

THE LINDSAY CLUBOCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER NO.6SEPTEMBER 1980COMMITTEE 1979-80

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The most important event of the past year was of course the publication of the Centenary History on which the Committee had worked for so long. A copy bound by Sangorski and Sutcliffe was presented to H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, President of Honour, at the Centenary Presidential Meeting on 10th July at the Royal Festival Hall by Professor G L Howe, Chairman of Council.

A very successful meeting was held jointly with the Section of the History of Medicine on 5th March 1980 to commemorate the centenary of the death of Thomas Bell, one of the several 19th century dentist-naturalists. It was well attended and much discussion ensued.

Mr J A Donaldson delivered the Menzies Campbell Lecture at the Royal College of Surgeons of England on 11th July. This was very well attended and was, as expected, a masterly performance. The title was Ars Scientia Mores from the Arms of the Association. Accounts of the meeting and the lecture appear elsewhere in the Newsletter.

At the time of writing, July 1980, the programme for the coming year has not yet been decided but Miss Spencer has in very active preparation a paper on dental dispensaries.

Members are urged not to miss the interesting Science Museum exhibition, A Visit to the Dentist, which continues until 5th October and about which a leaflet is enclosed.

The Club was greatly saddened by the news of the sudden death of Ivo Vinski, our last Chairman, in Paris in October 1979. An obituary is elsewhere.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

11th November 1980 at 5.30 p.m. The Annual General Meeting of the Lindsay Club will take place at 64 Wimpole Street after which Miss E M Spencer will give a talk entitled Notes on the History of Dental Dispensaries. Tea will be served at 5 p.m.

13th December 1980 at the Birmingham Dental School, time to be announced in the Journal. The Alexander MacGregor Lecture will be given by R A Cohen on Birmingham, Boulton and Dumergue. This lecture to commemorate the centenary of the recognition of the Birmingham Dental School by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, generally triennial, is being given one year earlier so as to celebrate the occasion. It was founded in honour of MacGregor who was Director of Dental Studies at Birmingham and also Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Previous lectures have included Dr Lester Cahn of New York, Professor Björn Hedegård of Stockholm, Professor W W Mushin, C.B.E. of Cardiff, Professor Sir Robert Bradlaw, C.B.E. and J W MacLean, O.B.E.

7th January 1981 at the Royal Society of Medicine at 6 p.m. The Wallis Lecture commemorating C E Wallis who died in 1928 is to be given by J A Donaldson at the invitation of the Sections of the History of Medicine and Odontology. His subject is The Life and Times of Sidney Spokes.

March 1981 Plans are in train for a commemorative plaque to be erected in honour of George Cunningham in Cambridge. Further details will be given in the Journal but there is likely to be an evening function at Downing College with H Colin Davis as speaker. The probable date is 17th March.

EILEEN AND ARCHIE DONALDSON - A CELEBRATION

It was with great pleasure that the Lindsay Club sent the following greetings telegram to Eileen and Archie Donaldson on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding in November 1979 :

REMEMBER WISDOM IS BETTER THAN RUBIES BUT YOU HAVE BOTH.

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS AND LOVE FROM THE LINDSAY CLUB.

IVO VINSKI, L.D.S.

Ivo Vinski, the past Chairman of the Lindsay Club and a faithful member of the Club, died on 25th October 1979 in Paris, during the F.D.I. Congress. A native of Croatia, he qualified in medicine in Paris in 1931 and in dentistry the following year. Returning to Yugoslavia he practised dentistry there until 1948 when as a refugee from the communist regime he left his country, eventually settling in Britain where he qualified in dentistry at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1951. He joined the British Dental Association, the Odontological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine and other professional bodies and became a member of the Lindsay Club shortly after its formation, serving as Chairman from 1976 to 1978. Twice he addressed the Club and he was a member of the Working Group for the Centenary History of the Association, contributing the chapter on 'The Association Abroad'. He was for some

years chairman of the dental history group of the F.D.I., in recognition of his work being awarded honorary membership of the American Academy of the History of Dentistry.

