

Society Reports

trade was controlled mainly by Italian merchants, but with the maritime expansion of England in the sixteenth century it was rapidly passing into the hands of English merchants. Between 1567 and 1670 the value of drugs imported increased from £600 to £60,000 and London was fast becoming an entrepôt not only for Great Britain but also for Scandinavia and the American colonies. Mr. Roberts went on to show how this monopoly had important effects on the retail organization of pharmacy.

In a paper on 'Herbals and Formularies', Mr. L. G. Matthews sketched their development from the Greek Herbal of Dioscorides (first century A.D.) to the modern pharmacopoeias.

Among the guests at the Congress Dinner, which was attended by over 100 members and guests, were the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, the President of the Pharmaceutical Society, and the Chairman of the Boots Company. At the close of the dinner Dr. Copeman, the Chairman of the Faculty of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy, awarded the Honorary Fellowship of the Faculty to Dr. Douglas Guthrie in recognition of his outstanding services to the history of medicine.

The papers given at this Congress are to be published in one volume by the Pitman Medical Publishing Company Limited. The next Congress, on the theme of 'Medical Education in Britain', will be held in London in September 1964.

SECTION OF MEDICAL HISTORY IN THE AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (VICTORIAN BRANCH)

ON 24 June 1963, at a meeting of the Section held at the Medical Society Hall, East Melbourne, Dr. Edward Ryan presented a paper entitled 'John Pearson Rowe'. Rowe was born at Aintree near Liverpool in 1810. He came from an old Catholic legal family and was descended through Jane Barker from Thomas More, Chancellor to Henry VIII. He received his education at Stonyhurst and his professional training at the Liverpool Infirmary. He sailed for Hobart Town as ship's doctor to the *Marianne* in 1831.

In Van Diemen's Land he was apprenticed to the well-known practitioner Dr. Crowther, and in 1834 married Mary Lowe, by whom he had thirteen children. In 1840 the Colonial Medical Department granted him by Letters Testimonial the right to practise medicine, surgery and pharmacy in Van Diemen's Land.

As well as practising medicine he engaged in land and mercantile speculation, and after making a fortune in this way he moved to the mainland and took up the Delatite Station near Mansfield in the north-eastern portion of what was then the Port Phillip District of the Colony of New South Wales and is now the State of Victoria. During the next thirty years he became one of Victoria's leading pastoralists. One of the most dramatic episodes in his life was a gun battle he fought with the two bushrangers, Power and Ned Kelly.

In 1856 Rowe became one of the original members of the Council of the University of Melbourne and in 1860 was one of the first six members of the original Medical Committee responsible for the founding of the Melbourne Medical School. He died in 1878.

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THIS new International Academy has been founded with the object of ensuring high standards of scholarly and scientific research in the subject, and of promoting wider