

### *News, Notes and Queries*

to the history of medicine. It has over 300 rare books as well as more than 300 other useful reference books. In addition there is a fairly comprehensive collection of books on various subjects written by South African doctors, most of which have been autographed by the authors.

The Museum has several thousand pictures, illustrations and photographs, already indexed, as well as a large number of slides depicting the history of medicine. The Museum owns a large collection of medals and medallions of historical medical interest and the nucleus of a stamp collection—medicine in philately.

Public lectures have been delivered here and overseas under the auspices of the Museum of the History of Medicine. A number of exhibitions have been displayed. An exhibition set up by this Museum on the 'Contributions to Medicine by some ancient Italian Universities' was on display in the Clare Ward Gallery, B.M.A. House, London, at the invitation of the British Medical Association.

Another important facet of the activities of the Museum is to collect and to preserve all material associated with the treatment of the sick and injured of the Bantu section of our population as practised by their own herbalists and 'witch doctors' in accordance with their own beliefs and traditions. It is essential that all this material be preserved before it is lost to western influences in medicine.

Invaluable contacts have been established and are being maintained with similar institutions on the Continent of Europe, England and in the United States of America.

The University of the Witwatersrand, its Medical Graduate Association and the South African Institute for Medical Research have already recognized that the Museum is destined to play a most significant part in the cultural and educational activities in the Republic of South Africa.

In addition to the Museum there exists a Students' History of Medicine Society in Johannesburg. These students are the medical students of the Witwatersrand University, one of whom recently won an award for an essay on Osler.

In Cape Town, the 'mother city' of the Republic, there is a flourishing Medical History Club, and a similar one has been established in Bloemfontein.

There are also a handful of medical men who write on historical medical subjects, and their writings are published in the medical press of the country. Their articles are usually on the history of various aspects of medicine, including the medicine of the Bantu inhabitants of the Republic.

CYRIL ADLER AND E. B. ADLER

### COMMEMORATIVE SYMPOSIUM ON J. E. PURKYNĚ

ON the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the death of Purkyně, it is intended to organize a symposium about the development of the biological sciences in the nineteenth century, under the chairmanship of Professor V. Kruta, in Prague and Liblice from 8 to 10 September 1969. The symposium will be organized by the Physiological Section of the Czechoslovak Medical Society J. E. Purkyně and the Czechoslovak Society for the History of Science and Technology.

The main themes will be:

Development of physiology and biological sciences in the nineteenth century.

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Purkyně's contribution to physiology.

Relations of structure and function.

Rise of experimental physiology and beginnings of physiological institutes.

Further evolution of topics studied by Purkyne up to recent times.

Information will be provided by Prof. V. Kruta, Komenského nám. 2, Brno, Czechoslovakia.

V. KRUTA

SIR ARTHUR MACNALTY, K.C.B., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.  
1880–1969

It is with great regret that we record the death of Sir Arthur MacNalty, at the age of 88, on 17 April 1969. Sir Arthur was for some years a member of this journal's Editorial Board and his wise counsel and generous appreciation was always a great support to its editor. His distinguished career as physician and public health worker has already been the subject of many obituary notices. When he retired from his post as chief medical officer to the Ministry of Health and Board of Education in 1941, on reaching the age limit, he embarked on a second career as a medical historian, being appointed Editor-in-Chief of the Official Medical History of the War under an editorial board of which R. A. Butler was the first chairman. His own important role in the planning of the emergency medical services made him an obvious choice for this heavy task, but few could have foreseen that the iron will and determination which was masked by his frail form and modest demeanour could enable him to see its completion, still under his personal direction, as a monumental work in twenty volumes, to which his own contributions were not the least important. This alone would justify the wholetime career of most men, but simultaneously MacNalty continued to cultivate his earlier love of the literature and biography of the Tudor period which bore fruit in a number of attractive monographs of which his *Henry VIII, a Difficult Patient* (1952) and *Elizabeth Tudor, the Lonely Queen* (1954) are the best known. His Fitzpatrick lectures on the history of state medicine in England were a notable contribution to a subject in which he himself made history, and his many other lectures and papers were remarkable for the depth of scholarship and historical appreciation which they revealed.

His familiar figure will be greatly missed at our meetings which he attended so loyally, but his achievements remain a shining example of what can be done by those who look upon retirement not as an end but as a beginning.

F. N. L. POYNTER