

### *News, Notes and Queries*

#### CEREMONY IN HONOUR OF DR. MARC DAX AND DR. GUSTAVE DAX

ON 12 June 1966, there took place in the little township of Sommières near Montpellier, an interesting ceremony in honour of Dr. Marc Dax (1770–1837) and his son Dr. Gustave Dax (1815–1893). The former was the first to draw attention, in 1836, to the greater importance of the left cerebral hemisphere as regards the faculty of language. A considerable congregation of notables, medical and otherwise, assembled under the auspices of the Maire of Sommières, Dr. R. André. Professor Alajouanine of Paris unveiled a plaque over the house where the younger Dr. Dax was born, while Dr. Macdonald Critchley in his capacity as President of the World Federation of Neurology, unveiled a tablet in the market square now renamed 'Le Place des deux Docteurs Dax'. Among the many well-known persons in attendance were Professor Euzière, Honorary Dean, and Professor Benezech, Dean, of the Faculty of Medicine of Montpellier; Professor Passouant of Montpellier who instigated and organized the ceremony; Dr. Fergus Ferguson (Manchester); Professor Romieu, President of the Medical Historical Society of Montpellier; and Professor F. Lhermitte of Paris.

#### THE LISTER CENTENARY CONFERENCE. LONDON, APRIL 1967

Patron: H. M. The Queen

Chairman: The Rt. Hon. The Lord Brock of Wimbledon, M.S., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.

A Conference will be held between *2nd and 6th April, 1967 at the Royal College of Surgeons of England*, to commemorate the beginning of a revolution in Surgery. In March and April 1867, Lord Lister's first reports on the antiseptic technique were published and so presented to the world. Before this, surgery was precarious and its scope limited, and it was through the understanding of the cause of sepsis that modern surgery was born.

The Conference is being organized by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, in association with: The Royal Society; The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh; The University of Edinburgh; The University of Glasgow; The University of London; University College Hospital; King's College Hospital; The Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine; The Wellcome Trust; The Ciba Foundation.

The programme will begin with the historical background to Lister's life and work and will include a Symposium entitled 'SAFE SURGERY'. Speakers and guests are being invited from many parts of the world, including Denmark, France, Germany and Russia, countries which were among the first to recognize the importance of Lister's work. A special exhibition will demonstrate the significance of Lister's achievement, both in his own time and today.

#### THE HEALTH SCIENCES HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Health Sciences Historical Society of British Columbia has been formed. Its objects are to provide a forum for expression of interest and to promote the study of the history of the sciences dealing with human health.

Those mainly responsible for the stimulus to constitute the Society were the Professor of the History of Medicine and Science in the University of British Columbia (Professor William C. Gibson) and the honorary lecturers in his department. With this support, the constitution of the Society has been designed to encourage the widest possible opportunity for participation in active and associate membership by all individuals concerned with the health sciences in British Columbia.