

News, Notes and Queries

THE ACADEMIC UNIT OF THE WELLCOME INSTITUTE

When in 1978 the Academic Unit of the Wellcome Institute came into being, it brought together the largest single group of professional medical historians in the world. Its aims were twofold: to organize and carry out research in medical history (a task made easier by the splendid resources of the Wellcome Library and its staff), and to teach the subject to undergraduates and postgraduates at London University.

Members of the Unit provide formal courses on many aspects of the history of the biomedical and life sciences for students of the University of London, including intercollegiate history options and courses for science undergraduates. In addition, medical students pursuing the Intercalated B.Sc. may read the History of Medicine as their primary subject. This arrangement permits them to spend a full year studying the history of medicine before beginning clinical work. The Unit also provides post-graduate instruction as part of the M.Sc. course in History and/or Philosophy of Science, and members of the Unit supervise students preparing M.Phil. and Ph.D. theses.

Under the Chairman of the Wellcome Institute, Professor A. R. Hall, the Academic Unit consists of six full-time scholars. Its Head, with responsibility for liaison with University College, is Dr. W. F. Bynum. Dr. Bynum's medical degree is from Yale University and his Ph.D. from Cambridge. He teaches courses on the history of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century medicine, the history of disease, and the history of psychiatry. He is presently editing (with Dr. R. S. Porter) the *Dictionary of the history of science*, (Macmillan, 1981).

Dr. A. Z. Iskandar is the Unit's Arabic expert. A chemist by training, he took his D.Phil. at Oxford with an important thesis on Rhazes. His catalogue of the Wellcome Arabic manuscripts is well known, and he has just completed a similar catalogue of the library of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Dr. C. J. Lawrence holds a dual appointment at the Unit and at the Science Museum, Wellcome Collection of the History of Medicine. He practised for a time as a physician in the Shetland Isles before coming to the Institute. His special interests are in the Scottish Enlightenment and in medical technology.

Michael Neve, who teaches the history of biology in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, took his degree in history at Cambridge. His research interests include provincial science and medicine in nineteenth-century Britain, and the history of psychiatry.

Dr. Vivian Nutton was trained as a classicist, and was for ten years a Fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he taught Latin, Greek, and ancient history. He is an expert on Galen, and has recently edited 'On prognosis' in the *Corpus Medicorum Graecorum* series. He has also written and lectured on aspects of medieval and renaissance medicine.

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Dr. Roy Porter is another Cambridge exile. Formerly a Fellow of Churchill College, he has written and edited several books on eighteenth-century medicine and science, and has just completed the volume on the eighteenth century for the Penguin Social History of England. He lectures on the social history of medicine and medical ideas.

The Wellcome Institute also sponsors twice-yearly symposia in the history of medicine. Details of these and of the formal teaching programme of the Unit may be obtained from Dr. Bynum.

HANNAH INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

The Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine invites applications for the post of Visiting Professor during the academic year 1982–83. Candidates must hold a doctorate and have teaching experience at the university level. Appointments are for a period of six months of residence in one of the five medical universities in Ontario (McMaster, Ottawa, Queens, Toronto, Western Ontario). Deadline for application is 30 September 1981. For further information contact the Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine, 50 Prince Arthur Avenue, Suite 105, Toronto, Canada M5R 1B5.

SAMUEL J. ZAKON AWARD IN THE HISTORY OF DERMATOLOGY

The first annual Zakon Award in the History of Dermatology was granted to Dr. Alan Lyell of Glasgow, for his paper on Daniel Turner (1667–1740). Honourable mention was given to Dr. Leon Goldman of Cincinnati, for his work 'Dermatology of the Bible'; and to Dr. Julian Verbov of Liverpool, for his paper on 'Mummified skin'.

Entries are now invited for the second Zakon award. This competition is open to all dermatologists in practice or in training. Manuscripts should be submitted to John Thorne Crissey, M.D., Chairman, Samuel J. Zakon Award Committee, 960 East Green Street, Pasadena, California 91106, U.S.A., by 1 October 1981. The Zakon award is given in memory of Dr. Samuel J. Zakon, noted Chicago dermatologist and first historian of the American Academy of Dermatology.

ADLER MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE, JOHANNESBURG

New buildings were added to the museum during 1980, to house special exhibitions including a doctor's surgery (1905), a hospital (1900, an optometry room, and a dental museum. Dr. Cyril Adler, who was, with his wife, co-founder of the museum, has been appointed full-time Director/Curator by the University of the Witwatersrand.