

### *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

years. Henry Winram Dickinson (1870–1952) was the first Honorary Secretary of the Newcomen Society and later its President, and it is with the magnificent work of this Society and of Dickinson, who was its mainspring, in connexion with the history of science and technology that Dr. Singer deals in this notable lecture. Dickinson worked at the Science Museum, South Kensington, for thirty-five years and rose to the rank of Senior Keeper. He was concerned with the opening of the new block, opened in 1928, by King George V, and played an important part in the acquisition and arrangement of some of the most important historical exhibits, including the early Watt engine and Watt's own garret workshop which was transported bodily from the great engineer's house outside Birmingham. In 1931 Dickinson was associated with Dr. Singer in organizing the International Congress of the History of Science and Technology which was held at the Science Museum. Even more fascinating than Dr. Singer's recollections of his friend are his considered opinions on the history of science and technology and its place in the modern world. Here he is speaking in his happiest and most inspiring vein on a subject to which he has devoted his life and upon which he is the greatest living authority. At the conclusion of his lecture Dr. Singer was presented with the first Dickinson Memorial Medal—an event that was happily recorded in an excellent photograph reproduced in the brochure under notice.

## *Book Reviews*

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*Medicine and the Navy*. J. J. KEEVIL. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1957–8; Vol. 1, 1200–1649. Vol. 2, 1649–1714. Pp. viii, 255; xii, 332. Illustrated. 40s. per volume.

The rare combination of qualities in Surgeon-Commander Keevil's 'make-up', as well as his distinguished war record, proclaimed him as the appropriate writer of the history of medicine and the Royal Navy. That Sir Henry Dale should have written an introduction to the work must add to the expectant interest with which these volumes have been awaited, and the verdict of civilian and sailor must be that the ready support given by the Wellcome Trustees to the enterprise has enabled a monumental work to be placed in the hands of the historian, the Admiralty, as well as the reading public.

The first volume of the work deals with the medieval period, the Tudor period, and the period of the early Stuarts. Not unnaturally the problem of scurvy repeatedly fills the pages and as the author remarks,

perhaps one of the most bewildering aspects of the history of scurvy is the manner in which a cure was repeatedly found, only to be lost again because of a wrong theory of its manner of operation, or because some uncontrollable factor offered a preferable explanation when it came to accounting for deaths which caused the failure of an expedition.

This was the great period of Drake, the Hawkins, Effingham, and Frobisher and surgeons such as Clowes, Alexander Read, Peter Lowe, Banester and the great