

THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND
SIXTY-FIFTH ORDINARY MEETING

The Society met at the Edinburgh School of Dental Surgery on 17 October 1970, for its Annual General Meeting. At the Sixty-Fifth Ordinary Meeting which followed Professor John Boyes, of the Chair of Dental Surgery at the School, read a paper entitled:

A FIERCE STORM RAGES

Since the Society is meeting in the Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School for the first time, I thought it appropriate to talk to you about the events which led to the creation of this institution in Edinburgh in 1879. It will not be a study in local dental history. There is much which could be told of the progress of dentistry in the City from 1850–1880 but it would be a detailed account and would appeal chiefly to those whose main interest is in the history of Edinburgh. In Britain the organization of dentists into a profession occurred in London.

The events which took place in Edinburgh were part of the movement and while at least two of our dentists, John Smith and William Bowman McLeod were national figures they were Scottish leaders rather than British ones. I propose therefore to give you a brief account of the events that occurred in Britain between 1841 and 1880 and to comment on the reactions of groups of dentists who were affected by them, and what happened in Edinburgh in consequence.

George Waite, who was educated and qualified as a surgeon but practised dentistry, in 1841 published a pamphlet *An Appeal to the Parliament, the Medical Profession and the Public on the Present State of Dental Surgery*. This was the first attempt to achieve recognition by the British public that those who treated diseased teeth and gums must be educated and trained in operative skills. He must have been aware that in the United States of America in 1839 and 1840 three remarkable events occurred. A Dental School was established in Baltimore, a journal was published specially for dentists, and the American Society of Dental Surgeons was founded. Waite must have hoped that others aware of the American achievements would support him publicly. Alas, no significant notice was taken of his effort.

James Robinson, who had been trained by a pupilage or apprenticeship in the practice of a dentist, as was the custom at that time, tried a different line of approach. In 1842 he appealed to dentists to join him and form a dental society. Little is known of his efforts except that they failed.

The next stimulus to action came indirectly from the Home Secretary, Sir James Graham. Early in 1843 he was drafting a Medical Bill to lay before Parliament. Rumours of what the Bill was to contain reached Arnold Rogers, a dentist practising in Regent Street, London. If what he heard was accurate he saw an opportunity for dentistry and invited half a dozen dental practitioners in his neighbourhood to meet in his house to discuss the possibility of influencing the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England whose interests were thought to be affected by the proposals

in the Bill. It was their hope that dentistry and the professional standards required by dentists might be championed by the Royal College, and that legal provision for a dental department of the College would be included in the Clauses of the Act.

The urgency of the small group is seen in the fact that two representatives, Arnold Rogers and Charles Stokes, waited upon the President of the Royal College of Surgeons the following day, Sunday, 4 March. They got little to comfort them since he made clear his own views which were that a qualified surgeon who only practised dentistry was a seceder. However, he advised them that if they wished to approach the College it should be by a letter from those of their number who were members of the College supported by non-members. He promised such help as he personally could give, but foresaw that strong opposition would be likely in certain quarters. One of those whom Rogers had invited to the discussion in his house was Alexander Nasmyth who was born and trained in Edinburgh and a friend of John Goodsir, from whom he perhaps acquired the enthusiasm for dental research. Nasmyth set up practice in London and was successful as a dentist. He became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons. It was in Nasmyth's house that the next meeting was held on 10 March. The group which met to hear the report of the interview with the President of the Royal College of Surgeons had been enlarged to fourteen. After giving the report Rogers told the group that he had approached Sir James Graham's brother, with whom he was friendly, asking for his help in informing Sir James of the dental interest. Major Graham had expressed his willingness to do so. Rogers and Stokes had John Tomes to help them and the three had prepared a draft memorandum for submission at the meeting in Nasmyth's house. The discussion revealed differences of opinion and the meeting referred the matter to a drafting committee of Rogers, Stokes, Tomes, Nasmyth and Mr. Hyde, a solicitor. When the drafting committee met on 12 March, Nasmyth was absent and in a letter said on reflection he could not agree to be a member of a committee which was to submit a memorandum to the Royal College in the name of members and non-members.

