrs. Mitchell mentioned that this lady was a member of a well-known Northumberland family. The book contained culinary and medicinal recipes. Many of the latter were for plague, the King's Evil, green sickness and rickets, all diseases fortunately now practically unknown in this country. The recipes were based largely on the use of herbs, but some of the ingredients, such as cat's blood, wolf's liver and cow-dung, were reminders of the long persistence of medieval traditions.

Mrs. Mitchell's paper has been submitted for publication and details for reference to it will be given in next year's report.

The second paper was read by Dr. Ian A. Porter, who spoke on

THOMAS TROTTER, M.D., PHYSICIAN TO THE FLEET

Although the exact date of Thomas Trotter's birth is not known, the date of his baptism is recorded in the Parish Register of Melrose, Roxburghshire. He was baptised on 3rd August, 1760, the third child and second son of John Trotter and Alison Marr.

He attended school first at Melrose and later at Kelso, at an academy run by Mr. Perry, who later became the editor of the *Morning Chronicle*.

During the session 1777-1778 Trotter attended the class of Anatomy and Surgery of Alexander Monro. He was appointed surgeon's mate to the 74-gun ship the *Berwick* in 1779. During a cruise in her to the West Indies he made his first acquaintance with scurvy, a disease which was to become a major pre-occupation with him and one to which he was to contribute much. He was present in the *Berwick* at the Battle of Dogger Bank in 1781 and he received the thanks of the Commodore for his services to the wounded.

Trotter was paid off in 1783 and he sailed as surgeon on a slave-trader, the *Brookes* from Liverpool. On his voyage to the West Indies Trotter gained valuable experience of scurvy and a dislike of the trade. He gave evidence to a committee of the House of Commons on the slave-trade in 1790.

Trotter resumed his studies at Edinburgh University during the sessions 1784-85 and 1787-88, when he attended the classes of Professors Francis Home, James Gregory and Daniel Rutherford. He graduated M.D. at Edinburgh University in 1788 with a thesis *De Ebriatate (On Drunkenness)*. This work did not pass unnoticed—the Directors of the Humane Society of London presented him with "their thanks and warmest approbation."

In 1786 Trotter had published *Observations on the Scurvy*, which were based on his own observations and experience of this disease. A second edition of this work appeared in 1792. During his lifetime Trotter contributed further observations on this disease, which he published in his *Medical and Chemical Essays* and in his *Medicina Nautica*.

Trotter had possibly a more complete understanding of scurvy than Lind and Blane. He held that "recent vegetable matter imparts a something to the body which fortifies it against the disease" and he recognised that preserved juice of lemons was very inferior to fresh fruit in preventing scurvy. He was energetic in his exertions with regard to persuading the Admiralty to provide fresh vegetables, fruit and lemon juice. He was wrong, however, in believing that citric acid was the active antiscorbutic principle.

During this period up to 1789 Trotter had, in addition to studying at Edinburgh been engaged as a surgeon and apothecary at Wooler in Northumberland. Through his friendship with Admiral Roddam, who lived near Wooler, he was appointed to the *Barfleur*, the flagship of the Admiral. From 1789 until 1802 Trotter was in continuous employment in the navy—as a surgeon on a number of ships, as a physician at Haslar Hospital and as Physician to the Channel Fleet.

During the period of fourteen years which he spent in the naval medical department, Trotter was active in reforming and organising this branch of the Service. He published pamphlets: *A Review of the Medical Department in the British Navy with a Method of Reform*; *Remarks on the Establishment of the Naval Hospitals and Sick Quarters with Hints for their Improvement*; *Medical and Chemical Essays*; and his three volume work, *Medicina Nautica*.

Trotter early appreciated the value of vaccination and he presented on behalf of the naval medical officers a gold medal to Jenner in 1801. Trotter and Jenner corresponded over many years but few of Jenner's letters to Trotter have survived.

Trotter retired from the Navy in 1802 and settled in Newcastle, where he practised as physician for twenty-five years. Although he was not on the staff of the Infirmary, he had a large practice and gave free advice to the poor on two mornings of the week at his own home. His life in Newcastle was a busy one. In 1804 he published, *An Essay, Medical, Philosophical and Chemical on Drunkenness*, which was a translation and enlargement of his Thesis for his M.D. degree. This he dedicated to Edward Jenner. It should be noted that Trotter was one of the first to deal with drunkenness from a medical standpoint.

Proposals for destroying the fire and choak-damp of mines were set out in two pamphlets which appeared in 1805 and 1806. A more important piece of work was published in 1807, viz., *A View of the Nervous Temperament, etc.*, in which he dealt with the neuroses and in particular with the complaints which we would term psychosomatic.

Trotter wrote a play, *The Noble Foundling or The Hermit of the Tweed*, in 1810 and it was performed in Newcastle in 1813 and again in 1825. The review of it which appeared in the *Newcastle Advertiser* says that it was not a matter of surprise that its success in a theatre at the present day was somewhat equivocal as it was written with a close resemblance to the old Greek tragedy.

A volume of poems, *Sea Weeds*, was published by Trotter in 1829, an interesting collection, not from the point of view of the poetic value of the pieces but from the associations of certain of the poems. There is one on *Vaccination*, an ode to Dr. Jenner, which gives further proof of Trotter's interest in vaccination, his appreciation of its value and of his regard for Jenner. Another poem, *The Lifeboat*, an ode addressed to Mr. Greathead the inventor was included in the documents presented by Greathead to a House of Commons committee set up to investigate his claim to be the inventor of the lifeboat.

Although the Dictionary of National Biography says that Trotter does not appear to have been married, he was in fact married twice. His first wife died shortly after the birth of his first child, a son, in 1804. He married again in 1810 at St. John's Church, Newcastle, and had two sons and a daughter by his second wife.

In 1827, Trotter retired from practice in Newcastle and went to live at Easter Housebyres, near Melrose, a small estate which he had purchased in 1809. He went to live in Edinburgh in 1830 and returned to Newcastle a few months before he died on 5th September, 1832.

In addition to the engraving in *Sea Weeds*, I have found that there are two other engravings of Trotter—one, a stipple engraving which appears in Comrie's *History of Scottish Medicine* and of which there are copies in the British Museum, and another engraving which is in the Thomson-Walker Collection in Edinburgh University. I have not been able to find out anything of the origin of this latter engraving. The stipple engraving was the work of D. Orme, who painted Trotter's portrait in 1796. The engraving in *Sea Weeds* was done by Lizars. Rolleston points out that the *Sea Weeds* engraving shows Trotter in the uniform which was not given to medical officers until 1805 while the caption which accompanies it says that it shows Trotter at the age of thirty-seven, which suggests that it was executed in 1797. Rolleston was unable to explain this unless as he suggests that this engraving was a modification of the Orme portrait. There is evidence, however, that Trotter and certain other medical officers had a uniform of this kind before it was officially introduced.

