

News, Notes and Queries

Tropical Diseases of Lisbon University, is Health Director of the Greek Ministry of Health and Lecturer in the History of Medicine in the University of Athens. He is a member of the German, Swiss and American societies of the History of Science and has published work on the history of ancient Greek and Byzantine Medicine.

The re-formed society proposes to issue a new journal on the History of Medicine with the title *Hippocrates*.

F. N. L. POYNTER

LISTER CENTENARY CONFERENCE
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

An International Conference to commemorate the centenary of Lister's first publication establishing his 'antiseptic principle' was held at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, 2-6 April 1967, under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen. The theme of the Conference was 'Safe Surgery: the understanding and avoidance of morbidity and mortality associated with operation and injury'. The bodies co-operating with the College in the organization of this conference were: The Royal Society, The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the University of Edinburgh, the University of Glasgow, the University of London, University College Hospital, King's College Hospital, the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, the Wellcome Trust, and the Ciba Foundation.

The main scientific sessions were preceded by a Historical Session entitled 'The Man who made Surgery Safe' and under the chairmanship of Professor Sir John Bruce at which the following papers were presented: Dr. F. F. Cartwright, *Lister—the Man*; Prof. Sir Ashley Miles, *Lister's Contributions to Microbiology*; Dr. F. N. L. Poynter, *The Contemporary Scientific Background of Lister's Achievement*; Prof. Fritz Linder, *The Propagation of Lister's Ideas*.

A comprehensive historical exhibition of MSS, letters, apparatus, instruments and illustrations relating to Lister and his work was on view in the College through the month of April. A special illustrated guide was published for the occasion. Part of the material included in this exhibition may also be seen in the Lister Centenary Exhibition which will be open to the public in the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum from the end of May onwards.