Ivo Vinski will be greatly missed at gatherings for the study of dental history. He will be remembered for his qualities of mind, his kindness and generosity and his modesty. He was a scrupulous practitioner, an excellent companion, ready to learn as well as to inform, and a true friend.

DR. BRYN THOMAS

Dr Bryn Thomas who died on 22nd September 1978 had made contributions to the meetings of the Lindsay Club and members were invited to attend a meeting of the Section of the History of Medicine at the Royal Society of Medicine on 3rd October 1979 which paid a memorial tribute to him.

Dr A Marshall Barr, consultant anaesthetist at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading, described, in his address on Bryn Thomas as colleague and librarian, the splendid medical library of the Reading Pathological Society where Bryn Thomas was honorary librarian for 27 years. This library played a great part in stimulating his interest in medical history. He was also curator of the important Charles King collection of early anaesthetic apparatus in Reading. He developed anaesthesia at the Royal Berkshire Hospital to an extremely active and modern anaesthetic department from humble beginnings. Dr Barr, who is the present honorary librarian, ended with a tribute to Bryn Thomas as a remarkable anaesthetist, a historical scholar and above all a great gentleman.

Miss Jessie Dobson then spoke on 'Bryn Thomas as friend and medical historian'. She described the 35 papers on medical history published by him over a period of about 20 years. These covered mainly the 18th century. She ended by speaking of Bryn Thomas as a fine character and as having a great facility for friendship.

Dr C D T James gave the third paper, on 'Bryn Thomas as man and anaesthetist'. He described him as an acknowledged expert in two fields of knowledge : as an anaesthetist he made many original advances and published scholarly accounts of the history of the speciality; he also played an important role in the activities of the Faculty of History of Medicine of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. Dr James ended 'Bryn Thomas was a good man and did good things'.

Following these papers there was a brief discussion in which Sir Ivan Magill, the doyen of British anaesthetists, also spoke highly of Bryn Thomas's qualities.

THE 50TH MEETING OF THE LINDSAY CLUB - 14TH NOVEMBER 1979

Dr W D A Smith of the Leeds Dental School presented a talk on the history of nitrous oxide anaesthesia illustrated by slides and short films.

Beginning with Priestley, he traced the development of anaesthetic gases from the early experiments using nitric acid. The work of Humphrey Davy was of great importance, especially his studies of the effects of nitrous oxide on animals and man. At Leeds a reproduction had been made of Davy's glass mercurial air-holder for his quantitative experiments; he had used oiled silk bags for qualitative experiments. Davy's lectures at the Royal Institution were popular and paved the way for other lecturers on scientific subjects.

Henry Hill Hickman in 1824 published a pamphlet on 'suspended animation' and experimented with nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide on animals for surgical purposes, in 1828 approaching the French Académie for further investigation of the surgical uses of nitrous oxide anaesthesia.

Horace Wells of the United States, an expert in prosthetics, needed painless extraction for his patients and performed experiments with nitrous oxide on himself and others. His partner William Green Morton later developed ether anaesthesia.

In Britain nitrous oxide was used as early as 1856 in Burton-on-Trent for tooth extraction according to a letter by William Lloyd Poundall in the British Journal of Dental Science, but Thomas Wiltberger Evans, who met Gardner Quincy Colton in Paris, was the first to demonstrate the use of nitrous oxide at the Dental Hospital of London and at other centres. Colton had repeated Wells' experiments and formed the Colton Dental Association in New York, devoted exclusively to extractions with the new gas. Colton introduced non-return valves, considering the rebreathing of air unhygienic. Nose-pieces, some with non-return valves, were also invented at about this time. Other innovators were Edmund Andrew of Chicago who used nitrous oxide for longer operations and Frederick William Hewitt who employed nitrous oxide and oxygen, Preterre introducing hyperbaric anaesthesia with oxygen under pressure.

The films at intervals during the talk showed the reconstruction of many of the inventions connected with nitrous oxide anaesthesia, not only as equipment but actually in use by Dr Smith or his colleagues at Leeds.

