

THE NORWEGIAN SOCIETY
FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

(Norsk Medisinsk-Historisk Forening)

At a meeting of the Society held in Oslo on 8 March 1957, Professor Ernst Schjøtt-Rivers presented a survey of the history of midwifery forceps. The speaker gave many interesting details of the Chamberlen dynasty, three members of which bore the name of Peter and two that of Hugh. There seemed little doubt that Peter Chamberlen the elder invented the forceps, and that the discovery was kept as a family secret by his successors. The conflict between William Smellie and Jean Palfyn, who devised the so-called *Mains de Palfyn* consisting of two steel spoons, was vividly described. The speaker also made some interesting remarks regarding other surgical and obstetrical instruments, and he painted a vivid picture of general, cultural, and medical conditions in the time of the Chamberlens.

It was announced that the speaker at the next meeting of the Society, to be held at the beginning of May, would be Dr. Hugh Clegg, Editor of the *British Medical Journal*.

BERNH. GETZ

THE OSLER CLUB OF LONDON

THE 148th meeting of the Club was held on 26 March 1957, at the Medical Society of London, with the President, Dr. W. S. C. Copeman, in the chair, and a record number of over one hundred members and visitors attending. Tributes to Sir Geoffrey Keynes, who had been elected a 'Friend of the Osler Club' as long ago as 1928, and who celebrated his seventieth birthday the day before the meeting, were paid by Dr. A. W. Franklin, Sir Gordon Gordon-Taylor, Sir Harry Platt, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Sir Charles Read, President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Sir Clement Price-Thomas, President of the Royal Society of Medicine, and Mr. A. F. Johnson, President of the Bibliographical Society. On behalf of the Club the President presented Sir Geoffrey Keynes with his portrait by Mr. Gilbert Spencer, A.R.A., who was present. Sir Geoffrey replied briefly.

Dr. A. H. T. Robb-Smith read a breezy communication on 'St. Cosmas and St. Damian', which included several delightful Oslerian and Keynesian touches. Sir Russell Brock followed with a paper on 'The History of Cardiac Surgery', which referred to Théodore Tuffier's courageous and visionary, but pathetic, attempt in 1913 at valvotomy for aortic stenosis, and almost