

THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

THE Report of Proceedings for 1959–60 shows that the Society continues as active and progressive as ever. Warm tribute is paid to Dr. John Ritchie who died on 24 December 1959. He was a co-founder of the Society with Dr. Douglas Guthrie in April 1948. At the Annual General Meeting at Edinburgh in October, Dr. W. S. Mitchell was re-elected President for a third term. At this meeting the Society had the great pleasure of welcoming Dr. F. Noel L. Poynter who gave an outstanding paper on Mr. Thomas Anderson (1743–4—1813), surgeon of Leith, a pioneer of vaccination in Scotland and an early correspondent of Jenner from whom he obtained lymph for use in his practice.

At the ordinary meeting at Dundee in March 1960, Professor Adam Patrick; in a critical analysis of the Plague of Athens, 430 B.C., concluded that the epidemic was, in fact, confluent smallpox. Professor John F. Fulton was to have been guest of the Society at its summer meeting but his tragic and premature death led to the cancellation of that meeting.

The usual medico-historical and book notices with two appendixes complete the Report. The appendixes contain a complete list of the names of the Presidents of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh from its foundation by Andrew Duncan, senior, in 1821, and the contents of a demonstration arranged by Mr. G. R. Pendrill, Librarian of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, on the occasion of Dr. Poynter's visit, illustrating some sidelights of the history of vaccination in Scotland. There are also an excellent photograph of the late Dr. Ritchie, and of the earliest pharmacy business in Scotland, formerly in the Lawnmarket, Edinburgh.

H. P. TAIT

News, Notes and Queries

A LIST OF PAPERS, ETC., ON LEOPOLD AUENBRUGGER (1722–1809) AND THE HISTORY OF PERCUSSION

compiled by

P. JAMES BISHOP

THIS year sees the duo-centenary of the publication of Leopold Auenbrugger's *Inventum Novum ex Percussione Thoracis Humani etc.*, Vienna, 1761, the work that introduced the practice of percussion into physical diagnosis. The purpose of this list is to assist those responsible for preparing the commemorative exhibitions which will doubtless take place this year. While it does not pretend to list all writings about Auenbrugger, it is hoped that no major item has been omitted.

AUENBRUGGER

1. MERBACH, PROF. DR. 'Leopold Auenbrugger und die Anfänge der Lehre der Percussion. Säcularvortrag, gehalten am 9. März 1861.' *Jber. Ges. Naturk. Dresden, 1861–2, Dresden,*