The solicitor also drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that it was a private group of individuals who had no mandate from all the dentists to write on their behalf and so in the end two letters were written, one to Sir James Graham and the other to the President and Council of the Royal College. Each was signed by the eleven members present at the Meeting on 15 March at which it was prepared.

In the same month, March 1843, James Robinson was busy preparing a new dental magazine for publication; and on 30 March the first number of the *British Quarterly Journal of Dental Surgery* went on sale. The second number was published on 30 June and this was the last number to be published although a third was anticipated for September.

Both these efforts failed. What happened to the journal is not known, but the efforts of the group of dentists emphasized the difficulties in a disunited group. On the one hand there were those with surgical qualifications. They were convinced that dentistry was a speciality of surgery and looked down on all others who were not of their company. On the other hand there were those who were trained, by practising dentists, both in the treatment of patients and in the craft of dental mechanics. There was a third group despised by the other two—the tooth-pullers who somehow had

acquired the knack of extracting teeth and employed mechanics to do the workshop preparation of dentures. Since mechanical dentistry was not part of a surgeon's training some surgeon dentists were not too far removed from tooth-pullers when it came to skill in denture construction.

As a swan song to this period James Robinson tried again with dental journalism and edited *The Forceps* which was published fortnightly from 13 January 1844 to 8 March 1845. It too suddenly ceased to appear without any explanation.

All these failures must have discouraged many dentists and those with wisdom knew the time was not yet arrived when the dentists could unite into some sort of group capable of concerted action and for all patience was the only possible counsel.

There is a Gaelic proverb which when translated says 'If you wait long enough at the ford you will be able to cross' and for ten years the flood waters poured down and none dared to attempt to cross. At length in 1855 Lee Rymer a young enthusiastic twenty-two-year-old dentist in Croydon wrote a letter to the *Lancet* which was published in the issue of 25 August. It was headed 'The Necessity for a College of Dental Surgery'. He appealed to the Royal College of Surgeons to hold examinations in dental surgery. Outwardly there was a little ephemeral interest and then all was silence once more. However, this outward inactivity was misleading and a number of people were thinking deeply. A group of London dentists who practised in the west end got together privately in December 1855 and prepared a statement of their views and they submitted it in the form of a memorial to the Royal College of Surgeons. In it they once again pleaded with the Surgeons to accept responsibility for educating dentists. Their memorial met with a polite refusal—dentists ought to be surgeons.

In 1856 John Smith in Edinburgh advertised that he was going to give a course of lectures on the Physiology and Diseases of the Teeth in the Surgeons' Hall in Edinburgh. Smith was a young dentist whose father had been a dentist. Smith was educated in the Edinburgh University Medical School and graduated M.D. but he had also been trained by his father in dentistry. His ambitions were to be a general surgeon but in 1857 his father died and he decided to carry on his father's practice. The course of lectures which he gave proved to be most popular and they were repeated regularly and eventually formed the substance of his book *The Handbook of Journalism of Dental Anatomy and Surgery*.

In July journalism came back into the public eye when *The British Journal of Dental Science* was published. In the second number in August 1856 there appeared an announcement inserted by Lee Rymer that a meeting had been arranged to be held in The London Tavern, Bishopsgate, London, on 22 September. Lee Rymer, like Robinson, was not easily discouraged. Perhaps because there was a ready access to dentists through the circulation of the journal, perhaps because it was a meeting of dentists the like of which had never been done before, perhaps necessity or perhaps the realization that inevitably the situation as it was could not long continue. Whatever it was Lee Rymer was satisfied long before the meeting that it would be well attended, for a number of people wrote to him intimating their intention to be present. From these he selected and invited a small group to meet before the meeting to discuss how it should be conducted. He showed that youthful enthusiasm for an ideal which all who have lost it admire so much in the young. When the steering committee met

they were almost total strangers to one another. Dr. Carpenter of Croydon took the Chair and they agreed that the meeting should be presented with three resolutions. One that a Society of Dentists should be formed that an authorised system of professional education and examinations should be established and that a committee should be formed to prosecute these aims.