Many of Trotter's contemporaries thought highly of him as a man, as a medical officer and as a writer. The record of his life, his actions and his writings show him to have been a well-educated physician, with ability to reform, organise and to write. He served the Navy well at a time when Britain was very dependent on her Fleet.

The Thirty-Third Meeting

The Thirty-third Meeting was held on Friday, 6th February, 1959, in the Hall of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, the President in the chair. It was decided to hold the summer meeting in Paisley, when homage would be paid to the memory of Dr. Robert Watt.

Two papers were given at this meeting, the first by Dr. John Ritchie on

NOTES ON THE INFLUENCE OF FOLK-MEDICINE ON THE EARLY USE OF DIGITALIS

At the beginning of his *Plain Introduction to the Art of Physic*, published in 1677, Pechey says, "Let no man be ashamed, if he be ever so learned, to learn something that conduces to the Perfection of his Art, tho' from an old Woman."

Almost a century later the wisdom of this advice was triumphantly demonstrated. William Withering, to whom we owe the introduction of digitalis to orthodox practice, records that he first realised its possible value in 1775, while examining a "domestic" remedy for dropsy that had long been kept a secret by an old woman in Shropshire. It contained twenty or more herbs, including foxglove leaves, and Withering, who was an expert botanist, had no difficulty in deciding that these leaves were the active constituent of the mixture. But, although this particular recipe may have been kept secret, the fact that foxglove contained some powerful substance which might produce striking—and sometimes very undesirable—results was known long before 1775, and far beyond the bounds of Shropshire. Foxglove, in fact, played quite an important part in folk-medicine, and ideas about its use that had been current centuries before Withering's time continued to affect practice for many years after his death.

My interest in the early use of foxglove in folk-medicine was aroused by the fact that there are in some old Scots Kirk Session Records various entries about people who were subjected to Church discipline for having administered decoctions of foxglove—"foxter" or "foxtrie"—leaves to sick people, and causing their deaths thereby.

As early as the 13th century the pre-Reformation Church had forbidden anyone unskilled in medicine to give potions of deadly herbs to sick people.⁽¹⁾ Unfortunately, it did not condescend on what constituted skill in medicine, or indicate which herbs were deadly. Naturally enough, persons who most definitely were not skilled in medicine continued the dangerous practice and were liable to be called to account for doing so.

Thus, in 1624, Janet Sharp was charged before the Kirk Session of Perth with having given her son a drink of "foxter" leaves, which hastened his death. Her defence was that it was at his own request that she prepared the decoction and that before giving it she had drunk some of it herself. She was sentenced to make public confession and to do penance in the Church, and the Session directed that the congregations should be reminded from the pulpit that it was forbidden to all save physicians and men of skill to give the sick drinks made from foxter leaves or from other herbs.⁽²⁾ Several similar cases are mentioned in the Records of St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, between 1614 and 1648. One of these refers to an unhappy woman who had dosed all her children with a decoction of foxglove leaves, whereafter they all died. The Session decided that she had acted, "out of ignorance and not of intention to kill, and is found to bewail the death of her childering continewallie," and discharged her, not without a sharp rebuke.⁽³⁾

As a rule such mishaps might be ascribed to ignorance, but it appears that "foxter" drinks may sometimes have been given with criminal intent. In 1644, the Presbytery of Lanark had to deliberate on a case in which two men and three women confessed to having given such a drink to a sick man, "which shortlie thereafter procured his death." One of the women concerned was so

ill-advised as to remark that "if she had not gevin the drink he would have cumerit all of thame sex or sevin years to come." This woman was suspected and eventually convicted of practising witchcraft and suffered the usual penalty. Her confederates got off fairly lightly, being required only to make public repentance in sackcloth and ashes for using "so damnable and devilische a cure."⁽⁴⁾

We are probably justified in assuming that the cases which ended fatally and were therefore reported to the church courts were only a small proportion of those in which preparations of foxglove leaves were administered. If so, it must have been a mode of treatment fairly common in Scotland. It obviously was sufficiently so to make its dangers well known to the more intelligent members of the community, who were evidently alive to the wisdom of prohibiting its use by unskilled people.

Unfortunately, the Kirk Sessions do not seem to have been specially interested in the reasons for which foxglove was given. Folk-medicine generally ignores pathology, and deals pretty cursorily with clinical phenomena, and, in any case, courts that were prepared to send men and women to the stake on the flimsiest evidence that they had caused some "deidly disease" or "feirful and uncouth seikness" were not likely to spend much time on differential diagnosis! We have to go to other sources for information on this point.

According to Dan McKenzie, the earliest references to the use of foxglove in medicine—so far as Britain is concerned—are to be found in the collection of remedies made by the Physicians of Myddvai—Rhiwallon and his descendants—who are believed to have practised in Caermarthen from the 13th to the middle of the 18th century.⁽⁵⁾ In this collection there are many references to foxglove, always as an external application, and used generally for tumours, "swellings," and abscesses. The leaves, presumably powdered, were mixed with such things as milk, suet, oatmeal, honey and so forth, but it is clear that foxglove was regarded as the active agent. Occasionally the leaves were simply bound on the affected part.⁽⁶⁾ This use of digitalis in local application seems to have been widespread. Martin, writing about the Scottish Highlands in 1703 says that foxglove applied "plaister-wise" to the affected part relieves the pains that follows "fevers."⁽⁷⁾ In much more recent times it was still being used in the Highlands to reduce "swellings"⁽⁸⁾ and as a dressing for "the Rose," i.e. erysipelas.⁽⁹⁾

As a cure for dropsy decoctions of foxglove had a high reputation among practitioners of folk-medicine. Apart from the historic case in Shropshire, Withering himself reports having found instances of its use for this purpose in Warwick and Yorkshire, and its value was also recognised by Scottish practitioners of folk medicine. According to Corrigan, it had been in use in the rural districts of Ireland from time immemorial as a remedy for epilepsy.⁽¹⁰⁾ But it seems likely that in many cases it was regarded as a general tonic or "alterative," given on the assumption that it might do the patient good, and in the hope, sometimes tragically ill founded, that it would at least do him no harm.

