

while a student and described in his *Essay on the Dropsy* (p. 17):

In the Year 1750 I dissected the Body of a Man who died of an Universal Dropsy, in the presence of Dr. John Rutherford, Professor of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh: we could find no other Cause of the Disease than the Ossification of the Valvulae Mitrales in the Left Ventricle of the Heart, by which the Orifice of that Ventricle was so straitened, that I could scarce force my little Finger into it. The Heart itself was very large. While the Man was alive, all the soft parts of the Neck were raised by every Systole of the Heart, in such a Manner that the Veins there seemed to have a pulsation.

'Monro was a contemporary of John Hunter on the staff of St. George's Hospital and a near neighbour of Hunter's in Jermyn Street. No portrait of Monro is known'.

OBITUARY

W. S. C. COPEMAN, C.B.E., T.D., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. (1900–1970)

It is with great regret that we report the death on 24 November 1970 of Dr. W. S. C. Copeman, a member of the Editorial Board of *Medical History*, Chairman of the Faculty of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy in the Society of Apothecaries since its foundation in 1959, and immediate past-president of the British Society for the History of Medicine.

Tribute has already been paid elsewhere to his distinguished career as a rheumatologist of international renown. He was president of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, which owes a great deal to his energy and determination, of the European League against Rheumatism, and of the Heberden Society, of which he was one of the founders. The Society's library, now housed in the Royal College of Physicians, of which he was a vice-president, is largely his creation and reflects his keen interest in the history of rheumatic disorders.

Copeman's interest in the history of medicine sprang from his own sense of tradition, family, professional and national, and a strong loyalty to all the institutions with which he was connected. It was he who, during his term of office as Master of the Society of Apothecaries, first conceived the idea of the Faculty and so found a new and singularly appropriate role for that ancient society which had contributed so much to British medical practice in the past. He helped to assure its permanence by bringing to its establishment all his wide experience and considerable social flair in order to place it on a sound financial basis.

Despite his very busy career as a consultant, as editor of *Annals of Rheumatic Diseases*, and author of the well-known *Textbook of Rheumatic Diseases* (now in its fourth edition), he yet found time to develop his dual role as medical historian. His Fitzpatrick Lectures at the Royal College of Physicians provided the basis for his successful book *Doctors and Diseases in Tudor Times* (1960), just as his *History of Gout and Rheumatic Diseases* grew out of lectures which he gave in the University of California at Los Angeles. He also published many scholarly papers on historical topics, and this contribution to the subject was recognized by his election to the fellowship of the International Academy of the History of Medicine.

His support, his wise counsel, and his genial company will be sadly missed by his many friends, whose sympathy goes out to his devoted wife and family in their sad loss.

F.N.L.P.