THOMAS BELL, ZOOLOGIST, PALAEOONTOLOGIST, DENTIST

R A Cohen and Dr Jane Chatfield

To commemorate the centenary of Thomas Bell's death on 13th March 1880 a joint meeting took place at the Royal Society of Medicine on 5th March 1980 between the Lindsay Club and the Section of the History of Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Mr R A Cohen was the first speaker. He told how Bell was born in Poole in Dorset on 11th October 1792, the son of Thomas Bell, a surgeon, and Susan Gosse of Ringwood. He may have been apprenticed to his father but there is no documentary proof of this. In 1813 he entered Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals and qualified M.R.C.S. in 1815, then adopted dentistry as a career. He succeeded Joseph Fox as

lecturer and dental surgeon at Guy's in 1817, staying until his retirement in 1861 when his nephew, S J A Salter, was appointed. There is in existence in a scrapbook of Theodosius Purland in the Wellcome Library an agreement between Bell and Marshall Purland made on 19th June 1816 whereby the latter taught Bell the art of making artificial teeth. Bell's practice was at 17 New Broad Street until 1861.

Thomas Bell published a practical textbook for general practitioners in 1829, The Anatomy, Physiology and Diseases of the Teeth, a second, expanded, edition appearing in 1835 and American editions in 1830, 1831 and 1837. This book became a standard work and remained so for some 50 years. Bell strongly objected to the term 'caries' being applied to teeth and preferred 'gangrene' to be used; although he used forceps and an elevator, he preferred the key for the extraction of most posterior teeth.

A physical description of Bell appeared in The Forceps, its accuracy borne out by a marble bust of Bell by Peter Slater dated 1862 and by a portrait by Henry Pickersgill, both in the Linnean Society.

Bell's first paper on natural history was published in 1825 in the Zoological Journal, describing the Emarginula, a mollusc. He was elected F.R.S. in 1828 and was Secretary of the Royal Society from 1848 until 1853. He was elected F.R.C.S. in 1844. With Rogers and Tomes he was one of the first dental examiners for the L.D.S.R.C.S. in 1860.

Dr June Chatfield, curator of the Oates Memorial Library and the Gilbert White Museum, Selborne, was the second speaker. She told how Bell's boyhood interest in zoology developed to be fulfilled in his appointment in 1836 to the Chair of Zoology at King's College London. A letter from Bell to the College's secretary still exists, in which he agreed to start a class.

Bell was active on the committees of the leading scientific societies. He acted as referee for the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, some of his comments being preserved in the Society's archive and showing him to have been fair in his judgement, pointing out the good features of a paper even when rejecting it, and suggesting other possible journals. He was a member of the Linnean Society, its president between 1852 and 1861, and also of its dining club, the Linnean Club. Due largely to him, the Linnean Society found a home in Burlington House. He also belonged to the Ray Society and the Zoological Society.

Bell's two books were well illustrated and intended for the general reader. In 1837 A History of British Quadrupeds appeared, followed in 1839 by A History of British Reptiles, with a second edition in 1849.

His particular interest in tortoises led to the publication of a monograph on them in 1836; it appeared as a serial but was discontinued in 1842 since the illustrator, James de Carr Sowerby, failed to keep to his schedule, as evidenced by correspondence in the British Museum. When the illustrations were delivered in the 1860s, Bell allowed his rival, J E Gray of the Natural History Museum, to write the captions and publication took place in 1871.

Thomas Bell collected specimens, especially of crabs, and these are now in the Ashmolean Museum. He described new species and studied fossil crabs of the Eocene and Tertiary periods.

In 1844 Bell bought The Wakes in Selborne, dating from the 16th century but with substantial later additions before and since his occupancy which began in 1861. Bell himself added a library. Various deeds and title documents are preserved.

Bell married Sarah Roberts of Ruabon and they had one daughter, Susan Gosse Bell, who died in 1854 aged 17 years. Her scrapbook is preserved in the museum as are some of Mrs Bell's letters about people and domestic matters.

