

News, Notes and Queries

letter from Sir Thomas Roe to Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, 1 August 1636, p. 83: '... he heard also that Dr. Harvey assured his private friends of great hopes of justice and equity from the Emperor, but he believes, the doctor judges by symptoms, like a physician, and the Ambassador is so wise or so warned as not to show discontent, nor what he hopes or fears.'

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr. Walter Pagel wishes to express his gratitude to the Wellcome Trust which has enabled him to continue his research in Medical History. Both authors wish to thank Dr. Jiří Marek of Prague for having drawn their attention to a reference in the literature concerning the Royal Society's attempts to establish a correspondence with Marci.

WALTER PAGEL.

PYARALI RATTANSI.

SIR GEORGE ENT'S COMMONPLACE BOOK

25 October 1963

Dear Sir,

When the Royal College of Physicians of London published the collected Works of William Harvey in 1766, the editors had access to a Commonplace book of Sir George Ent which was their authority for nearly all the letters of William Harvey published in that volume. This appears at that time to have been in the possession of Francis Figgot(t) who had obtained his B. Med. at New College, Oxford in 1748. If any of your readers know of the present whereabouts of this manuscript, I should be glad to hear from them.

L. M. Payne, *Librarian*

Royal College of Physicians

Society Reports

FOURTH BRITISH CONGRESS ON THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

THE Fourth British Congress on the History of Medicine and Pharmacy, organized by the Faculty of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London with the co-operation of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and sponsored by Boots Pure Drug Company Limited, was held at the University of Nottingham from 20 to 23 September 1963. The theme of the Congress, presided over by Professor G. E. Trease, was 'The Evolution of Pharmacy in Britain', and the meeting was opened by his own survey of 'Pharmacy in Britain'.

Dr. T. D. Whittet, Chief Pharmacist of University College Hospital, in a paper on 'The History of Hospital Pharmacy', surveyed the development of hospital pharmacy from Roman times to the foundation of the Guild of Pharmacists in 1923. Unfortunately, as a result of the Dissolution of the monasteries in 1537, little evidence remains of pharmaceutical practice in monastic hospitals. But it is known that the Royal Hospitals (St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, St. Mary's of Bethlehem, Christ's and Bridewell) all had apothecaries on their staffs—though the term should be cautiously interpreted—and these men became the pharmacutists, dispensers and pharmacists who in later times founded the Society of Apothecaries.

Miss G. M. Watson, Lecturer in Pharmaceutics at Nottingham University, described 'Some Eighteenth-Century Trading Accounts' from the Covent Garden business of William Jones, who practised as a druggist for ten years before buying a chemist's business in Great Russell Street in 1757. His inventory of 1761 shows that a large and flourishing wholesale establishment existed. Jones supplied surgeons and agents abroad and on the ships of the East India Company, as well as customers in London, Chester, the Midlands, and the West Country. The many prescriptions from well-known physicians of the day, together with the drug orders and letters, give a good idea of the state of public health and medical practice in the second half of the eighteenth century.

In a survey of 'The Pharmacy Schools of the Nineteenth Century' Dr. M. P. Earles pointed out that one of the principal objectives of the founders of the Pharmaceutical Society was to promote a uniform system of education. In 1842 they opened a school in London which quickly assumed the status of a national school. However, the introduction of a compulsory examination in 1868 which led to a rapid increase in the number of private and public courses in pharmacy did not result in any marked improvement in standards until a compulsory curriculum was introduced in 1918, when the modern era of pharmaceutical education dawned.

Mr. F. G. Stock, of the City of Birmingham Analytical Laboratory, drew attention to a pressing contemporary issue in a paper on 'Adulteration and Sophistication of Pharmaceutical Products'. He showed that the history of the problem can be traced in the *Analyst* from its first appearance in 1877. Although at the end of the last century Britain was in the vanguard of drug control, she is now lagging, a situation for which Mr. Stock blames the failure of the National Health Service to provide adequate drug-testing facilities.

Mrs. Margaret Stiles followed with a paper on the contribution of 'The Quakers in Pharmacy', in which she showed the important influence that this honest and industrious sect had on the trade. One of the first in the business was Benjamin Bartlett, whose most famous apprentice was the physician John Fothergill. Among the well-known firms founded by Quakers were Ollive Sims of Stockport, Luke Howard of Ilford, Jacob Bell of Oxford Street (Bell was also a founder member of the Pharmaceutical Society and first editor of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*), Reynolds & Branson Ltd., Southall Bros. & Barclay Ltd., and Stafford Allen & Sons.

The fourth session, held on Sunday morning, was opened by Mr. C. Gunn, Head of the School of Pharmacy at Leicester University. In a paper entitled 'The History of Some Pharmaceutical Presentations' Mr. Gunn dealt with some of the methods of administering single doses of medicaments, from the pills used in Ancient Egypt to parenteral injections which could not be successful until Pasteur, Chamberland and John Tyndall discovered the methods to exclude bacteria.

Dr. Betty Jackson, of the Pharmacy Department of Sunderland Technical College, followed with a talk on the 'Development of Standards for Crude Drugs'. Dr. Jackson traced the history of the knowledge of drugs from the earliest times when it was a closely guarded secret and its descent through the earliest written descriptions to the well-known illustrated Herbals. As the demand for drugs increased, new opportunities occurred for unscrupulous adulteration, which in turn created the necessity for new standards and improved methods of testing.

Mr. R. S. Roberts opened the fifth session with a lecture on 'The Early History of the Drug Trade in Britain'. He showed how by the twelfth century the necessary conditions had arisen for the development of an import trade in drugs. This early

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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