

### *Society Reports*

wished to, because hot poison and the use of hot things had produced some derangement. But we were not anxious for him to eat these immediately lest they affect his weak limbs and especially the nerves. For it appears that that poison is very injurious to the brain and nerves with injury in a general way to the heart.

And I already knew from a trustworthy friend of mine that one who recovers from the bite of a surd remained for many months with closed eyelids . . . so that he could not see unless he raised them with his fingers. So let physicians consider the marvellous effects of poisons and the marvellous properties of things against them, and in all these see the beauty of glorious God, who blessed be. Amen.

Columbia University,  
New York.

### REFERENCES

1. THORNDIKE, L. 'Consilia and more works in manuscript by Gentile da Foligno', *Med. Hist.*, 1959, III, 8-19.
2. Discussed by Dean P. Lockwood, *Ugo Benzi*, 1951, pp. 347-8.
3. From the Venice edition. That of Pavia opens and closes similarly: 'Remedia que fuerant facta . . . evasit servus dei qui morsus fuerat'.
4. This is the same Paul (Riether or Rietis) who copied so many works, mostly of Gentile, in another Munich MS. cod. lat. 7609, between December 1382, and 2 January 1387. See my 'A medical manuscript of the fourteenth century', *J. Hist. Med.*, 1955, X, 392-8.

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### CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY HISTORY OF MEDICINE SOCIETY

THE first meeting of the 1960-61 session was held in the Lecture Theatre of the Department of Anatomy on 11 October at 5.30 p.m., with the President, Dr. P. A. Tyser, in the Chair.

Dr. Donald Hunter lectured on 'Stepney and the London Hospital'. He gave a vivid account of episodes in the life of the Hospital and of the Borough, whose population it serves, and contrived a skilful blend of medical and social history.

At a meeting of the Society held in the Lecture Theatre of the Department of Radiotherapeutics on Tuesday, 25 October, with Dr. R. Williamson, Honorary Vice-President, in the Chair, Dr. W. Stanley Sykes spoke on 'A Hundred Years of Anaesthesia'. Although the main outlines of the story are well known, Dr. Sykes, by the meticulous examination of the original sources, has been able to correct many errors of facts perpetuated in the standard text-books. Several anaesthetists who were present as guests took part in the discussion which followed this particularly useful lecture.

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A meeting of the Society, jointly with the Trinity College Medical Society, was held in the Lecture Theatre of the Department of Radiotherapeutics at 8.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 8 November 1960, with Dr. P. A. Tyser, President, in the Chair. Mr. A. Rocyn-Jones, F.R.C.S., delivered a lecture on 'The Early History of British Orthopaedic Surgery'. The speaker described the dual origin of orthopaedic surgery in Britain. W. J. Little, a physician, and himself a cripple, was responsible for the establishment of the first special orthopaedic hospital. Hugh Owen Thomas, general practitioner in Liverpool, and direct descendant of hereditary bone-setters in Anglesey, brought the traditions of the craft, many of them valuable, into regular medicine. The speaker also mentioned James of Exeter, another pioneer, who is less well remembered than he deserves, and the immensely valuable work of Robert Jones. In the course of the discussion Professor H. A. Harris emphasized the importance of the contributions of Celts to medicine. Mr. David Williams, Secretary of Trinity College Medical Society, proposed a vote of thanks.

### SECTION OF MEDICAL HISTORY IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (Victorian Branch)

THE annual meeting of the Section of Medical History was held on Monday, 11 April 1960, in the Medical Society Hall, 426 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Victoria.

Office Bearers for 1960

*President:* Sir William Johnston.

*Honorary Secretary:* Dr. M. L. Verso.

*Honorary Treasurer:* Dr. J. Hueston.

*Ex Officio Member of Committee:* Dr. Bryan Gandevia (Curator of the Museum of The Medical Society of Victoria).

At the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting Dr. O'Sullivan presented a paper entitled 'In the Path of Osler' which took the form of a travelogue in which Dr. O'Sullivan showed photographs of places he had visited and with which Osler had been associated. The first series of photographs dealt with Montreal, and an account was given of the Osler Library and the work of Dr. W. W. Francis, whose recent death had been a sad blow to his many Oslerian friends. Next, dealing with Boston, Dr. O'Sullivan showed photographs of several medical centres, particularly the Joseph H. Pratt Diagnostic Hospital whose founder, Dr. Pratt, had been a pupil of Osler. A tour of the Old Blockley Museum in Philadelphia and of Johns Hopkins Hospital, completed the discussion of the American period.

The Oxford period was covered by scenes of the University and Ewelme, and of the 'Open Arms', Osler's residence, as it is today. Some slides of Edinburgh showed electioneering slogans from the Rectorial elections of 1908 still visible today above a shop in Lindsay Place.

Dr. O'Sullivan had arranged a display of his collection of Osleriana for the occasion.

At a meeting held on Monday, 25 June, a paper was presented by Dr. Rachel Jakobowicz, entitled 'The Hippocratic Tradition in Nineteenth Century German Medicine', which dealt with the trends that were to be seen in German Medicine during the last century. The speaker pointed out that in the period from 1800 to 1840, which was known as the *Romantic Period*, all German thinking, including medical