Thomas Bell, the leading dentist, was approached to take the chair but he declined. This was a disappointment and it would undoubtedly have been a different history of dentistry that followed this refusal if instead he had accepted. Bell was not a leader and it is a great pity.

The enthusiastic meeting at the Tavern approved the ideas but there was a dramatic moment when Alfred Coleman told the meeting that dentists had met privately in December 1855 and memorialized the Royal College.

It was announced that the Committee would report its findings on 11 November at a public meeting at the Freemasons Tavern. At that meeting it was announced that the previous night a number of the Memorialists and others met privately and formed the Odontological Society of London. The Committee reported their views and recommended that the College of Dentists of England should be formed and this was agreed. At the Freemasons Tavern on 16 December the College of Dentists of England was founded. 1856 had turned out to be one of the most memorable years in the dental history of Great Britain.

Once the College of Dentists had been founded in December, 1856, its Council immediately had to consider the possible effects on dentistry of two Medical Bills then being prepared for presentation to Parliament—one by Lord Elcho and the other by Mr. Headlam. In less than a month the Council had prepared a statement and sent it to the Members of the College explaining clearly the very serious position dentists would be in if the Bills as drafted remained unaltered as Acts of Parliament. The extraction of teeth, since it is a surgical operation, could not be performed by those not on the Medical Register, to be registered one had to possess a medical or surgical qualification. Another significant provision in the Bills was that only those who were on the Register could recover fees for surgical or medical advice or treatment. The anxiety felt by all dentists, except those surgically qualified, can be understood. In consequence a petition to exempt dentists from the restrictions of the Bills was organized by the College.

The College was not alone in being deeply interested and active in the dental implications of the Bills. Those who previously had addressed the Royal College of Surgeons, the Memorialists, who were now Members of the Odontological Society together with other members of the Council submitted another memorandum dated 22 February. In it there was the plea that the Royal College should create within its structure a dental department and award dental diplomas. The Royal College replied that a new Charter would be necessary if dental examinations and a diploma were to be awarded. The Royal College took the opportunity to reaffirm its view that dentists ought to be fully trained surgeons and members of the Royal College of Surgeons. The reply suggested that the Odontological Society should petition Parliament and suggest that dentistry be directly associated with the proposed General Medical Council for Registration and Education.

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The Society was somewhat disheartened by this attitude, but on 4 April replied restating its views and making it clear that it was its hope that the Royal College would conduct dental examinations and require a standard of dental knowledge not inferior to that required in Surgery for a pass in the surgical examination. The next reply from the Surgeons was as before; they could do nothing to influence the Bill and suggested that the Society should approach Parliament directly. John Tomes, Samuel Cartwright, and Arnold Rogers in the name of the Society replied yet again and at once. They repeated their opinion that dentists did not seek status as surgeons but as dentists and again pleaded with the President and Council of the Royal College to accede to their request. In a fortnight the reply was received and it reaffirmed the view that the Society should approach Parliament, but it stated that they were prevented from considering fully the implications of the dentists' request by the uncertainty of the fate of the Bill and its possible effects on their own future. There was also the advice that it might be provident if the Society were to petition Parliament suggesting a clause for inclusion in the Bill which would empower the College to set up a department of dentistry. The Society's Council met five days after the letter was written and produced the clause for the Act which gave Her Majesty authority to grant to the Royal College power to hold dental examinations 'for the purpose of testing the fitness of persons to practise as dentists who may be desirous of being so examined and to grant them certificate of such fitness.'

This Clause was presented to Mr. Headlam personally by J. H. Parkinson, W. H. Harrison and John Tomes. It was arranged that it would be presented to Parliament by a private member during the debate.

In the meantime the College of Dentists was also active. It had gathered support from its members and prepared a Petition which was the opinion of a much larger number of dentists than that presented by the Odontological Society. Mr. Headlam and Lord Elcho had received Mr. Robinson, Mr. Robert Hepburn and Mr. Underwood; the Members of the College were told the result of this meeting on 4 June. The Petition was sent to the Promoters of the Bill after this meeting.

By submitting two different petitions to Parliament the dentists were publicly seen to be divided.

