

nation and the patients and that it had been performed by a man who had already made considerable contributions to the question mentioned.

Although Gerhard Armauer Hansen was deprived of his position as resident physician at the Bergen Leprosy Hospital, he continued in his appointment as medical officer of health for leprosy in Norway until his death in 1912.

A photostat copy of the sentence is filed in the Armauer Hansen memorial room in Bergen which was inaugurated on 12 February 1962.

T. M. VOGELSAANG

ROBERT BRIDGES:

1. HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS

2. HIS *CARMEN ELEGIACUM DE NOSOCOMIO STI BARTHOLOMAEI LONDINIENSI*

At the same time that Thornton¹ and I² were writing about Robert Bridges, R. E. Hadden³ also was composing a thoughtful analysis of *The Testament of Beauty*. Before I discovered his article on arthritis,⁴ I had known little about Bridges except that he had been a friend of the Jesuit poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844–89). In the diary of Hopkins we read that on 25 August 1868, Bridges visited him and was bitten by a dog.⁵ The friends corresponded regularly until the death of Hopkins from enteric fever at University College, Dublin, in 1889. Immediately the Vice-President of the College sent most of the Hopkins papers to Bridges.⁶

Twenty-nine years later, Bridges published the poems in which Hopkins had experimented with new rhythms and his own characteristic neologisms.⁷ Many who knew Hopkins' writings well were surprised to find at his centenary in 1944 that the writer of these fresh and new poems had really been a poet of the last century. Bridges himself wrote,⁸ that the sonnet (To R. B.)⁹ dedicated to him was the last poem Hopkins ever wrote.

In his letters, as in most of Bridges' prose, there is very little about medicine or science and I am glad to read Hadden's deeper analysis of the *Testament of Beauty*.³ And there was little of medicine in his daily speech, though he used to joke about a patient who fled from St. Bartholomew's when he saw 'ter die' written on his prescription.¹⁰ He disapproved of the use of Latin in British anatomy schools; in 1922 he wrote a preface entitled 'The Language of Anatomy' to a collection of articles written by artists.¹¹

The Latin *Ode to St. Bartholomew's* is mentioned by most of his biographers, but I have never seen any quotations from it in the works of Bridges. There is no copy in Melbourne, but during a visit to London last year I discovered a copy in the British Museum, where the slender volume is classed as extra rare.

The first hundred or so of the 588 lines are devoted to the praise of the monk Rahere, and the vow he made at Rome, and his vision of St. Bartholomew's as it stood in 1877. Then the *historia foundationis nosocomii* is related at length, with short sketches of the *illustrissimi viri* who have helped to make 'Barts' famous. A few lines each are given to Harvey, Pott, Hunter, Pitcairn, Brodie, Abernethy—with a reference to the Abernethian Society—and Lawrence. Radcliffe gets special mention for his benefactions, then teachers of the more recent past—Latham, Stanley, Kirkes, Baly, Watson and Owen.

Then follows mention of the present staff—*de medicis et chirurgis qui in eodem loco*

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hodie officii funguntur. He names the four physicians (Brunton—recalling his controversy about vivisection—Legg, Baker and Duckworth) and the four surgeons (Coleman, Greenhalgh, Hensley and Power) and Vernon and Macready the junior members of the staff. He gives special praise to Paget (consultant) and finally a glowing tribute to Patrick Black, *in nosocomio medici senioris*. Then follow the lines in which Bridges describes his own final examination for M.R.C.P.:

*Hunc memini me insigne indutum auroque nitentem
Vix vidisse semel, sed placuisse viro:
Cum schola Londini medicorum regia partem
Me declarabat corporis esse sui:
Ordine censores utraq̄ue in parte sedebant,
Vestiti nigris purpureisque togis.
Praeses hic ad mensas sociis rata jura probabat,
Altior atque omni sella curulis erat:
Quumque ego quaerenti paucis trepidantia verbis
Vix respondissem, si qua rogatus eram:
Ille mihi,—pondus majestatemque loquellis
Addebant ibidem virque decusque loci,—
(Praemia discipuli referentur tanta magistro,
'Haec tua jam', dixit, 'sunt quasi verba senis'.
Tum, quam grata fuit, minime meruisse videbar
Talis ego verbum laudis, et erubui.*

TRANSLATION

I remember when this shiny golden robe was put on me, having pleased a man I scarcely dared to look at: the Royal College of Physicians of London proclaimed me one of its members. In black and purple gowns the censors sat in rows to right and left. The President, more lofty than the rest, with his colleagues at the tables was examining in the accepted fashion. When asked anything, I could only answer the examiner a few trembling words. But he said to me: 'Indeed these words of yours are worthy of a senior man.' The dignity and majesty of his speech were reinforced by the man himself and the fame of his position—and such an honour to a pupil is reflected back to you, my chief. Then I blushed with pleasure that I was thought the least bit worthy of such words of praise.

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