Bell had sold many of his books on his retirement through Sothebys and a second sale took place in 1880, raising £1191.17s. The Wakes was sold for £3800 on 21st July 1880 and its contents included photograph albums, microscopes and magic lanterns, scrapbooks and Mrs Bell's paintings on zoological subjects. Specimens of insects, crabs, shells, etc. fetched £80.

ARS SCIENTIA MORES

Menzies Campbell Lecture, Royal College of Surgeons of England,
11th July 1980

by J A DONALDSON, O.B.E., F.D.S.

The British Dental Association adopted ARS SCIENTIA MORES as its motto when it celebrated its Jubilee in 1930, and some events and stages have been selected from its 100 years of history that underline the Association's concern for professional behaviour, knowledge and skill. Formative influences were implanted early and later achievements were their flowering.

James Smith Turner, first honorary secretary, realised that the Association, though unanimously voted into being, faced difficulties that would be overcome only by a long process of steady work. To avoid the potential liability of members to litigation, the Association was enrolled as an incorporated body in June 1880 under the Companies Act of 1867, and to counter the antagonism of the dental journal with the largest circulation, the Monthly Review of Dental Surgery was purchased as an official organ.

There was a real enthusiasm and missionary spirit in the early members of the Association. Then as now, much was achieved by a reasonable and cooperative approach especially to bodies within the medical profession. Although founded first and foremost as a political body to realise certain policies, members soon developed a concern for the advancement of the art or skills of practice and of the science or knowledge on which this art was based. At this time the staffs of the dental schools were entirely general practitioners, many of whom were also doing research work in their own time and at their own expense. Scientific papers, therefore, found a place at

the annual general meeting and occasionally at branch meetings. One important paper with lasting influence was given in Cambridge in 1885 by William McPherson Fisher advocating the compulsory regular examination and treatment of the teeth of school children; this led to pressure from the Association upon local school authorities to appoint school dentists, and to the formation in 1899 of the School Dentists' Society as part of the BDA.

1895 saw the qualification as a dentist of the first women, Lilian Murray, in Edinburgh. She applied for membership of the BDA and was admitted to the Scottish Branch so long as she agreed not to attend meetings, and the Representative Board formally recorded the legality of the election of women as members. Her example, influence and advocacy did much to achieve equal status for women in the Association and the dental profession.

The question of the desirability of the universities in taking a part in the education of dental students and of the importance of establishing chairs in dental surgery was raised by Bowman MacLeod in 1895. The first degree in dental surgery was established in 1900 but there was so strong a division inside the BDA that an extraordinary general meeting had to be arranged, at which the supporters of university education narrowly won the day, their view being that the status of dentists would be enhanced by the connection with medicine.

The real life of the Association was, as it is now, among the ordinary members, fulfilling the founders' hope of a feeling of brotherhood and community of interest and leading to a demand for more extensive scientific and social exchange. The first section was founded in Leeds in the late 1890s as part of the huge Midland Branch to provide more frequent opportunities of meeting.

That the BDA had achieved an official standing was shown in 1903 when the Privy Council Office asked it for evidence on the alleged deterioration of teeth among the working class, and the Association's first expert committee came into being in the shape of the Representative Board's Hygiene Sub-Committee.

From the turn of the century to the outbreak of the First World War wages began to fall and industrial unrest arose, Socialism gained support and developments in social policy were beginning to appear, like the appointment in 1905 of a dentist to the Bourneville Industrial Dental Clinic by Cadburys and the establishment of a dental clinic at Crawford's in Liverpool in 1909. Growth in the number of provident dental aid institutions led to the drafting of rules by the BDA for members who wished to take part in these institutions. Also in 1905 the Association adopted the suggestion of Vernon Knowles that general hospitals should have dental departments.