Robert Reid was a keen and enthusiastic dentist. He practised in 59 Queen Street, Edinburgh. In August 1857 he visited London and was distressed at the division amongst his friends and acquaintances in the College and in the Society. He approached Tomes and Underwood and enquired if they would be willing to meet. They were willing, and he invited them to dine with him at his hotel. Tomes, who was not very well at that time asked if, out of consideration to him, they would dine at his house, but it was to be regarded as neutral ground so that no misunderstanding might arise. As a result of Reid's initiative this was a very amicable evening. Tomes and Underwood each reported to his Council the other point of view and as a result both Councils considered amalgamation. Talks towards union progressed during the autumn and by 18 December 1857 terms of amalgamation were finalized. In the cordial spirit of reconciliation which prevailed the Council of the College were invited to the Society's Dinner on 2 January. The happiness and conviviality of the evening aroused suspicions in some of the College members who were not at the

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function and they were suspicious of the Society's motives. On 8 January 1858 a meeting of the College was held and the terms of amalgamation were rejected by twenty-seven for amalgamation and thirty-four against. Much of the decision was based upon the loss of the title 'The College of Dentists'. The Odontological Society of London was to become, on union, the Odontological Society of Great Britain. This unhappy decision created division in the College. The President, six Vice-Presidents, eleven members of Council, the Curator, the Librarian and the Corresponding Secretary and others all resigned and joined the Society. With so many of their most able men removed from their ranks the College was crippled, but by no means unable to carry on. They continued publishing their journal and pursuing their policy of education, but had certain administrative difficulties which held back some of their important schemes.

The Society, on the other hand, with its inclusion of some wise and far-sighted men, advanced. By early autumn the Society's arrangements were completed for the establishment of the Dental Hospital of London and on 1 November 1858 it was opened, at 32 Soho Square, for the treatment of patients.

In Edinburgh, in the meantime, John Smith wrote to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh on the profession of Dentistry, but the reply he received indicated that the opinion was similar to the sister Colleges in London, dentists should be trained as surgeons. He accepted the situation for the time being and proceeded with his lectures, but his hopes that clinical teaching might be possible in the Royal Public Dispensary, to which he had been appointed Surgeon Dentist in 1857, were not encouraged.

Back in London, on 6 July 1858, in the Committee stage of the Medical Practitioner's Bill there was adopted the clause proposed by Mr. Beresford Hope, which empowered the Royal College of Surgeons of England to hold dental examinations and award dental diplomas. This was Mr. Cooper's Bill, Mr. Headlam's had previously been withdrawn.

1858 was thus a most eventful year. It saw the ascendancy of the Odontological Society, the Medical Act with a dental clause, and the operation of a dental hospital in London. The College of Dentists suffered a reverse from which it never was able to recover, despite the activity which it appeared to show for a year or two.

At the beginning of 1859, a new monthly journal, the *Dental Review*, appeared replacing the College's *Quarterly Journal of Dental Science*. It was a necessary move on the part of the College to advance its educational programme, but since its membership had decreased considerably, some estimates were fifty per cent, it had the added beneficial effect of keeping the College's news in front of its members. By June, the affairs of the College were more settled and bravely the new and unknown men had shouldered their task and kept the College going. George Waite was agreeable to accept the appointment of President and this was welcomed. About the same time it was announced that arrangements had been made to establish a second dental school in London. The Metropolitan School of Dental Sciences was opened on 5 October 1859. Although it was not a part of the College of Dentists, the new school was very closely associated with it and its members.

About the same time in Edinburgh John Smith had decided to sever his associations

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with the Royal Public Dispensary and made plans to open a private Dental Dispensary largely financed by himself and three other surgeon dentists. In this new venture, he hoped to be able to give clinical instruction more in keeping with the needs of the students.

Although these moves were being made in advance of any announcement by the Royal College of Surgeons about their intentions to award a dental licence, the hopes of the Odontological Society were waning a little and it was decided that a syllabus should be prepared and John Tomes took a leading part. In this year his book on Dental Surgery was published. In fairness to the Royal College the necessary alterations to the charter did not receive the Royal Assent till October 1859. In addition to the slowness of the Royal College, the Society was concerned about the announced intentions of the College of Dentists to hold examinations and award the certificate of membership entitling each candidate who passed to use the letters M.C.D.E. after his name.

