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recently made to determine where and in what form the Oath is administered in modern medical schools. He suggested that it would be well if the practice were to be adopted or resumed in the English universities, in most of which it has fallen into abeyance or never been employed. The procedure employed in the Scottish universities was described.

The large attendance and the vigour of the discussion clearly demonstrated the interest that Dr. Guthrie's lecture had aroused. Dr. P. A. G. Munro proposed a vote of thanks.

THE NORWEGIAN SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

(Norsk Medisinsk-Historisk Forening)

A CONSTITUENT meeting was held on 13 June 1956. The Chairman of the Executive Committee, Professor Axel Strøm, led the meeting and presented a proposal for rules as laid down by the committee. The proposed rules were all accepted.

In Norway, the history of medicine has been a much neglected subject despite a not inconsiderable contribution in this field by a few experts of international reputation, such as Bendix Ebell (translator of Papyrus Ebers and Papyrus Edwin Smith) and I. Reichborn-Kjennerud (author of numerous publications on ancient medicine and witchcraft in Norway.)

Repeated attempts have previously been made to form a society for the history of medicine, but without success.

The history of medicine is not being taught in Norwegian universities. During the last decades prior to World War II a lectureship actually existed, but was withdrawn on the death of the holder and has not been revived. During recent years, however, the history of medicine has received increasing attention and many physicians have expressed a desire for a more extended knowledge of the subject.

Historical knowledge is of great importance to progress in various fields of medicine. Few physicians, however, take much interest in history until they have established themselves in some specialty. The history of medicine is therefore generally considered a subject for post-graduate study.

It is gratifying that the steps now taken to start a society for the history of medicine have been received with such stimulating enthusiasm. It is hoped that the activities of the Society may contribute to the acceptance of the history of medicine as a separate subject, to be taught in our universities like other medical disciplines. Although qualified teachers may not be

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immediately available, this problem can probably be solved by the co-operation of professional historians.

Physicians, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and others who are interested, can be accepted as members of the Society.

At the first meeting, Dr. Per Hanssen delivered a most interesting lecture on Sir William Osler. This topic, the speaker said, provides a basis for a number of lectures, e.g. Osler the scientist, clinician, teacher, humanist, author, bibliophile and medical historian. After the lecture there was a good discussion, and the new Society was presented with a unique collection of books by and about Sir William Osler, including a copy of his first paper—'Christmas and the Microscope'—written at the age of nineteen.

This valuable collection was given by A/S Apotekeraes Laboratorium, one of our pharmaceutical firms, 'in the hope that something of Osler's spirit may be conveyed to those of a generation that has not known him'.

Another pharmaceutical firm, Marwell Hauge A/S, representing Lederle Laboratories, offered an annual prize to be awarded for the best work on the history of medicine.

The second meeting of the Society was held in November 1956.

BERNH. GETZ

THE OSLER CLUB OF LONDON

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PROGRAMME FOR 1957

Thursday, 24 January, 8.15 p.m., at the Royal College of Physicians.

Sir Russell Brain, Bt., M.D., P.R.C.P., on 'Thomas Lawrence (1711-83)'.

Wednesday, 27 February, 8.15 p.m., at the Institut Français du Royaume-Uni, Queensbury Place, South Kensington, S.W.7.

'Parathyroid Evening' in honour of Eugène Gley (b. 16 January 1857).

Speaker: Dr. Peter Bishop.