The scientific study of foxglove, or at least the first attempt to describe and classify it, dates from 1542, when Leonard Fuchs christened it *Digitalis Purpurea*. "We who are allured by its beauty," he says, "cannot suffer it to remain anonymous any longer" and suggests that it be called *Digitalis*, in allusion to its popular German name, "fingerhut," adding that he proposes to use this name "until I, or someone else, find a better."⁽¹¹⁾

His remarks on its medical potentialities are interesting and give some idea of the sort of reasoning that directed therapeutics in the 16th century. He describes it as bitter, resembling gentian. Now, Galen has said that bitter things cleanse, purge and remove obstructions. Digitalis, therefore, may be prescribed when such action is desired, as, for example, in clearing away "corrupt matter" from the thorax and lungs. There is no indication that

Fuchs had ever seen, or even heard of, a patient to whom digitalis had actually been given. In his day the authority of Galen was enough, and experimental verification was superfluous.

Dodonaeus, in 1569, describes the foxglove in much the same terms as Fuchs, stating that it is not used in medicine and is noteworthy only for the beauty of its flowers. He is said to have been the first writer to point out that it is poisonous, a fact impressed upon him by the experience of some people who ate an omelette containing digitalis leaves mixed with those of other herbs and thereafter were extremely sick.⁽¹²⁾

The well known *Herbal* of John Gerarde (1633) contains ⁽¹³⁾nothing fresh, except an inaccurate statement, attributing to Galen the remark on the similarity between foxglove and gentian, which was really made by Fuchs. Like his predecessors he says that digitalis is not used in medicine, either now or by the ancients.

Of considerably greater interest is the *Theatrum Botanicum* of John Parkinson⁽¹⁴⁾, published in 1640. Like his predecessors, he asserts that foxglove is useful "to cleanse the body both upward and downward of tough flegme and clammy humours and to open the obstructions of the liver and spleen." He speaks of its value as a local application, a very popular method in Italy "for any fresh or greene wound or cut." He adds, however, that "notwithstanding that these qualities are found to bee in it there are but few Physitions in our times that put it to these uses, but is in a manner wholly neglected." Nevertheless "late experience" has shown it to be of value in treating the King's Evil, still later experience has shown its efficacy in the cure of epilepsy—"divers have been cured thereby: for after taking the decoction of two handfulls thereof with four ounces of Pollipody of the oake, bruised, made in ale they that have been troubled with that disease 26 years, and have fallen once in a week or two or three times a moneth, have not fallen once in 14 or 15 moneths, that is, until the writing hereof, which I think may be said to be an absolute cure, not to be presumed that after so long stay it should returne againe."

This involved and rather obscure statement rather suggests that Parkinson may have been generalising on a single case.

The *Theatrum* contains also an interesting communication from a surgeon-apothecary called Saunders, who practised at Stourbridge, and who claimed that a weak decoction of foxglove leaves in water—"drank for the constant drink"—is an infallible cure for consumption. "But," he adds, "be cautious of its use, for it is of a vomiting nature. In these things begin sparingly and increase the dose as the patient's strength will bear." Withering was of the opinion that Saunders was speaking "from his own proper experience."

These statements about epilepsy and consumption had an important influence on the use of digitalis after its introduction to orthodox practice.

The egregious Nicholas Culpepper,⁽¹⁵⁾ described by Garrison as "the arch herbalist and quack-salver of the time," contents himself with copying Parkinson almost verbatim, so far as the uses of foxglove in medicine are concerned, adding only that the plant is under the dominion of Venus, that it is "of a gentle cleansing nature" and "one of the best remedies for a scabby head"—all of which statements may perhaps be regarded with some degree of scepticism. He repeats Parkinson's recommendation of foxglove with polybody in ale as a cure for epilepsy, but without mentioning the source of his information.

John Ray⁽¹⁶⁾ is one of the few early writers on this subject who seems to have had some practical experience in the use of foxglove. After detailing several ways of preparing an ointment—one of them entailed mixing the flowers with pig's fat and burying the mass in earth for forty days—he gives some hints about treatment.

"It is necessary," he says, "that a sufficient quantity of the ointment be prepared at that time of year when the flowers may be had, as, not infrequently,

a year or more is required to complete the cure . . . Do not be alarmed if the ulcers become larger at first ; after the ointment has dried up the humours it will heal them, and cover them with skin . . . This ointment is of most use in moist ulcers, exuding pus. In dry ulcers it is of little value."

William Salmon, who gained wide, and, so far as can be ascertained, an entirely undeserved reputation for learning on the strength of having written on a great variety of subjects, medical and other, brought out his *New London Dispensatory* in 1678. In it he merely repeats the usual statements, including—without acknowledgement—Parkinson's remarks about its use in the treatment of epilepsy. But in his ponderous herbal, the *Botanologia*, published in 1710, he writes with tremendous enthusiasm about the extraordinary cures which may be achieved by treating consumptive patients with foxglove.

A syrup made with the juice of the leaves and flowers in honey is "a Specific which transcends all other Vegetable Medicaments for the Cure of Consumptives . . . This Medicine has restored (where the Patient has not been past cure) beyond all Expectation. It cures a Phthisick or ulceration of the Lungs when all other Medicines have failed and the Sick esteemed past cure . . . These few lines concerning this Medicament are worth ten times the Price of the whole Book"—a statement ill calculated one would imagine, to promote the sale of that massive tome !

A later writer remarks that Salmon was "never an author of merit or reputation," and Dr. Radcliffe—a man of untrammelled speech—described him as a jackass. But his statement, as showing that at the beginning of the 18th century digitalis was regarded in some quarters as a specific for "consumption" is of interest, in view of the high hopes that this might be confirmed that were aroused at a later date, among observers much more trustworthy than Salmon.

But despite the many virtues attributed to digitalis it seems to be little used in orthodox practice before Withering's time. Dodonaeus says that it is not used as a simple, or mixed with other medicines. Parkinson, who speaks so confidently of its value in treating epilepsy, admits that few physicians use foxglove, in fact, it is "wholly neglected." Charles Alston indeed, writing in 1752, includes digitalis amongst our indigenous plants that might well be used in medicine—"meliora vix India mittit"—and goes on to say that if it we were to apply our minds to studying the powers of our native simples we should scarcely require any others.⁽¹⁸⁾ On the other hand, Wm. Lewis (1761) considered the action of foxglove to be "so violent as to afford sufficient foundation for the present disuse of the plant." Finally, Quincy⁽¹⁹⁾ in 1782 dismisses digitalis in a few words—"Although this is said to be both cathartic and emetic the present practice takes no notice of it."

That statement was too sweeping. Even when Quincy wrote Withering had treated a number of patients with digitalis, had made careful notes on the results and had persuaded a number of practitioners in and about Birmingham to co-operate with him. Some of these experimenters, indeed, were prescribing it in such large doses as to cause Withering some anxiety lest the drug should fall into disrepute through the temerity of those using it.

It was in 1785, ten years after he had recognised digitalis leaves as a constituent of the old woman's "domestic" remedy, that Withering published his classic *Account of the Foxglove*. In that book he gives 163 case histories, dealing with every patient to whom he had prescribed foxglove, whether that treatment had proved "proper or improper, successful or otherwise." In addition, he presented a large number of histories communicated to him by correspondents.

