

News, Notes and Queries

middle ages anatomy was than physiology could be—and finally the incentive and directing role which medicine has played and must ever play in history of the making of knowledge.

Thank you much for so kindly sending me this copy.

Sincerely yours,
C. S. Sherrington.

19.ii.06
16, GROVE PARK,
LIVERPOOL 5.

My dear Allbutt,

Accept my thanks for the copy of your delightful little book compact of much that is witty as much that is wise. I have just lent it to an old Cambridge man—not a medical—a glimpse within it having pleased him greatly—Iles, a Trinity man, and senior Wrangler in his year.

I wonder if you will be going to Canada in August: I hope to go.

Sincerely yours,
C. S. Sherrington.

My thanks are due to Mr. H. E. Tunnicliffe for searching in the Department of Physiology, Cambridge, for the negative of the print, to Sir Brian Matthews for permission to use it, and to Prof. H. R. Dean for permission to publish the letters which are in the library of the Department of Pathology, Cambridge University.

RAYMOND WILLIAMSON

JEAN DE CARRO (1770–1857)

JEAN DE CARRO was born in 1770 near Geneva, where his father had an old square-shaped farm (Carré)—hence the family name Carro. After attending schools at Geneva he went, as did many of his young countrymen at that time, to study medicine in Edinburgh. Most of the lectures were given, and the examinations held, in Latin at this period, and de Carro was already proficient in that language; during his stay in Edinburgh he also attained a perfect mastery of English. His teachers were William Cullen, Francis Home, Alexander Monro (*secundus*), Daniel Rutherford and James Gregory. He also attended some of the lectures of William Robertson, the historian, Joseph Black, one of the creators of modern chemistry, and Hugh Blair, whose sermons were translated into many languages. The teacher who exerted a life-long influence upon him was James Gregory.

After taking the M.D. degree at Edinburgh in 1793 with a thesis on acute hydrocephalus, de Carro left for Vienna where he studied for two further years, passed the necessary examinations, and began to practice. He soon became known in diplomatic circles through the English Ambassador and also made a number of friends among French *émigrés*.

When Jenner's work on vaccination appeared in 1798, de Carro corresponded with him and shortly afterwards he successfully vaccinated his two sons. He studied the 'Grease' in horses, a condition similar to cow-pox, and through the influence of the British Ambassador, Lord Elgin, he was mainly instrumental in introducing Jennerian vaccination into India. In spite of the dislike of some of his Viennese colleagues, he secured a large practice. Dr. Richard Bright, who met de Carro at Vienna in 1814, referred to him in his *Travels from Vienna through Lower Hungary* (1818) as 'Jenner's

News, Notes and Queries

apostle on the Continent'. 'Naturally,' he wrote, 'among the Vienna doctors, the young son of Albion was particularly attracted by the bright Genevan Jean de Carro, a pupil of Cullen.'

In 1826 de Carro left Vienna for Carlsbad in search of a cure for his chronic gout. He was so impressed by the healing powers of the Carlsbad springs that he decided to make this town his permanent residence. His coming inaugurated a new era in the history of the spa, for it seems that the local doctors had not fully appreciated their invaluable natural springs. On 12 September 1827 he wrote to his friend August Stöhr, historiographer of Carlsbad:

As you see, Right Honourable, the power of our springs is praised by James Clark to the English, by Alibert to the French, and Saburov to the Muscovites . . . Our doctors take gold from the guests, but never spread any knowledge.

De Carro decided to remedy this state of affairs. In his first year at Carlsbad he published a book on the spa in French. Dr. James Clark incorporated some ideas from this book in the second impression of his own work on mineral waters. He told de Carro that he would supply him with new proofs of the suitability of a Carlsbad cure for people returning from the East and West Indies.

In 1835 the English edition of de Carro's *Essay on the Mineral Waters of Carlsbad, for Physicians and Patients* came out. In the following year Edwin Lee made good use of de Carro's observations in his *Treatises on Nervous Diseases and Observations on Continental Medical Institutions and Practice*. After this many English doctors, generals, politicians and business men visited Carlsbad. The place became so popular with British notabilities that in 1833 de Carro could say:

This year the royal peers could make an Upper House in the Old Medow (the main street in Carlsbad) and the captains of the Royal Navy a respectable fleet, if only our little river Teplá could carry them. De Carro was also visited by Dr. Augustus Bozzi Granville, who published in London in 1827 a book on *The Spas of Germany*. In this work he had much to say about Carlsbad, which he called 'The King of the German spas'.

De Carro was interested in many other subjects besides medicine. With the help of Sir John Bowring and Samuel Faulkner Montgomery he did much to make Czech literature known in England. On the other hand he introduced his Czech friends and patients to English artists who visited Carlsbad, for example, Adelaide Kemble, the famous singer, and the acrobats Lawrence and Redish. A series of Year Books which he published in French, contained a good deal of news about English affairs. In 1842 he published another book in English, *A Treatise upon the Mineral Springs of Carlsbad*. His happy memories of Scotland and England never deserted him. At his death on 12 March 1857, Carlsbad lost a great citizen who had spread the fame of its waters far and wide and all British visitors to the spa lost a devoted friend.

KAREL NEJDL

FIRST DICKINSON MEMORIAL LECTURE

THE First Dickinson Memorial Lecture, which Dr. Charles Singer delivered to the Newcomen Society on 12 May 1954, has recently been issued as an excerpt from the *Transactions of the Newcomen Society*, xxix, 1953-4 and 1954-5. In it Dr. Singer pays a noble tribute to the 'Happy Scholar' whose friendship he enjoyed for thirty