In the same year, anger again flared up between the Society and the College. Tomes had made an approach to members of Parliament with the suggestion that dentists who would be successful in the anticipated examinations to be introduced soon by the Royal College, should be entitled to a place in the *Medical Register*. The College of Dentists reacted quickly on learning the activities of the Society and once again petitioned parliament. Such a step brought to the notice of those outside the profession the chasm that separated the two groups. Early in 1860 this fierce separation was published widely by a letter published in *The Times* of 28 February 1860 which supported the certificate about to be awarded by the Royal College and the M.C.D.E. The College of course replied the following day. The College made as brave a show as possible in the controversy, but it had no legal standing nor legal authority to award certificates, but the controversy was soon hidden by the events of 13, 14 and 20 March, on which days the Royal College held the examination for the Licence in Dental Surgery. What a success this was! At last dentists could feel that their profession was established and that their status was respectable. Of course, there were many who realised that such an examination was not for them and such an academic hurdle, for those whose training and subsequent practice had been practical, was too much to be expected from many dentists, but the Royal College had made arrangements to admit all practising dentists to the examination *sine curriculo* for three years.

Surprisingly the medical opinion was divided, some supporting the Royal College and others most critical of it, raising the old anxiety that a dental surgeon could feel entitled to practise other aspects of surgery. The College members probably got some crumbs of comfort from those critics of the Royal College. It would probably sadden those dentists who found in the L.D.S. the realization of hopes almost at times beyond the expectation of fruition if they could know that in a hundred years this memorable date 13 March 1860 was largely forgotten. In one institution, the Royal Odontochirurgical Society of Scotland, the date is the point which fixes the annual dinner since it is held on the Thursday evening nearest 13 March, but it is mistakenly believed by many that it commemorates the founding of the Society on 13 March 1867. The Society was founded at a meeting of those attending an L.D.S. anniversary

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dinner on 13 March 1867 in Edinburgh.

In Edinburgh on 8 January 1860, the Edinburgh Dental Dispensary opened and in two years it had amply proved John Smith's forecast that patients and students would benefit. In 1862 it became recognized as a charitable institution and the Royal College of Surgeons recognized it as a teaching hospital for the L.D.S.

The award by the Royal College of the legally recognized dental diploma was really the final blow to the College of Dentists, and the official establishment of the London School of Dental Surgery on 30 April, associated with the Dental Hospital of London offered complete training both academic and clinical, establishing the source of the future strength of the Society.

James Robinson returned to the College and was as generous and enthusiastic as before, but even he could do nothing to make the College equal to the combined reputation of the Royal College and the Odontological Society.

Eventually by 1862 it was obvious to all that to maintain the profession divided was stupid and the machinery was prepared to wind up the College and to unite with the Society under the new name, the Odontological Society of Great Britain.

In 1864 the privilege of sitting the L.D.S. examination *sine curriculo* was withdrawn and a reference to the table of figures shows the dramatic effect of this change.

Numbers of Licentiates in Dental Surgery
(arranged according to the year of their diploma)

1860	85	1868	3
1861	23	1869	6
1862	21	1870	9
1863	109	1871	7
1864	4	1872	5
1865	2	1873	15
1866	10	1874	7
1867	4	1875	35
	1876	21	
Total Number of Licentiates		366	
1860-1876		17 years	
Average per year		21	

In 1870 in Edinburgh Dr. John Smith who had done so much during the past ten years felt able to resign from the Edinburgh Dental Dispensary. This he did. Robert Nasmyth the Consulting Dental Surgeon to the Institution died in the same year, but for some strange reason John Smith was not immediately elected to the vacancy and so his connection with the Dispensary, which owed its existence to him was severed till 1874, when he was honoured by the appointment of Consulting Dental Surgeon.