It is to be noted that he regarded digitalis as, essentially, a diuretic. At the end of his book he gives nine "inferences," which he considers justified by his observations. Of these the first eight deal with the diuretic action of foxglove and the varieties of dropsy in which it may be useful. Only the ninth suggests that it may be of value for treating cardiac disease—"It has a power over the

motion of the heart to a degree yet unobserved in any other medicine, and this power may be converted to salutary ends."

He noted that digitalis also might assist in the cure of diseases unconnected with dropsy.

It must, of course, be remembered that, at the end of the 18th century, ideas about dropsy were somewhat hazy and, apparently, such conditions as hydrocephalus, hydrothorax, ovarian cyst, even goitre, were sometimes included among its varieties. The elucidation of its real significance had to await advances in both pathology and clinical methods. Corvisart's observations on the relation between dropsy and diseases of the heart and Bright's work on its connection with kidney; the resuscitation of the art of percussion and Laennec's invention of the stethoscope, which in Faber's phrase enabled the physician "not only to observe, but to examine the patient" (Faber, K., *Nosography in Modern Internal Medicine*, New York, 1923, p. 34). These advances were not made till after Withering's death.

Though Morgagni had published his famous *De Sedibus et Causis Morborum* in 1760, no general attempt had been made, so far, to correlate postmortem changes with clinical findings, and nosography was necessarily based on clinical observation only. The inevitable result was a multiplication of "diseases," differentiated mainly according to the ideas and the experience of the reporters. De Sauvages, Linnaeus, Cullen and their followers attempted to classify diseases as botanists classified plants and had to create a great number of classes, orders, genera, and species in order to provide a place for every malady that had been described by a physician of reputation—De Sauvages, for instance, has no less than 20 varieties of consumption. Clearly, it was very difficult to assess the value of a new medicine by collating the reports of different observers. There could be no guarantee that all had been dealing with the same disease.

Nor could there be any certainty that all were giving comparable treatment. The foxglove leaves which were used to make the decoctions or the tincture might have been gathered at any season, they might be freshly plucked or might, perhaps, have been stored for months in the local apothecary's shop, there was some discussion on the possibility that a plant, if grown in a garden, might differ in its qualities from that found on uncultivated ground—there was ample material for controversy, and it is not strange that the first reports on treatment with digitalis were by no means uniformly favourable. Lettsom reported in 1789 on eight patients with dropsy whom he thought likely to benefit from using it but only two could be said to have showed even transient improvement.⁽²⁰⁾ John Ferriar, in 1792, having treated twenty-four dropsical patients with digitalis decided that the results were "not highly in favour of it," but considered, nevertheless, that it might prove useful in some cases. On a later series of fifty-six patients, treated with various drugs, he reported that digitalis had "produced a smaller number of cures in proportion than any other medicine employed."⁽²¹⁾ William Currie also was dissatisfied and decided that "no good is to be expected from a remedy that operates so strongly in weakening the powers of life."⁽²²⁾

I make no attempt to trace the stages by which the real value and the limitations of digitalis were ascertained, but I believe that it may be of some interest to enquire how its use in folk-medicine affected its employment by the orthodox. I have pointed out that, apart from its value in "dropsy" it had been specially recommended in consumption and in epilepsy, and was widely used as a local application to wounds, ulcers and swellings. According to his son, Withering himself used to treat bronchoceles by applications of fresh foxglove leaves, renewed night and morning (*Miscellaneous Tracts of Wm. Withering*, London, 1822, vol. ii, p. 502).

For the last-named purpose, indeed, it appears to have been soon discarded—possibly because other and equally efficacious dressings were more easily

obtained. A few medical men published notes of patients treated for skin diseases with preparations of digitalis, but by the beginning of the nineteenth century this form of therapy seems to have disappeared from orthodox practice, though it was used long afterwards and, for ought I know, may still be used by lay healers.

Withering himself had found digitalis of little use in the treatment of "consumption," but, in view of the claims that had been made by Saunders and others he thought it might be worth a further trial. Most of those who experimented with it reported unfavourably, though some believed it was of use in the early stages of the disease and in haemoptysis. But, as Currie wisely pointed out—"in such cases it is extremely difficult to distinguish between the spontaneous cessation of the disease and the operation of medicine."

Then, in 1799, Drs. Drake and Fowler⁽²³⁾ independently published accounts of some patients suffering from consumption who, they believed, had been cured, or at least greatly improved, by treatment with digitalis. It is difficult to understand the enthusiastic credulity with which their papers were received. The number of patients treated was much too small to justify any general conclusions, the clinical histories were too scanty to give any assurance that the diagnosis (assuming that "consumption" meant pulmonary tuberculosis) was warranted, and the time of observation was far too short to permit decision that permanent cure had been achieved. The authors, indeed, made no claim to have discovered a specific treatment for consumption, but some of their professional brethren were less discreet. Dr. Thomas Beddoes⁽²⁴⁾ of Bristol declared that the work of Drake and Fowler had put them "on a footing with the immortal Harvey" and foretold that "consumption will henceforward be as regularly cured by the foxglove as ague by the Peruvian Bark." A Dr. Maclean reported that, after some disappointments, his success with this treatment had, for upwards of five years, surpassed his most sanguine expectations,⁽²⁵⁾ and sundry other writers appear to have been equally fortunate.

But not all. Evidence soon began to accumulate showing that digitalis was not a certain cure for consumption. Andrew Duncan agreed that if the hopes aroused by the reports of Drake, Fowler and others proved well founded "the employment of digitalis in consumption is the most important practical discovery of which the present age can boast," but admitted that his own experience did not give any testimony in its favour.⁽²⁶⁾ Even the enthusiastic Dr. Beddoes lost faith. James Currie, while still holding that digitalis may be useful in the "predisponent" and even in the incipient stages of the disease, says—"I lament that in confirmed phthisis pulmonalis the hopes entertained of it (i.e. digitalis) have not been confirmed."⁽²⁷⁾ By 1821 it had lost its reputation to such an extent that Abercrombie⁽²⁸⁾ could say—"I believe that no person in the present day expects it to cure consumption," and three years later, a writer in the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal* asks, pertinently—"Was it actually consumption that was thus treated and cured?"

