

News, Notes and Queries

A small point of interest is that the copies of the *British and Foreign Medical Review* studied for this note were those also used by George May, 117 years ago, in the Library of the Reading Pathological Society, where the Edwards letter is also preserved.

Few biographical details of Evan Edwards have been discovered, though it might be inferred that he came from the school in which Henry Cline taught. An Evan Edwards appears in the Examination Books of the Royal College of Surgeons as having qualified as Surgeon, 2nd Rate, in February 1797. In 1815 he was surgeon on the *Namur*, and seems to have retired from the Navy in about 1832. The name appears in the *London and Provincial Medical Directory* for 1847, 1848, 1849, but not in 1850. His death may therefore have occurred at about this time, though no obituary notice has been found. Chance preservation of a letter provides us with almost the only memento of one who, like many another forgotten country practitioner, carried to the bedside a resourceful mind and a steady hand.

REFERENCES

1. HUSSEIN, M. K., 'An Ancient Egyptian Treatise on Traumatology', *J. Bone Jt. Surg.*, 1949, XXXIB, 309.
2. PARÉ, AMBROISE, *The Works of that famous surgeon . . .* translated by Thomas Johnson, 1634, p. 573.
3. BROCK, R. C., *The Life and Work of Astley Cooper*, 1952, *passim*.
4. COOPER, ASTLEY, *Treatise on Dislocations and Fractures of the Joints*, 1823, p. 559.
5. LISTON, R., *Elements of Surgery*, 1832, p. 266.
6. GUTTMAN, L., 'Surgical Aspects of the Treatment of Traumatic Paraplegia', *J. Bone Jt. Surg.*, 1949, XXXIB, 399.
7. WATSON-JONES, R., *Fractures and Joint Injuries*, 4th ed., 1955, II, 995.

K. BRYN THOMAS

XVITH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

THE XVIth International Congress of the History of Medicine will be held at the Faculty of Medicine of Montpellier from Monday, 22 September, to Sunday, 28 September, under the general presidency of Monsieur le Doyen Giraud, Dean of the Faculty.

Applications for registration should be addressed to: Professeur Jean Turchini, Président du Comité d'Organisation, Faculté de Médecine, Montpellier (Hérault), France.

The themes for the consideration of the Congress are:

1. The historical connexions between the School of Montpellier and the medical institutions of other countries.
2. The history and expansion of hospitals.
3. Medical iconography in the seventeenth century.
4. The contribution of the New World to therapeutics.
5. Varia.

The entrance fees are:

6,000 French francs—for those who are not members of the International Society of the History of Medicine.

News, Notes and Queries

4,000 French francs—for members of the International Society of the History of Medicine.

3,500 French francs—for relatives or friends of Congress members.

The titles of the communications which it is intended to present (10 minutes allowed for each) should be sent to Professor Turchini without delay, together with a short abstract.

To facilitate publication of the Proceedings of the Congress, members are asked to send copies of the full text of their communications (6 typewritten pages—maximum 10 pages) to Professor F. A. Sondervorst, 124, avenue des Alliés, Louvain, Belgium, at the earliest possible moment.

Remittances should be made by cheque either to: Compagnie Algérienne de Montpellier, No. W.12-900-3, Place de la Comédie, Montpellier; or to Compte Courant Postal, Montpellier, No. 1178-03.

The Secretary-General of the Congress is Dr. Louis Dulieu, 22, rue Durand, Montpellier, France.

Book Reviews

The Story of Heart Disease. TERENCE EAST, M.A., D.M. (Oxon), F.R.C.P. London: William Dawson & Sons Ltd., 1958; pp. 148. Illustrated. 30s.

In these FitzPatrick Lectures, Dr. East gives a fascinating account of some of the milestones in the history of cardiology. As he points out in the Preface, to consider this topic only from the aspect of time and to give a succession of dates and names carries a risk of a dull narrative. For this reason he has devoted each of the four lectures to a selected topic, namely: Diagnosis; 'Lessons of the Deadhouse'; The Coronary Circulation; and Failure of the Circulation and its Treatment. The result is a most readable book on the growth of our knowledge in cardiology. Overlapping, a risk inherent in the division of the subject into these four lectures, which is also mentioned in the Preface, has been reduced to a negligible minimum. Dr. East carries his great knowledge and wide reading lightly, and the reader is treated to a learned and instructive story, which at no time becomes dull and contains many a passage of humour and wit. There are also some stories re-told which show the great clinical acumen of our forefathers. It is curious that one of these, the diagnosis, from pulse changes, of love-sickness and of the lady of the patient's affections, which East tells of Erasistratus, has also been ascribed in almost the same form to Avicenna.

Errors in the spelling of names are unfortunate in a book of this kind: Poisenille instead of Poiseuille, Küssmaul instead of Kussmaul, Bäumlner instead of Bäumlner; also 1939 instead of 1839 (p. 134), palpitation instead of palpation (p. 132), and others. In the fascinating account of the long-delayed recognition of coronary thrombosis, Herrick's paper of 1919 is not mentioned; it has always been surprising to the reviewer that this classical paper, with an almost prophetic forecast of the value of electrocardiography in the diagnosis and location of myocardial infarction, did not attract more attention. The great importance of Lower is rightly emphasized, and his own description of the tubercle, which bears his name, is given in translation. A brief mention would have been welcome of the violent attack of Lancisi, who