The L.D.S. was a status symbol and an indication to intelligent patients that the dentist was knowledgeable and competent, but to many practitioners and patients it had little impact and they continued as before. In 1870 the realization was obvious that compulsory education and registration was desirable if a qualified profession was to be achieved. C. J. Fox read a paper on this subject to the Odontological Society and as editor of the *British Journal of Dental Science* he encouraged these views in the journal. However, as had happened in the past, dentists were not easily roused or willing to follow a lead unless it was certain that there was a good company taking the same decision. Part of the difficulty was, of course, that the Odontological Society

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was by its constitution pledged to discuss only scientific matters and there was no forum for the discussion of political matters.

By 1874 the Royal College of Surgeons realized that it was unfortunate that only a three-year period for the *sine curriculo* exemption had been allowed. So in summer, 9 July the exemption was re-introduced. The *Dental Review*, recognizing the political implications of registration, called for a meeting to take place in August 1875 in Edinburgh. The suggestion came to nothing but Sidney Wormald announced that on 31 August 1875 he had arranged to hold a meeting in the Clarence Hotel, Manchester, for dentists from the city and surrounding towns with the object of forming a local dental association. However, the appearance of C. J. Fox in the audience gave the chance to those who wished to discuss Reform—Mr. Dennant proposed that a committee should be formed to explore the present situation and see if steps could be taken to control the entrants to the profession and to suggest means of enforcing Registration and Compulsory Examination. Mr. Fletcher of Warrington suggested that C. J. Fox should be requested to form a committee of his own choosing. A subscription list was opened to defray costs. This meeting called to fulfil a local need, ended by having opened a national campaign.

Subscriptions poured in and this was an exciting movement. Dentists were working together and not in two camps as in the last exciting period twenty years previously.

In the autumn of 1875 there was rising excitement among the dentists. Subscriptions were generously contributed to James Parkinson who was asked to be the treasurer. However, as in the past, dental ranks were not undivided and in January 1876 it was announced that a new society had been formed and that Samuel Cartwright had agreed to be its first president. The Society was the Association of Surgeons practising Dentistry. Membership was only open to Members or Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons. C. J. Fox, in the meantime, had been busy explaining the aims of the Reform Movement but had not nominated his own committee as he might have done. He preferred to allow those whose contributions to the Fund indicated that they were interested to elect a committee. In March the Committee met and elected Cartwright to the position of Chairman and a young man J. Smith Turner was agreeable to be the Secretary. The aims were to have a Dentists' Act which would include provision that all who practised dentistry, after the Bill became an Act, would have to be qualified, and another provision would be that only those in dental practice before the Act was passed and those who had a dental qualification after it was passed could be called a dentist or a dental surgeon. At the second meeting of the Committee in November 1876, Alfred Coleman got the Committee to agree to modify the conditions for the use of the title. John Tomes, who had been unable to attend the first or second meeting of the Committee saw the possibilities in, and the meaning of Coleman's amendment. It was going to perpetuate the ability of surgeons to practise dentistry without adequate training in dental surgery. Tomes therefore attended the next meeting of the Committee in April 1877 and reversed the previous decision. So Cartwright, Coleman and Rogers resigned. The remainder of the Committee elected John Tomes to the vacant position of Chairman, and so there came together Tomes and Smith Turner, two men aiming at the same goal and both clever and industrious men. Smith Turner was a Scot born, and trained in Edinburgh by Dr. Mein in 102 George

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Street, and who had set up in practice in London. Those who resigned wrote to the press stating their reasons for resigning to which Tomes replied, but, of course, the old division was again obvious.

The leisurely progress of the Committee hitherto was now changed into great activity. 1877 was the year of great meetings of dentists. In May the second Manchester meeting which aroused great interest was held, and among those attending was William Bowman MacLeod of Edinburgh. He was so inspired that on his return home he acquainted John Smith with the situation and a meeting was arranged for all dentists in Scotland to be held in October in Edinburgh. Other meetings were held in England, in Leeds and in Bristol.

The Reform Committee by August had prepared a draft of a Dentists' Bill suitable for presentation to Parliament. Tomes attended the Edinburgh meeting and it was a great stimulus to Scottish dentists. As a result there was formed a Scottish Dental Education Committee, John Smith was the Chairman and Bowman MacLeod was Secretary.

