

Society Reports

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SECTION OF MEDICAL HISTORY IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (VICTORIAN BRANCH)

THE Annual Meeting of the Section of Medical History in the British Medical Association (Victorian Branch) was held on Monday, 10 April 1961, at the Medical Society Hall, Albert Street, East Melbourne. The following office-bearers were appointed for 1961:

President	Sir William Johnson
Honorary Secretary	Dr. M. L. Verso
Honorary Treasurer	Mr. J. T. Hueston
Member of Committee	Dr. Bryan Gandevia (Honorary Curator, Museum of the Medical Society of Victoria)

At the conclusion of the formal business of the evening, Dr. Bruce Robinson presented a paper, illustrated by lantern slides, entitled 'College Crests'. This paper was the sequel to an earlier one, entitled 'The Symbolism of the Caduceus', which Dr. Robinson had read before the Section.

After a short introduction in which he recapitulated a number of the points on the significance of certain symbols discussed in his earlier paper, Dr. Robinson showed a series of lantern slides illustrating the arms of several medical colleges and societies. As each slide was shown a brief account was given of the heraldic significance and the symbolic meanings of the devices portrayed in it. Among the arms shown were those of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and several colleges and societies of the British Isles.

The paper gave rise to an informative discussion in which many points raised in the paper both of heraldic and historical interest were elaborated in further detail.

THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

THE Thirty-Seventh Meeting and Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine, held on 28th October 1960, saw the election of Professor Adam Patrick as President, Dr. W. S. Mitchell (retiring President) and Mr. T. B. Mouat as Vice-Presidents; Professor Stanley Alstead and Mr. C. Kemball were elected members of Council—the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer and members of Council eligible for re-election being re-elected.

Dr. Armstrong Davison then read a paper on 'The Development of Abdominal Surgery' which is published in full in the Society's *Report of Proceedings (1960-1961)*. Dr. Davison points out that although anaesthesia appeared to be a tremendous boon, yet the immediate results were disastrous, for mortality from infection increased beyond all bounds, until the introduction of antiseptic methods in the 70s. The earliest essays in true intra-abdominal surgery were made in connexion with par-