

THE PAUL STRADIN MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

The Paul Stradin Museum of the History of Medicine, which is the first institution of its kind in the U.S.S.R., is now open to the public at Riga (ul. Paegles No. 1), under the directorship of Dr. K. Arons. The large collections assembled over 30 years by the scientist and physician, Academician Professor Paul Stradin (1896–1958) form the basis of the new museum. Stradin presented the collection to the State shortly before his death, and since then a great deal of work has been done in rearranging and cataloguing the material, and adding new items.

The collection contains numerous objects, paintings, models, dioramas and books, showing the state of medical science in various countries, beginning with the healing craft of primitive man up to the achievements of medical science in the 20th century. The principal stages of the development of medicine are shown against the background of the social and economic conditions of the time, special attention being given to Soviet medical science and public health organization, and to the work of famous Soviet scientists.

NEW MUSEUM DEDICATED TO SEMMELWEISS

To mark the centenary of the death of Ignaz Philipp Semmelweiss (1818–65), which fell on 13 August, the Hungarian Ministry of Health has established a Museum in the house where Semmelweiss was born. The house is situated at the foot of Castle Hill in Buda (Apród utca 1–3), and the body of Semmelweiss has been re-interred in a tomb there. Nearby stands the statue "Motherhood" by the famous Hungarian sculptor and Kossuth Prize laureate, Miklós Borsos.

The house was built at the beginning of the 18th century in the style of Louis XVI, and was declared a historic building in 1906, when a statue of Semmelweiss was unveiled and a commemorative plaque affixed to the wall. Although the house was partly destroyed in the second world war, all its original features have been skilfully restored.

The museum houses a collection of medical and pharmaceutical relics, including the 'pharmacy of Gömörý' (built in 1813), some superb old apothecary jars from several Hungarian spas, medical and surgical instruments, and a fine collection of medals. One of the rooms is dedicated to the memory of Semmelweiss, and contains a few pieces of his furniture, together with portraits of his parents, himself and his wife, painted by the artist A. Canzi in 1857. Other personal relics of Semmelweiss preserved in the museum include a few letters, and poems written by him in childhood—all illustrating the happy domestic life of the family and the sound education given to the children.

There are also a number of books and periodicals written about Semmelweiss, including the biography by Sir William Sinclair, and relics of other great Hungarian physicians.

It is hoped that this new museum will attract a large number of visitors.