

News, Notes, and Queries

SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE

- 18 May 1985 One-day conference at Oxford: 'Medieval Medicine'
Organizer: Roy Porter, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.
- 5-7 July Annual Conference, at Pollocks Hall, Edinburgh: 'The Changing Face of Scottish Health and Medicine'.
Organizer: Malcolm Nicolson, History of Medicine and Science Unit, University of Edinburgh, High School Yards, Edinburgh EH1 1LZ.
- 26 October One-day conference with Presidential Address: 'Public Health and Community Medicine'—Margot Jeffreys (President 1985).
Organizer: Jane Lewis, Department of Social Science, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE.

THE LINDSAY CLUB

The Lindsay Club, the smallest constituent part of the British Dental Association, was founded in 1962 in memory of Lilian Lindsay, for the study of dental history and literature. A wide range of speakers over the years has helped to stimulate interest in the lives of distinguished members of the profession, their ideas and techniques, and in all contributions to the advance of the profession in many fields.

The different aspects of the history of dentistry which unite the group and which are reflected in the papers read and discussed at meetings, could provide a new interest to other members of the profession and particularly to those at the outset of their careers so that new developments come to be seen in perspective.

At least three meetings are held each year, mainly at the BDA Headquarters in Wimpole Street, but with one taking place at the Association's annual conference. Occasional visits may also be made to particular places of interest. It is recognized that it may often be difficult for members living in the regions to attend the London meetings, but a newsletter and occasional news-sheets are produced regularly to provide a link for such members. These are always much appreciated.

Membership in the British Isles is open to members of the BDA, dental students, and other interested persons not dentally qualified such as museum curators, librarians, and archivists. In other countries, all dental practitioners and other interested persons are eligible. The subscription at present is £4 per annum, payable in October, but student members of the BDA are not charged.

Meetings during 1985:

29 June, 11.00 a.m., at Prince of Wales Hotel, Southport, Merseyside (during BDA annual meeting). Christine Hillam: 'The development of dental practice in the provinces before 1855: the predisposing, enabling and limiting factors'.

20 November, 5.00 p.m., at BDA Headquarters. Ann Hargreaves: 'W. A. Hunt—the first Englishman to experiment with cocaine'.

Further details about the Lindsay Club may be obtained from the Secretary, Miss M. A. Clennett, 64 Wimpole Street, London W1.

THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Session 1983–84

The Society has had an unusually busy but successful session with good attendances at all the meetings.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH ORDINARY MEETING

This was a joint meeting with the Scottish Department of the Pharmaceutical Society, held on 2 October 1983 in the Department's headquarters in Edinburgh. Mr John Gifford, Director of Buildings of Scotland Research Unit, gave a lavishly illustrated talk on 'The growth of New Edinburgh through the eyes of an architectural historian'. Mr Charles G. Drummond, FPS, gave a brief paper on 'Gilbert Lawrie: druggist, excise commissioner, and Lord Provost'. An important public figure with two terms as Lord Provost of the city, Lawrie occupied the civic chair when James Craig's plan for New Edinburgh was put into execution.

THE THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH ORDINARY MEETING

These meetings were held at the Postgraduate Centre, Glasgow, on 5 November 1983. Mr. David Hamilton, FRCS, spoke on 'Glasgow town's hospital', a paper which it is hoped will soon be published *in extenso*. Dr Margaret Menzies Campbell gave a short talk on 'Alexander Shiels: genius or charlatan?'. Shiels (1865–1907), whom Dr Campbell recalled once treating her mother, was a graduate in medicine of Glasgow (1890). He was undoubtedly a brilliant man. His nephew, Walter Elliot, the distinguished physician/politician, believed his grandiose ideas and advanced views, which met so much opposition from medical contemporaries, were caused by a brain tumour.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH ORDINARY MEETING

This meeting was held in the Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital on 26 May 1984, as the culmination of a week of activity to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Hospital's foundation in 1834 as the Glasgow Lying-in Hospital. Dr Derek Dow, Archivist of the Greater Glasgow Health Board and author of a recent history of the hospital,¹ briefly described the events leading up to its foundation. The second paper was presented by Dr Andrew A. Calder, who spoke on 'Glasgow in the history of caesarean section'. He described Murdoch Cameron's series of elective "classical Caesarean" operations at the Hospital, begun in 1888, establishing the procedure as a valid option rather than a desperate measure. His successor, J. M. Munro Kerr, popularized the lower segment operation, asserting its greater safety than the classical procedure.

¹Derek A. Dow, *The Rottenrow: the history of the Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital, 1834–1984*, Carnforth, Lancs., Parthenon Press, 1984.