In 1910 there was talk of a scheme to provide a national dental aid institution but this was disclaimed by the BDA which, though sympathetic with such schemes, realised the inherent liabilities to abuse. It was a time when unqualified operators were being prosecuted and when publicity and advertisement, anathema to the profession, were still used by the unscrupulous. The celebrated case of Bellerby v Heyworth and

Bowen in 1910 was a profound disappointment to the BDA and its Penal Affairs Committee and slowed down the impetus to reform of the law relating to dentistry. Because it was an uncertain livelihood through the competition of unqualified quacks, the number in the profession was far from adequate. In 1912, through the eloquent advocacy of Robert Lindsay, a scheme was agreed whereby a dental service by registered dental practitioners within the provisions of the Insurance Act 1911 might be set up, but the First World War ended this campaign.

A research publication by the BDA in 1914 was its Report on Odontomes, a real contribution to the advance of understanding of dental pathology.

The experience gained by the BDA in persuading the War Office to set up a dental service in the Army was of inestimable value later in confronting government departments on questions of dental benefit, the employment of dentistry during the Second World War, the establishment of the National Health Service and other more recent matters.

Great changes began once the war was ended. A permanent home opened in Russell Square in 1920 with provision for a library and journal offices. The Association pressed for dental officers to be appointed to the staffs of the new Ministry and Boards of Health and for the school dental officers to be free of the control and direction of the school medical officers - these recommendations were not accepted for many years. There was much discussion about the Dentists Bill then under preparation, especially of the inclusion in the Dentists Register of members of the Incorporated Dental Society, a society of unqualified men. The Ministry of Health was persuaded by Norman Bennett supported by the BDA that dental research should be included in the research programmes of the Medical Research Council.

The 1921 Dentists Act with its admission to the Dentists Register of unqualified practitioners caused a disunity within the Association. A resolution in 1922 to admit to membership all registered dentists was speedily nullified and two referenda in 1922 and 1927 successfully defeated the proposal. Only in 1950 at the time of Amalgamation were 'Dentists 1921' admitted to membership. The Dental Board of the United Kingdom was established with its Disciplinary Committee served by BDA members with experience in ethical matters gained through membership of the Penal Affairs Committee of the Association.

A problem in the 1920s was the third party intervention of the Approved Societies over dental benefit under the National Health Insurance scheme. The BDA was instrumental in advising on questions of insurance and in assisting its members in disputes. By the late 1930s all three dental associations were committed to working for full dental treatment as a statutory benefit under the National Health Insurance Acts and not merely as an additional benefit. During the decade the Association was advocating the expansion of the school dental service and had published a report on the industrial dental service. There was also pressure for a thorough appraisal of the curriculum and standards of dental education and for a higher degree to be

instituted by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the latter not achieved until 1947.

The Association also played its part in the organisation of the profession during the Second World War and especially in supporting dentists in the forces. This was done through the setting up of a War Council, replacing the Representative Board, Council and Standing Committee and exercising their powers as necessary. In 1943 the government set up an inter-departmental committee on dentistry under Lord Teviot in which the BDA cooperated by providing detailed evidence. From the committee resulted the establishment of public dental services, campaigns in dental health education, public funding of dental education and long-term plans to improve dental training and awareness of the need for dental research in many fields.

Unfortunately those responsible for the National Health Service Bill disregarded the detailed and expert information provided at various times by the BDA and there was a lack of unanimity within the profession on the subject. The BDA recommended its members not to participate in the National Health Service of which the dental service plans seemed likely to lead to a lower quality of dentistry, but economic factors attracted many who, disregarding this advice, joined in the new scheme. A few made high incomes through the enormous demand for treatment, but the shortage of practitioners made it difficult to obtain treatment, dentists' salaries were arbitrarily cut by the Ministry of Health and patients were charged a fee to reduce the demand for treatment; this led to a discontented profession and an alarming fall in the number of those entering it.

