

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECTION OF MEDICAL HISTORY
IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIAN BRANCH)

ON 2 August 1960 the Annual Dinner of the Section was held in the Union House, University of Melbourne. The Guest Speaker, Sir Albert Coates, chose for his subject the life of Sir James Barrett, who had been an outstanding leader of the medical profession in Victoria as well as a former Chancellor of the University.

A meeting held on 12 September 1960 took the form of a Members' Night when members had the opportunity of showing books and other objects of historical interest in their possession and of presenting short papers. The members who took part in the programme included Dr. Michael Kelly, Dr. Rachel Jakobowicz, Dame Jean MacNamara, Dr. Elizabeth McComas, Dr. H. Shannon, Dr. D. O'Sullivan, and Mr. G. Roseby.

JUBILEE MEETING OF THE
SCOTTISH OTOLARYNGOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE Scottish Otolaryngological Society celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation at the Eighty-first Meeting, held in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh on Saturday, 12 November 1960.

The Society, at first named the Scottish Otolological and Laryngological Society, was founded in the same place on 11 November 1910, at the instigation of Dr. Logan Turner of Edinburgh and Dr. W. S. Syme of Glasgow. Originally there was only one office-bearer, the Secretary-Treasurer, and this post was held by Dr. Syme with great acceptance for ten years. It was resolved to hold meetings alternately in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and to elect a local Chairman on each occasion. The first Chairman was Dr. Turner, the second was Dr. Thomas Barr of Glasgow, who presided at the Second Meeting on 20 May 1911. In 1913, it was decided to have a President in place of a Chairman, and to appoint a Vice-president and Council.

At first, the Society consisted of thirty-one members, twenty-four of whom were present at the initial meeting in 1910. Only one of them still survives, Dr. R. P. Mathers of Dundee, and, as was most fitting, he was unanimously elected President at the Jubilee Meeting, or rather, was re-elected, as he had already been President on two occasions, in 1923 and in 1946. Before the Discussion on clinical cases, which occupied the greater part of the Agenda, an account of the early days of the Society was given by Dr. Douglas Guthrie, who had become a member in 1919. Illustrating his remarks with lantern slides he recalled many of the distinguished men who had held office, and the Meetings which had been held, not only in Edinburgh and Glasgow, but in Dundee and Aberdeen, and also in Newcastle, Ayr and Gleneagles. Some of these were joint-meetings with other societies. Dr. Turner had stated at the Semi-jubilee Meeting in 1936 that fifteen of the original members were from Glasgow and that six of them were represented by their sons, so that the Society still had a Syme, a Barr, a Christie, a Connal, a Howie and a Brown Kelly.

Today (1960) there are seventy-four members and seventeen Honorary members, and the Society, so securely founded, may regard its past with pride and its future with confidence.

D. G.