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THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH ORDINARY MEETING

The Hall of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Aberdeen was locus for this meeting on 30 June 1984, when two papers were read. The first, by Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir John Rawlins, dealt with the 'History of diving medicine'. This was an outstanding contribution, which enthralled a large audience, and it is hoped that Sir John will expand on his theme for publication soon. Tracing the history of diving from earliest times, Sir John emphasized that today's deep dives, both experimental and commercial, would not have been possible without a long series of major physiological contributions over the years. In particular, the work of Bert and his successors on carbon dioxide toxicity and inert gas narcosis, of K. E. Donald, Christian Lambertsen, and others on oxygen toxicity, and of Bennett, Brauer, and Fructus on the high-pressure nervous syndrome, were outstanding. In the last twenty-five years there has been a very large and widespread physiological input into diving, notably the introduction of the Saturation Diving Technique by Bond and Mazzone in the United States. Relatively few physiological problems remain, and further advances in diving and underwater operations will depend more upon the ingenuity of the engineers.

The second paper, by Dr Hamish Wilson, Secretary of the Grampian Health Board, dealt with 'Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and the Joint Hospital Scheme'. In 1920, largely at the instigation of Matthew Hay, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence (1883–1926) and Medical Officer of Health for the city (1883–1923), and Ashley MacIntosh, Professor of Medicine at the University (1912–30), a Joint Hospital Committee was formed composed of representatives of the Infirmary, Children's Hospital, Town Council, University, and Medico-Chirurgical Society, which prepared the Joint Hospital Scheme. Thus was initiated the unique Aberdeen Hospital and University complex at Foresterhill of which Hay had written in 1920, that it would be "the envy of all Britain". The Maternity Hospital was added to the Scheme (1937).

A demonstration of documents relating to the Foresterhill Scheme was on view for the Meeting, which concluded the session.

William Cunningham, President
H. P. Tait, Editor, Report of Proceedings

PYBUS CLUB

A meeting of the Pybus Club will be held on Thursday, 16 May 1985, at 5.30 in Room 1.6, Department of Classics, Percy Building, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. James Longrigg will present a paper on 'Presocratic Philosophy and Hippocratic Medicine'.

DANIEL DRAKE BICENTENNIAL

The bicentennial of Daniel Drake (1785–1852), pioneer physician-educator of the Ohio Valley, occurs on 20 October 1985. The University of Cincinnati, which he founded in 1819, is planning to celebrate Drake and his accomplishments during

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1985 with essays and reviews of some of his major works. It is planned to assemble a number of his unpublished orations in a small, commemorative volume. The Drake Bicentennial will culminate in a symposium on medical education, to be held at the College of Medicine on 18 October 1985. Enquiries may be addressed to Charles D. Aring, MD, Department of Neurology (525), University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio 45267, USA.

'ASPECTS OF BLOOD'

The Medical Sciences Historical Society is holding a weekend in Cambridge on this theme, 13–15 September 1985. All who are interested in the techniques of blood examination, from Galen and Newton to Coulter and Smac, will be very welcome, and papers are invited. The venue is the Cambridge College of Arts and Technology, and accommodation may be reserved nearby in Downing College. Enquiries to: Dr L. F. Gore, School of Dental Surgery, Pembroke Place, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX; or Mr P. James, Cambridge College of Arts and Technology, East Road, Cambridge.

THE ROBERT MEARNS YERKES PAPER

The Robert Mearns Yerkes Papers have recently been reprocessed, a new finding aid for the collection has been written, and the papers are now available to scholars. Robert M. Yerkes (1876–1956) is widely known for his psychological testing of military personnel in World War I and for his research into the behaviour of anthropoid apes. The papers comprehensively document the professional and personal life of Yerkes and should be of considerable interest to those studying the history of psychology in the United States. Yerkes corresponded extensively with professional colleagues, former students and research assistants, officials of funding agencies and possible benefactors, naturalists and zoologists, personal friends, and members of his family. Included in the papers are correspondence, reports, research notes, a complete set of Yerkes' published writings, photographs, and diaries.

A copy of the finding aid is available for \$12.00. For further information on the use of the papers please write to: Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, Box 1603A Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520, USA.

SECOND SYMPOSIUM ON THE HISTORY OF TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

This symposium was held in Mexico City on 17 October 1984, during the Fifth World Congress of the International Society of Tropical Dermatology. Dermatologists and tropical medical specialists from around the world participated, and their papers will be published in subsequent issues of the *International Journal of Dermatology*. The symposium was directed by Lawrence Charles Parish, MD, Clinical Professor of Dermatology, Medical College of the Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia.