

Society Reports

Archivist, Dr. N. J. Kerling. As Sir George Godber pointed out in his speech at the Congress Dinner at Apothecaries' Hall, which was attended by the Lord Mayor, Sir Frederick Hoare, as guest of honour, the Congress had traced the growth of the British hospital system from a confusion of hospitals which had been developed from different origins, for different purposes, and from many motives. He went on to discuss the present and future state of the British hospital system, referring to the Blue Book known as 'The Hospital Plan' published earlier in the year. This was, he said, the first attempt to give a *national* picture of what it is hoped the historian of the future would be able to record as the opening of a splendid new era.

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The Fourth Congress is to be a week-end residential meeting held at Nottingham University on 20–23 September 1963, the theme being 'The Evolution of Pharmacy in Britain'. Congress members and their guests will stay at the new Lincoln Hall of the University, where the Congress sessions will also be held. The Congress Dinner will be given at the Portland Hall on Friday, 20 September. Further details, including the inclusive charge, will be published in due course.

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On 28 November the second Sydenham Lecture was given at Apothecaries' Hall by the Faculty's Chairman, Dr. W. S. C. Copeman, his subject being 'The History of Gout', a topic on which both Sydenham and the speaker are acknowledged authorities.

THE OSLER CLUB OF LONDON

THE Annual General Meeting and Family Evening were held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, on 7 June 1962, following refreshments in the Great Hall, where an exhibition was displayed of printed papers originally read to the Osler Club since its inception. Dr. S. T. Anning read an interesting paper on 'Dr. Allbutt and his thermometer', with slides to illustrate his remarks, and Dr. Anning has kindly deposited a copy of his paper in the Osler Club Library. The following papers were also read, and some have been submitted for publication; a note of their locations will be recorded here when available: Major-General R. E. Barnsley, "Teeth and Tails" in the Crimea'; Prof. G. P. Crowden, 'A legend, a coin and a seal'; Dr. Richard Hunter, 'John Frost and the Signature Book of the Royal Medico-Botanical Society of London'; and Dr. F. Clifford Rose, 'History of the Salpetrière'. Dr. V. Moller-Christensen exhibited a remarkable collection of coloured slides illustrating 'Bone changes in leprosy', a subject to which he has made significant contributions. These 'family evenings', at which short papers are presented mainly by members of the Club, have proved so popular that an extra one is planned for next session.

On 12 July 1962, the traditional Osler Club Annual Dinner was held at the Hotel Rembrandt, and was attended by a record number of members and guests. The major attraction was the appearance of Dr. Walter R. Bett as Oslerian Orator, taking as his title for the occasion 'The epitaph of Adrian's Horse'. Dr. Bett is a founder of the Osler Club and, among other offices held, served for many years as Secretary, before departing to the States. His many friends welcomed his reappearance on the stage, and if they still wonder 'where the bloody horse comes in', at least they enjoyed a typical, witty, anecdotal diatribe delivered in an inimitable manner.

J. L. T.

THE VETERINARY HISTORY SOCIETY

THE Inaugural Meeting of this Society was held on 31 October in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library, Euston Road, London. Twenty-eight people attended

Book Reviews

and many messages of encouragement were received from those in Australia, South Africa, Ireland and elsewhere who were unable to be present.

An address by Dr. F. N. L. Poynter was followed by a business meeting which unanimously accepted his generous invitation for the Society to become an integral part of the Faculty of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy in the Society of Apothecaries.

Officers were elected as follows:

Chairman: Professor D. L. Hughes, Department of Veterinary Pathology, Liverpool. *Research Officer and Deputy Chairman:* Mr. J. W. Barber-Lomax, The Wellcome Building, London, N.W.1. *Secretary:* Mr. S. A. Hall, Veterinary Investigation Centre, Woodthorne, Wolverhampton. *Committee Members:* Mr. W. G. R. Oates, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1, and Professor L. P. Pugh, School of Veterinary Medicine, Cambridge.

There are forty-two Founder Members. Meetings will be held at least twice a year and the first of these will be in London in the spring.

S. A. HALL

THE LINDSAY CLUB

AFTER an exploratory meeting held in March of this year, it was felt that there would be sufficient interest among members of the dental profession to warrant the formation of a club for the study of dental history. It was decided that the society should be called the Lindsay Club in memory of Lilian Lindsay and her work in the field of dental history. An Inaugural Meeting was held on Thursday, 18 October 1962 at 13 Hill Street, London, W.1. After the business meeting, Sir Zachary Cope gave a paper entitled 'The Tomes Tradition'.

Book Reviews

Galen: On Anatomical Procedures: the Later Books, translated by W. L. H. DUCKWORTH, London, Cambridge University Press, 1962, pp. 279, 40s.

FOR far too long blasts of denigration have spattered Galen's reputation. First gusts of the storm began with Vesalius' just exposures of Galen's shortcomings as an anatomical seer; and with the revival of interest in Galen's works at the Renaissance it was inevitable that his errors should form the stepping-stones for further progress in anatomy and physiology. But that this denigration should continue into the twentieth century with its allegedly more mature attitude to scientific achievement is inexcusable. In English-speaking countries at least, it is largely due to ignorance of Galen's works, an ignorance born of an ever-decreasing ability to read Greek and Latin, and a strange reluctance of those with sufficient linguistic equipment to translate these vitally important works. It was in full realization of this dilemma that Charles Singer in 1956 produced his translation of the first eight books of Galen's *Anatomical Procedures*. This was the fragment of the work which reached the West in the original Greek, and was first published in the Aldine edition of Galen's works in 1525. It was used by Vesalius as a foundation for his own studies. The remaining part of Galen's work, did not however reach the West until the middle of the nineteenth century. It was salvaged for posterity by the Arabs, in particular by that great lover and