In 1956 it seemed clear from the report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Recruitment to the Dental Profession that dental practitioners, from their own and the Association's evidence, would not recommend their career to young people. The report again emphasised the need for dental health education and for the implementation of other recommendations of the Teviot Committee. In this year the Dentists Act 1956 was enacted, creating the General Dental Council and at last giving the profession autonomy, an ideal long sought for by the BDA. The Association's views on the use of dental auxiliaries had gone unheeded; it believed that, after the experience of cursorily trained 'dental dressers' in the 1920s, to create another class of partly trained operators was not in the interest of public or profession. The 1957 Dentists Act, however, placed dental auxiliaries and dental hygienists under the control of the General Dental Council and the BDA had to be content with advising on their best use.

The Association thrived under attack throughout its history, whether from the medical profession in the early days, the unqualified of pre-1921 days, the Approved Societies or politically active members of the various splinter groups. It has continued its varied roles impinging on all branches of dentistry, advising the public and publishing for a worldwide readership. Talented individual members have given much time to sit on expert committees on many dental themes, winning a higher degree of mutual trust and understanding. It might happen that this tradition of generous

voluntary service, a characteristic of the BDA since Tomes, Smith Turner and the other members of the first Representative Board, would wither and die if membership of the Association were made compulsory for all registered dental practitioners.

The life of the Association is still among the members, and the indifferent in the profession need to be persuaded to see the necessity for voluntary cooperation and unity within the BDA, continually to guard and advance what has been achieved already in its concern for ARS SCIENTIA MORES.

TWO DENTAL HISTORIANS, LILIAN LINDSAY AND JOHN MENZIES CAMPBELL

The First Menzies Campbell Lecture, given at the
University of Edinburgh, 9th May 1980

R A COHEN, F.F.D., F.S.A.

Lilian Lindsay was born on 24th July 1871 at 29 (now 101) Hungerford Road, Holloway, London N.7., the third child of James Robertson and Margaret Amelia (née Bennett) Murray, one of 11 children. Educated at the Camden School for Girls and, having won the Frances Mary Buss Scholarship in 1886, at the North London Collegiate, her headmistress endeavoured to coerce her into becoming a teacher of the deaf and dumb, but Lilian declared her intention of becoming a dentist and Miss Buss prevented her receiving the second scholarship for two further years' tuition which she had won. Lilian left in 1889 to become apprenticed to a dental practitioner for three years.

Passing the preliminary examination, she registered as a dental student but was refused admission to the National Dental Hospital in Great Portland Street, physically, in that her interview with the Dean, Henry Weiss, took place in the street, as well as in regard to her training. Weiss suggested Edinburgh as an alternative and she applied to Bowman MacLeod, the Dean, and was admitted as the only woman student. On her first day her future husband, Robert Lindsay, was instructed by the Dean to show her round the school. In 1895 she qualified with honours, after winning the Watson Medal for dental surgery and pathology and the medal for materia medica and therapeutics.

Until her marriage in 1905 Lilian practised at 69 Hornsey Rise in north London with a branch practice in the country. After marrying Robert Lindsay, they practised together at 2 Brandon Street in Edinburgh until both retired on his appointment as Dental Secretary of the British Dental Association. At once Lilian agreed to become the honorary librarian of the newly established library, taking a special interest in the historical collection which she slowly built up by 'judicious begging' and careful purchase out of a tiny budget, but she was mindful of the over-riding necessity of making it a working library for members. To keep abreast of contemporary dental writing and to further her historical studies she taught herself German, French, Latin and some Anglo-Saxon. The breadth of her reading is to be seen from the reader's slips from the British Museum which she always retained.

Lilian Lindsay's literary output was astonishingly large, at least 57 papers being published between her first in 1912 and 1959, as well as innumerable translations, letters, notes and annotations for the British Dental Journal. A bibliography of her writings was compiled by H A Cufflin and almost all bear the stamp of her original approach to whatever subject she took up. Without question her most important work is the translation into English of Fauchard's Le Chirurgien Dentiste published in 1946, though her readable though brief Short History of Dentistry (1933) serves as an interesting introduction to the subject. She gave the first Wallis Lecture, entitled The Sun, the Toothdrawer and the Saint, in 1933.

