

Society Reports

and the foundation-stone was laid in 1856. The detailed account of the ceremony in the local press illustrates the contemporary attitude towards the insane and the confident expectation of a very high rate of cure. The hospital was opened in 1858, and patients previously boarded out in metropolitan asylums were transferred. Some difficulty was at first experienced in filling the 250 beds, and an advertisement in *The Times* offered to accept patients at fourteen shillings weekly. Very soon, however, overcrowding became the problem it has since remained, and the number of patients has steadily increased. Bryan and Lawrence, the first superintendents, were liberal in their outlook and enlightened in their treatment, but the earlier hopeful enthusiasm was not maintained and the decline which started under George Mackenzie Bacon (appointed 1868) reached its nadir under E. Coulton Rogers (appointed 1883).

The changing membership of the Board of Visitors and its relationship to the Commissioners in Lunacy and the superintendent during the early years of the hospital reflect the changes in public administration and the evolution of the lay attitude towards the insane.

Dr. Williamson thanked Dr. Clark for his instructive and entertaining paper.

The following further meetings have been arranged for 1957:

Tuesday, 12 February. Dr. A. Hughes: 'The History of the Microscope, and its Introduction into Medical Teaching.'

Tuesday, 5 March. Prof. H. A. Harris: 'The Nervous System.'

Tuesday, 7 May. Dr. D. H. M. Woollam: 'Elizabethan Concepts of the Brain and their Origins.'

All meetings will be held at 8.30 p.m. in the Lecture Theatre of the Department of Radiotherapeutics, Tennis Court Road.

THE NORWEGIAN SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

(Norsk Medisinsk-Historisk Forening)

THE Norwegian Society for the History of Medicine held its second meeting on Tuesday, 15 November 1956, in the conference room of the newly established antiquarian bookshop of one of the larger publishers in Oslo.

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The Secretary announced that the library of the Society had received more gifts and that *Medical History* had been recognized as the official organ of the Society.

The President, Professor Axel Strøm, gave a most interesting survey of the life and work of Sir Edwin Chadwick. He said that to dedicate one of the first meetings to a lawyer might seem rather odd, but pointed out that Chadwick was one of the great pioneers in the struggle for better sanitary conditions. Professor Strøm left his audience with a vivid impression of Chadwick's complex character and of the widely differing views as to his achievements and influence. He also gave a vivid description of social and sanitary conditions in the first half of the last century.

Dr. Bernhard Getz, in an address dedicated to the life and work of William Harvey, spoke about the history of the circulation and about the doctrines of the various medical schools at different periods.

There were short discussions following both presentations.

BERNH. GETZ

THE OSLER CLUB OF LONDON

THE 146th meeting of the Osler Club was held on 24 January 1957 at the Royal College of Physicians of London, with the President, Dr. W. S. C. Copeman, in the chair. Nearly 100 members and visitors were present. The President of the College, Sir Russell Brain, Bt., read an erudite and delightful paper on Thomas Lawrence, M.D., F.R.C.P. (1711-83): scholar-physician, president of the College for seven years, physician to, and friend of Dr. Johnson. Sir Russell presented some striking extracts from Lawrence's letters and writings, and gave a vivid account of the 'siege' of the College in Warwick Lane by a party of its rebellious Licentiates in 1767. His paper will be published in this journal.

The discussion was opened by Dr. S. C. Roberts, Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and distinguished Johnsonian, and was continued by Professor Geoffrey Tillotson, Professor of English Literature, Birkbeck College, and President of the Johnson Club; Sir Harold Boldero, Registrar of the College; Sir Sydney Littlewood; and Sir Robert Young.

An exhibition of Lawrenciana had been arranged by the College's Assistant Librarian, Mr. L. M. Payne.