The Reform Committee continued with the activities and the Bill was given into the capable hands of Sir John Lubbock, who piloted it through Parliament. On 15 July 1878, the Dental Bill passed through all its stages and J. Smith Turner was in the House of Commons and witnessed its success late at night. It was too late to be in the morning papers of 16 July so Turner sent a telegram to Tomes, who was in Caterham, indicating the success. The Act became law on 22 July 1878 and the first name to be entered in the new Register was John Tomes.

In the meantime, the Scottish Dental Education Committee led by as able a pair as Tomes and Smith Turner were, had planned that the Edinburgh Dental Dispensary should form the basis of the Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School and the board of management were agreeable, and the Dental Hospital and School was formed. The old Edinburgh Dental Dispensary went into voluntary liquidation. The Act empowered the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow to award dental diplomas after examination, and the first to obtain the L.D.S., R.C.S. Edin., was Peter Crombie of Aberdeen. This was in January, 1879 and on 1 February 1879 the new Institution was opened at 18 Brown Square. The formal opening was on 30 October 1879 just before the opening of the first full session on 4 November. The name Dental Dispensary was dropped and the Hospital and School used instead in 1880. Finally W. Bowman MacLeod was elected Dean.

Once the Dental Reform Committee work had been successfully achieved in the passing of the Dentists' Act it was obvious that it should be wound up, but it became apparent a Dental Association was now a necessity and with the Reform Committee functioning so well it was clear that here was a nucleus of a new Association Committee. Lee Rymer proposed this at the Reform Committee of 8 February 1879. On 3 March 1879 a general meeting of dentists was held and the British Dental Association was formed. The Committee was empowered to enlarge its membership and the final transfer of assets took place on 27 October 1879, and on 28 May 1880 the Laws of the Association were accepted and the Association was inaugurated to the great acclaim of all. John Tomes was elected President of the British Dental Association and John Smith Turner was the Secretary.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In preparing this paper much use was made of Alfred Hill's *Reform in the Dental Profession*, the writings of J. Menzies Campbell, especially *Dentistry Then and Now*, and Zachary Cope's *Sir John Tomes*. Lilian Lindsay's address to the Society of U.C.H. on Lee Rymer, and where possible the original papers and accounts as reported in the dental and medical journals.

THE SIXTY-SIXTH ORDINARY MEETING

At this meeting, held in the Maurice Bloch Lecture Theatre, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, on 26 March 1971, Dr. H. P. Tait, Joint Honorary Secretary, read a paper entitled:

HEALTH SERVICES IN INDIA AND BURMA: THEIR EVOLUTION AND PRESENT STATUS

A—INDIA

Rao (1968) in his panoramic review of the history and progress of medicine in India brought his story up to 1964. The purpose of this paper is to outline subsequent changes and developments in the health field and to indicate problems still existing and the targets set by the Union Government during its fourth Five-Year Plan (1969–74).

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

The provision of health care services to the people of India is a basic responsibility of state governments and to some extent of municipal corporations of the larger cities. The Union Government is responsible for this provision in Union administered territories.

(a) *Central Administration.* The Union Government, through the Ministry of Health, generally has largely advisory and supportive functions. It initiates national programmes, e.g. malaria eradication and family planning, partially or totally financing such programmes. To her great credit India was the first country in the world to adopt family planning as a matter of national policy and for a time a special Family Planning Department functioned. Realization that the effectiveness of family planning activities could be greatly facilitated by integration with maternal and child health services, the Union Government in 1968 fused these two services into a Department of Family Planning and Maternal and Child Health under a commissioner. The family planning programme, however, continued to be directly financed from the centre. From that year the Ministry of Health comprised two main divisions—the Department of Family Planning and Maternal and Child Health and the Directorate-General of Health Services concerned with all other aspects of health services, including medical and health education, nursing, and the vitally important subjects of nutrition and supervision of food supplies.

(b) *State Administration.* Operating through State Health Departments responsible to State Ministers of Health, the autonomous position of these departments results in variations from state to state respecting staff organization, extent of health services