For epilepsy, as for most diseases that are mysterious, distressing and prolonged, a great many folk cures have been devised. Some of those, though of great antiquity, have been used until quite modern times. For example, burying a live cock, generally on the spot where the patient has fallen in a fit, must have originated at a very primitive culture level, but the practice had "not wholly ceased" when Rogers published his *Social Life in Scotland*, in 1886. Drinking from a suicide's skull, a cure for epilepsy mentioned by Pliny, was reported as still in occasional use in the Scottish Highlands so recently as 1901!⁽²⁹⁾ At the end of the eighteenth century a vast array of cures for epilepsy, by "sympathy," by "transference," by rings, by amulets and by scores of nostrums were still in use, and, though quite useless, were probably no worse than such treatment as orthodox medicine could provide at the time. It is not

astonishing that the newly aroused interest in digitalis encouraged medical men to experiment along the lines originally advocated by Parkinson in 1640.

But it soon became evident that there was even less justification for regarding digitalis as a specific for epilepsy than there was for the claims advanced for it in connection with consumption. A few writers about the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries report instances of improvement after its use, but there does not seem to have been much enthusiasm about it. Dr. Patrick Sharkey of Cork, indeed, appears to have been unusually fortunate. This gentleman, who seems to have had a very high class practice—he explains that he has had “little experience with the lower orders”—stated in 1830 that he had cured about 50 epileptic patients with digitalis, to which, as advised by Parkinson, he had added polybody of the oak. He claimed also that he had cured many patients suffering from epilepsy by general treatment for organic derangement of the viscera, on which, he believed, the epilepsy might depend.⁽³⁰⁾ Fifteen years later Corrigan reported that he had used digitalis in some cases of epilepsy with satisfactory results but feared that “the remedy will not be found generally useful.”⁽³¹⁾

It is perhaps unlikely that, under modern conditions, a secret cure, preserved by an old woman, will again be the means of introducing a valuable drug to the medical profession, but the story of how Withering discovered the potentialities of digitalis, and how ancient traditions, for a time, influenced its use, until prolonged observation and experiment eventually established its real value, is still of some interest.

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The second paper was read by Mr. A. L. Goodall on

GRANVILLE SHARP PATTISON THE ARGUMENTATIVE ANATOMIST

I have been interested in Pattison for many years, my interest being first attracted, I think, by his name. I read a little about him before 1955 when I was visiting New York-Bellevue Medical Centre with my friend, Miss Bayne. There I found in a place of honour the portrait of Pattison in the library of that institution. I then began to enquire further about him and a fascinating study he proved to be. He must have crowded into his life more quarrels and controversies than half a dozen other men.

Granville Sharp Pattison was the youngest son of John Pattison, of Kelvingrove in the city of Glasgow and of Hope Margaret Moncrieff. Some of you will know the park below Glasgow University which carried the name of the estate from which it was formed. Granville was born on 23rd January, 1791. There was some doubt cast on this date by M. S. Miller, in the only biographical article on Pattison published in the *Bulletin of Johns Hopkins Hospital* in 1919. I have obtained a copy of the Register and the date there is clear.

He was probably educated at the High School of Glasgow, an institution which was noted as of great antiquity when the University was founded in 1451. It is unlikely that he learned surgery at the University for the chair of surgery was not founded until 1815 but he may there have learned anatomy, of which the chair had been founded in 1720. Certainly he became an assistant to Allan Burns (*d.* 1813) in the College Street School of Anatomy in 1809. This school was, of course, a private one and catered for all sorts of students ranging from University students through those training as surgeons or apothecaries to dilettante men-about-town. Allan Burns was a master anatomist, as his book on the anatomy of the head and neck (edited by Pattison) shows but his main claim to fame is his work on heart disease, which still repays study. He died at an early age and was succeeded by Pattison.

The unofficial status of these private schools made the provision of bodies for dissection difficult. Therefore devious ways were used to provide specimens. Perhaps it is not too much of a reflection on our hero that he was accused of body-snatching and got off only because it could not be proved that the body found by the police was that one he was accused of stealing. Andrew Russell and Pattison were the proprietors of the College Street School when a grave in Ramshorn Churchyard was found opened. The body of the wife of a respectable haberdasher in Hutchison Street was found in the College Street dissecting rooms. Russell and Pattison were tried in the High Court in Edinburgh but identification of the woman was unsatisfactory and no larceny was proved. Pattison was so successful in obtaining bodies that Barclay's rooms in Edinburgh were largely supplied by him.

This occurred just before the time of the notorious Burke and Hare in Edinburgh, whose murders in order to produce bodies for dissection led to the passage of the Anatomy Act in 1832. Many famous surgeons, such as Hunter, Abernethy and Astley Cooper, took part in "resurrections."

In 1813, Pattison was admitted *qua* surgeon to the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. At the time of his admission the examination of candidates was severe and he must have learned considerable surgery, probably by being an apprentice. He was appointed surgeon to Glasgow Royal Infirmary in 1816-17, a post which he filled with acceptance. Here, however, he found his first major quarrel. In Moses Buchanan's *History of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary* (1832), there occurs on page 32 the following: "An unfortunate altercation, which occurred between the late Hugh Miller, one of the attending surgeons (and a Director at the same time) and G. S. Pattison . . ." resulted

in an alteration in the hospital regulations, so that, with certain exceptions, no member of the staff could be a director at the same time. Miller accused Pattison of unprofessional conduct at a consultation in the hospital. Pattison demanded an enquiry by the management (including Miller) who found him in the wrong and reprimanded him. Pattison's name was omitted from the vote of thanks to members of the staff in 1817.

In 1818, Pattison was appointed Professor of Anatomy at the Andersonian University. This institution was founded in 1796 by John Anderson, also known as Jolly Jack Phosphorus. He was Professor of Natural Philosophy at Glasgow University but quarrelled with all his colleagues and when he died left his estate to found a rival institution. He stated that "the professors of this University shall not be permitted, as in some other colleges, to be drones or triflers, drunkards or negligent of their duty in any manner of way."

In 1818-19, there occurred a most unfortunate contretemps in Pattison's life. Dr. William Ure sued his wife Catherine for divorce, citing Pattison as co-respondent. Having been over the papers of the case, I feel that the charge was true. Pattison's speedy withdrawal from Glasgow suggests this. But the Council of the Andersonian University and London University absolved him after considering his papers and evidence. An advocate in Edinburgh and a jury of American lawyers both declared him innocent. It appears that Ure was not unduly upset by the shedding of his quondam spouse.

During this controversy, his brother, John Pattison, then living in Philadelphia, wrote to him on 17th November, 1818, a letter received on 24th December, informing Granville that there was an opportunity for a man of talent to succeed the deceased Dr. Dorsey as Professor of Anatomy at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. On 20th April, 1819, Dr. Dewees wrote to Pattison in Glasgow telling him that, while he could not hope to obtain the chair from abroad, if he were present the chances were good of his obtaining the chair. Pattison therefore set out for America from Liverpool on 1st July, 1819, and arrived in New York. While in London awaiting a passage, he was made a member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society and a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. By the time Pattison reached Philadelphia, Dr. Physick had been transferred to the chair of anatomy from the chair of surgery, and Pattison refused a university post under Physick or with Dr. Gibson in the chair of surgery. He also refused an invitation to the University of Transylvania at Lexington and set up as a private teacher of anatomy, attracting 190 students. By this time, a Dr. Nathaniel Chapman, who at first supported Pattison, changed his mind and used all his influence to damage him. This suggests that word of the divorce had reached America meantime.

