

Society Reports

alterations in such physical properties as consistency, colour, odour, taste, heat and electrical charge. The question of 'gaseous apoplexy' was mentioned and the factors influencing the formation of a 'buffy coat' were dealt with in detail. The possibility that many diseases were caused by the entry of morbid material into the circulation was exciting a great deal of interest at that time and a number of experiments on the transmission of infectious diseases were described.

In considering the effects of changes in the blood on other tissues the review discussed such things of general pathological interest as the relation of uric acid to gout, the mechanism of pus formation, and the possibility that atheromatous plaques were formed, not within the vessel walls, but in small clots adherent to the endothelium, a concept that has been revived in modern times.

In his concluding remarks Dr. Verso stressed that the main point of historical interest to be gained from this study was that at the stage of medical history under discussion, old doctrines about the nature of disease were being tested, not only by observation, but by planned experiment.

NORWEGIAN SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

THE first meeting of the year was held at Damms Bokhus, Oslo, on 24 March, when the well known Norwegian botanist, Professor Ove Arbo Høeg gave an address on the history of Norwegian medicinal herbs. After some introductory remarks on Norwegian folk medicine in general, Professor Høeg had something to say about the doctrine of 'Signatures' in connection with therapeutics. He then gave many interesting details regarding the various herbs, many of which are still used in the treatment of different ailments. It is interesting to note that not all of these herbs contain pharmacologically active substances. Finally, Professor Høeg dealt with the very interesting subject of the names given to herbs and he showed that quite different names were used for the same plant in different parts of the country.

The membership is steadily increasing and the Society enters upon its fifth year with great confidence.

BERNHARD GETZ.