In 1820, Pattison was appointed to the chair of surgery at the University of Maryland, and thought that he would escape controversy. However, a professor from Philadelphia was transferred to Maryland and brought stories with him. Chapman continued to publish numerous pamphlets which stimulated replies from Pattison who challenged Chapman to a duel which he declined, though he had earlier fought one with Dr. Dewees. Pattison behaved at this point like a Ruritanian noble and published challenges to Chapman as "a liar, a coward, and a scoundrel." The invective of this last notice is worth recording :

TO THE PUBLIC

Whereas Nathaniel Chapman, M.D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, etc., has propagated scandalous and unfounded reports against my character ; and whereas when properly applied to, he has refused to give any explanation of his conduct, or the satisfaction which every gentleman has a right to demand, and which no one having

any claims to that character can refuse, I am therefore compelled to the only steps left me, and post the said Dr. NATHANIEL CHAPMAN as a LIAR, a COWARD and a SCOUNDREL.

GRANVILLE SHARP PATTISON.

PHILADELPHIA : Oct. 23rd, 1820.

Instead of a duel, Pattison was arrested but later released. General Thomas Cadwallader, Chapman's brother-in-law, accepted a challenge from Pattison in 1822, and was shot in the pistol arm.

In 1820, Pattison had an argument with Dr. William Gibson, of the chair of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, regarding Colles' fascia. Pattison probably discovered this independently of Colles though the latter predated him in publication.

Pattison's museum was brought over from Glasgow and he sold its one thousand specimens to the University of Maryland for 8,000 dollars. A building was erected for it in 1821 at Baltimore.

In 1826, Pattison returned to England, the cause of this return being given as ill-health. In Gross's autobiography he is accused of indolence and of attending places of entertainment and later he was accused of leading a gay life. It seems possible that he had heard of the foundation of the University of London and thought that a chair there would be a beneficial move. He was indeed appointed to the chair of anatomy at London but soon after his appointment, controversy broke out. The Council of the University appointed Dr. J. R. Bennett as a demonstrator of anatomy without Pattison's consent and outwith his control. By this manoeuvre Bennett was able to teach students and charge fees for so doing. The quarrel between Bennett and Pattison was complicated by several factors. Most important was the intervention of the *Lancet*, edited by the fearless and scurrilous Thomas Wakley, who was against any seeming monopoly either of men or of institutions. He carried on a campaign in the pages of his journal against Pattison, though it was the only journal to do so. Pattison had much support from the general practitioners of the country, whom he had organised against the Royal Colleges. In spite of Pattison allowing Bennett co-professorship and Bennett's death a year later, Wakley continued his persecution.

The second important factor was the attitude of Leonard Horner, F.R.S., Warden of London University, who attempted to take a high hand with his professors. Both Wakley and Horner encouraged students to complain of Pattison's lectures and Pattison rose to reply with numerous pamphlets. The students objected to the class discipline. Pattison's lisp and Scottish accent also irritated them. In spite of the controversy and the accusations, however, Pattison was appointed to the chair of surgery in 1831 as well as holding the chair of anatomy. Eventually the unhappy sequel was the dismissal of Pattison, although the Council of the University stated "that nothing which has come to their knowledge with respect to his conduct has in any way tended to implant his general character or professional skill and knowledge."

At this point, Pattison evidently decided that America was a better place than the United Kingdom, and he was appointed professor of anatomy at Jefferson College, Philadelphia. Here he appears to have settled down to hard work and to control of his temper. Few publications are found except those related to anatomy, two being his opening lecture casting aspersions on the University of Pennsylvania (1832) and a lecture on the possibility of excising the parotid gland (1833). McClellan, his colleague, had published a case where he claimed that he had removed the parotid and Dr. Gibson of Pennsylvania denied this possibility. Pattison's paper begins by a witty attack on Gibson, but it is probable that Gibson was right.

Pattison married a Scots lady, Mary Sharp, but had no children.

In 1840, he was invited to establish the chair of anatomy at New York and hence his portrait in Bellevue. I hope, in association with Miss Bayne, to find some more information on his last twenty years. He died on 12th November, 1851, of obstruction of the common bile duct, possibly due to carcinoma of the head of the pancreas.

Granville Sharp Pattison was certainly a character. He filled five professorial chairs and contributed largely to the literature of anatomy. He edited the *American Medical Recorder*, Allan Burns's *Anatomy of the Head and Neck*, Cruveilhier's *Anatomy* and Masse's *Anatomical Atlas*. He lectured with acceptance to many students. He was interested in music and the arts, and he was a founder member of the Grand Opera House in New York. S. D. Gross stated that he could cook a canvas-back duck to perfection. Yet he had a genius for quarrelling and a passion for controversy.

He is not yet adequately recognised for his good works, for his efforts in promoting the study of anatomy in Britain and America, but I believe that there is some work now in progress under the direction of Professor Agnew of Kansas which may throw more light on this fascinating character.

The Thirty-Fourth Meeting

The Thirty-fourth Meeting was held on Saturday, 30th May, 1959, at Paisley. Members and their guests met for an informal lunch before proceeding to the Lecture Room of the Museum and Art Galleries, where the meeting was held. Dr. Guthrie, in the unavoidable absence of the President, took the chair. Dr. C. Stewart Black, a retired medical practitioner and former Provost of Paisley, set the scene for the afternoon's proceedings by giving a racy and interesting account of Paisley and its social and medical history. He emphasised the early sanitary difficulties encountered at a time when middens and other accumulations of filth were commonplace. Associated with these conditions, outbreaks of epidemic disease were frequent. He also described the life and work of the early Paisley weavers, who were for the most part self-educated and keen politicians.

Messrs. T. Gibson and A. L. Goodall then discussed the life and work of the man to whose memory homage was paid by the Society by its visit to this West of Scotland burgh. The following is a synopsis of their paper.

THE LIFE AND WORK OF Dr. ROBERT WATT

Robert Watt was baptised in Stewarton Parish Church on 1st May, 1774, the third son of John Watt, who farmed Bonnyton, now known as Girenti, near Stewarton. At the age of thirteen, after a short period of schooling, he became a ploughman to a neighbouring farmer and later went with a party to Galloway to build stone dykes and make roads. He travelled to Dumfries, where he was boarded at Ellisland, the home of Burns, and pursued his studies with some of the poet's books. Following this, he joined his brother, who was a cabinetmaker, and during this adolescent period educated himself during what leisure hours were available.

At first he proposed to study divinity and attended the Greek and Latin classes in Glasgow University in 1793 and 1794. In 1795-96 he took moral and natural philosophy at Edinburgh; the following year he added anatomy and, finally, after a period as schoolmaster in Symington, Ayrshire, finished his medical studies in Glasgow in 1799. The Licence of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow was obtained in 6th April, 1799, and thereafter he began practice in Paisley, where he was partner to Mr. James Muir.

He wrote several papers, including his treatise on diabetes, while in Paisley, and, with a view to a wider sphere of practice, he is said to have made a tour of England in 1809. The following year he moved to a large house in Queen Street, Glasgow, where he began to give lectures on the Theory and Practice of Medicine. In 1814 he was elected Physician to Glasgow Royal Infirmary and President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons and in the same year was active in the formation of the Glasgow Medical Society of which he was first President.

During his stay in Glasgow, he acquired a considerable library of medical books which he put at the disposal of his students and printed a catalogue for their use.

The idea for the *Bibliotheca Britannica* may well have originated with this library and its catalogue. Although he published several other papers during his stay in Glasgow, the best known being his *Treatise on the Chincough*, all these are overshadowed by the immense concept of the *Bibliotheca*. At first confined to medical books printed in Britain and the Dominions, he soon expanded this to include works on law, divinity and miscellaneous subjects and the more important foreign works.

Ill-health caused him to retire from active practice in 1817, but, helped by his sons and amanuenses, he laboured incessantly at the work which had just begun printing when he died on 12th March, 1819. Originally printed in nine parts from 1819-1824, they were subsequently bound in four volumes. Volumes 1 and 2 contain the authors' names, 3 and 4 the subject headings. The number of authors quoted is about 50,000 and, although there are inevitable mistakes, it was the first attempt at such a complete guide to literature and it held its place for many years. Even today it is widely used by librarians.

After Watt's death, ill-fortune pursued his family. In December, 1819, his widow's house was burgled and many valuables stolen. Four men were later publicly hanged for the theft. Mrs. Watt was to have received £2,000 from Constable, the publishers, on completion of the *Bibliotheca* but they went bankrupt and she received nothing. One son died in 1824, the second in 1829 and Mrs. Watt herself in 1856. One daughter survived her mother but became insane and was confined in Govan Workhouse. Many famous people tried to persuade the Government to give her an annuity but negotiations were still incomplete when she died in 1864.

In her possessions after her death was found the manuscript for her father's *Bibliotheca*. This was bought by Thomas Coates of Paisley, who presented it to the Paisley Philosophical Society, who later gave it to Paisley Public Library, where it is preserved.

The manuscript, consisting of innumerable slips of inscribed paper, has been carefully arranged and bound in 69 volumes, 15 of authors and 54 of subjects.

Watt's career is in many ways surprising. He apparently rose from a humble origin to become a fashionable consultant physician but his reputation in this sphere has not withstood the test of time and he is justly remembered not as a medical man but as the author of a gigantic work, for which all librarians owe him a great debt. His personal life was unfortunate, but his immortality is assured.

At the conclusion of the proceedings, members had an opportunity of viewing a most interesting exhibition of books and manuscripts dealing not only with Watt's works but containing other items of unusual or unique interest to historians. This exhibition was arranged by Miss Catherine R. McEwan, Librarian to the Paisley Public Library, who has kindly permitted us to include a list of the various items shown. These will be found in Appendix I.

W. S. MITCHELL, *President.*

H. P. TAIT, *Hon. Secretary.*

Appendix I.

LIST OF BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS ON VIEW AT PAISLEY MEETING

Arranged by Miss CATHERINE R. MCEWAN, Librarian, Public Library, Paisley

Works by Robert Watt, M.D.

- Original Ms. of the *Bibliotheca Britannica* in 69 volumes, shown in its entirety. Lent by Paisley Public Library.
- Observations on Cancer*. Ms. Essay read before the Glasgow Medical Society, 18th January, 1816. Lent by the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons.
- Observations on the Nature and Treatment of Erysipelas*. Ms. Essay read before the Glasgow Medical Society, 17th January, 1815. Lent by the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons.
- Ms. of a *Treatise on Chincough, etc.* Lent by the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons.
- Cases of Diabetes, Consumption, etc., with Observations on the History and Treatment of Disease in General*. Paisley, 1808. Lent by Paisley Public Library.
- WATT, ROBERT. *Bibliotheca Britannica; or, A General Index to British and Foreign Literature*. 4 volumes. 1824. Lent by Paisley Public Library.

Other Books and Mss. on View

All these items were lent by Paisley Public Library

- AUDOBON, JOHN JAMES. Volume I of the four-volume Elephant Folio edition of *The Birds of America*, 1827-32.
- AUDOBON, JOHN JAMES. Volumes I and II of *The Biography of the Birds of America*, 1831.
- BARTHOLIN, THOMAS. *Anatomia et sanguinis circulationem Reformata*. Batav., 1651.
- "Breeches" Bible. Imprint London, 1597. A very worn copy of one of the "Breeches" Bibles or Geneva Bible of 1560.
- HARVEY, WILLIAM. *Exercitationes Anatomicae . . .* Roterdami, 1654 and BACK, JAMES DE. *Dissertatio de Cordi . . .* 1654. Bound together in duodecimo volume (actual size $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3''$).
- WHITE, DR. JOHN, of Paisley. Ms. Notes on Cullen's Lectures on Chemistry (*circa* 1754).
- WILSON, ALEXANDER. Volumes I and II of *The American Ornithology*, printed in 9 volumes, 1808-14.

Arbuthnott Missal, Prayer Book and Psalter

Lent by Paisley Museum and Art Galleries

- The Missal*, 1491. Folio volume—246 leaves of vellum, written both sides, double columns. Volume re-backed but with original oaken boards covered dark brown leather, stamped with fleur-de-lis and roses. Ancient brass clasp. This is the only missal of Scottish use known to exist.
- The Prayer Book*, 1482-83. Quarto volume. Eighty leaves of vellum. Original binding, with oak boards covered with dark brown leather, stamped with fleur-de-lis and roses, six finely printed miniatures.
- The Psalter*, 1482. Small quarto. One hundred and forty-two leaves of vellum. Seven illuminated floral scroll borders, large ornamental initials in the "Camien" style.

Appendix II.

List of Contents of Exhibition arranged by the Royal Medical Society on the occasion of the Joint Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association and Canadian Medical Association held in Edinburgh, 18th-24th July, 1959.

Charter of Incorporation. Granted by King George III to the Presidents and Associates of the Medical Society of Edinburgh. Dated St. James's, 14th December, 1778, and Sealed with the King's Great Seal for Scotland at Edinburgh, 12th January, 1779.

Diploma of Honorary Membership of the Society granted to Sir JAMES YOUNG SIMPSON. Presented in 1850.

Dissertations. All Mss.

1. BADGLEY, FRANCIS. *On Acute Hydrocephalus*. (Badgley was one of the founders of L'Ecole de Médecine et Chirurgie de Montreal, 1843. He graduated M.D., Edinburgh, 1829).
2. BRIGHT, RICHARD. *On Gangrene*. 1813.
3. BRIGHT, RICHARD. *On Retroversio Uteri*. 1814.
4. HASTINGS, CHARLES. *What is the State of the Blood Vessels in Inflammation?* 1818.
5. LISTER, JOSEPH. *On the Mode in which External Appliances act on the Internal Parts*. 1855.
6. LISTON, ROBERT. *On Fracture of the Neck of the Femur*. 1820.

7. SEWELL, J. A. *On Injuries of the Head*. 1832. (Sewell presided at the Inaugural Meeting of the Canadian Medical Association, 1867).
8. SIMPSON, JAMES YOUNG. *On the Diseases of the Placenta*. 1835.
9. SYME, JAMES. *Caries of the Bones*. 1821.

Inscribed and Presentation Volumes

- BROWN, JOHN. *Horae Subsecivae*. 1861. Edmonston & Douglas, Edinburgh. Inscribed, "The Royal Medical Society with filial regards of the Author, Mar. 19th, 1861."
- CHRISTISON, ROBERT. *A Treatise on Poisons*. 1829. Black, Edinburgh. Inscribed, "To the Royal Medical Society with Dr. Christison's Respects."
- CULLEN, WILLIAM. *First Lines in the Practice of Physic*. 1777. Creech, Edinburgh. Inscribed, "For the Library of the Medical Society from the Author."
- JACKSON, SEGUIN HENRY. *A Treatise on Sympathy*. 1781. Murray, London. Inscribed, "Respectfully inscribed to his brethren, the members of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh."
- LARREY, BARON DOMINIQUE JEAN. *Memoires de Chirurgie Militaire*. 1817. Smith, Paris. Inscribed, "De la part de l'auteur a la celebre Societe de Medecine d'Edimbourg . . . comme haute consideration, Larrey."
- STEPHENSON, JOHN. *De Velosynthesi*. 1820. Neill, Edinburgh. Inscribed, "To the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh with the compliments and sincerest wishes for its welfare and rising glory, of one of its members, the Author." Stephenson was one of the original teachers at Montreal Medical Institution, 1824, which later became the nucleus of McGill Faculty of Medicine, Montreal, 1832. In 1819, Stephenson was operated upon for cleft palate by Philibert Roux of Paris. His case was the first successful operation for cleft palate repair. His Edinburgh dissertation, submitted for the degree of M.D. at the University, was an account of his own case, and since Roux did not rush into print, in fact deferred publication until 1825, Stephenson's account remains the first published one of an epoch-making advance in surgery.
- WITHERING, WILLIAM. *An Account of the Foxglove and Some of its Medical Uses*. 1785. Swinney, Birmingham. Inscribed, "To the Medical Society of Edinburgh, from the Author."

Collected Dissertations and Histories of the Society

- DOUGLAS, DAVID. *Dissertations by Eminent Members of the Royal Medical Society*. 1892. Limited to 250 copies.
- DUNCAN, ANDREW, SENR. *A Short Account of the Commencement, Progress and Present State of the Buildings belonging to the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh*. 1819. Neill, Edinburgh. Inscribed, "For Dr. Stroud from A. Duncan."
- GRAY, JAMES. *History of the Royal Medical Society, 1737-1937*. 1952. Edited by Douglas Guthrie. University Press, Edinburgh.
- GRAY, JAMES, and MACFARLAN, A. M. *The Royal Medical Society*. 1936. *Medical Press and Circular*, 192. April 1. This short history was one of a series on British Medical Societies, Their Early History and Development, published in the journal, but later included in book form, edited by Sir D'Arcy Power, and published by the Medical Press and Circular, 1939.
- STROUD, WILLIAM. *List of Members, Laws, and Library Catalogue of the Medical Society of Edinburgh*. 1820. Printed for the Society by Wm. Aitken, Edinburgh.

Addresses

- HUTCHISON, ROBERT. *The Function of the Royal Medical Society in Medical Education*. Reprinted from the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, January, 1913.
- OSLER, SIR WILLIAM. *The Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh. Particularly its Relations with the Profession in the United States and Canada*. Remarks at the Dinner of the Royal Medical Society, 2nd February, 1907. Published in *Scottish Medical and Surgical Journal*, March, 1907.
- OSLER, SIR WILLIAM. Ms. notes of the above, presented by Osler.

Manuscript Notes

- DR. ANDREW DUNCAN'S Lecture Notes on the Practice of Physick.
- Ms. Notes "collected from the lectures of Mr. Alexander Monro, F.R.S. and Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, 1742."
- Ms. Lecture Notes on the lectures of (a) Professor Christison, (b) Professor Simpson and (c) Professor Turner, made by Edwin Thompson.

Medical Students of Edinburgh and Their Dispute with the Managers of the Royal Infirmary

- A Narrative of some late injurious proceedings of the Managers of the Royal Infirmary against the students of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh*. 1785. Published by the students.
- Ms. of the Narrative.

The Scottish Society of the History of Medicine.

CONSTITUTION.

1. The Society shall be called "THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE," and shall consist of those who desire to promote the study of the History of Medicine.

2. A General Meeting of Members shall be held once a year to receive a report and to elect Office-Bearers.

3. The management of the affairs of the Society shall be vested in the Office-Bearers, who shall include a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and not more than ten other Members to form a Council. The Council shall have power to co-opt other Members who, in their opinion, are fitted to render special service to the Society.

4. All Office-Bearers shall be elected annually. The President shall not hold office for more than three successive years, but shall be eligible to serve again after one year. Not more than eight Members of Council, or two-thirds of the total number, shall be eligible for immediate re-election.

5. The Annual Subscription shall be fixed from time to time by the Council and reported to members of the Society.

6. The Secretary shall keep brief Minutes of the proceedings, shall prepare Agenda, and shall conduct the correspondence of the Society.

7. Meetings shall be held at least twice yearly, and the place of meeting shall be in any of the four University centres, or elsewhere, as the Council may decide.

8. This Constitution may be amended at any General Meeting of the Society on twenty-one days' notice of the proposed amendment being given by the Secretary, such amendment to be included in the Agenda circulated for the Meeting.