Robert Lindsay's death in 1930 was a great sorrow and typically she overcame loneliness with work, both in historical research and in becoming Sub-Editor of the British Dental Journal in 1931. Several hundred of her letters answering queries still exist, including some more personal ones.

Many honours were showered on her : she was made an honorary member of the Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland in 1920, became president of the Metropolitan Branch of the BDA in 1933, the only woman to have held that office up to that time as she was the only one ever to have become president of the BDA, which happened in 1946. She received the M.D.S. (honoris causa) of the University of Durham in 1939, the John Tomes Prize in 1945, the LL.D (honoris causa) of Edinburgh in 1946, the Colyer Medal in 1959 and many other awards. She is remembered with respect, admiration and affection by all with whom she was in contact or who sought her help - and they were many. She held decided views on many subjects and was prepared to justify them with a wealth of reasoned deduction. She was quietly determined and rarely changed her opinions once she had formed them. Her health began to fail in 1956 and she died on 31st January 1960, a woman whose gentleness, charm, memory, erudition and powers of sustained concentration will be ever remembered by those who knew her, while her writings form a permanent memorial to a remarkable woman.

John Menzies Campbell was born in Paisley on 9th June 1887, the elder son of John Menzies Campbell and his wife, Agnes Galt Brown. He was educated at Paisley Grammar School and George Watson's College in Edinburgh and became articled to J G S Angus, L.D.S.R.F.P.S. of Glasgow, also studying at the former Anderson's and St Mungo's medical colleges to qualify L.D.S.R.F.P.S. in 1911. After a year in Toronto where he gained the D.D.S. cum laude and first became interested in dental history, he established himself in practice in Glasgow in Hyndland Road and some seven years later moved to 14 Buckingham Terrace where he remained until retiring in 1953. He also took a part-time appointment as dental surgeon to the Govan School Clinics for three years and from 1915 to 1919 was a volunteer visiting dental surgeon at the Woodside-Springburn Red Cross Hospitals. He served as vice-president of the Ivory Cross Dental Aid Fund, and on the executive committee of the Secours Dentaire International, and he assisted as volunteer dentist at the Salvation Army's Goodwill Centre and their men's and women's hostels in Glasgow. He gave the first broadcast talk on oral hygiene on 13th

April 1923 and belonged to several organisations dedicated to health education including being a speaker for 12 years for the Dental Board of the United Kingdom.

An ardent collector, he presented in 1964 his collection of dental pictures, instruments, appliances and ornaments to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh where they now form the Menzies Campbell Collection, while his extremely valuable personal library was given in 1969 to the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The catalogue of the former collection published by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1966 is regarded as his most scholarly work by many and that likely to be of most use to future dental historians.

Menzies Campbell joined the BDA in 1918, was president of the Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland and supporting member of the F.D.I. He helped found the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine. He was elected honorary member of the American Academy of the History of Dentistry, the Pierre Fauchard Academy, la Société Française de l'Histoire de l'Art Dentaire and the Canadian Dental Association. In 1918 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and he was honorary lecturer in dental history in the University of Edinburgh for a number of years; his inaugural lecture in 1956 was the first in dental history ever given in any Scottish University. In 1958 he was the first dentist to receive an honorary F.D.S. of the Royal College of Surgeons of England where an eponymous lecture was instituted in his name in 1959, and he also received the F.D.S. sine curriculo of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

On 23rd December 1924 Menzies Campbell had married another Scot, Margaret Shirlaw Williamson, M.B., Ch.B., a St Andrews graduate, who proved a careful guardian of his health and welfare and a fellow enthusiast for dental history, contributing to his historical research by her patient and detailed assistance. Menzies Campbell died on 27th June 1974.

His literary output was amazingly large, beginning in 1912 and totalling three books and some 250 papers, letters and obituaries. Those Teeth of Yours (1929) was written in popular style for the educated layman and was revised and enlarged in the 2nd edition of 1931. The first chapter is about dental history. A Dental Bibliography, British and American, 1682-1880 lists every book on dentistry known to him in the form of a short-title catalogue arranged in chronological order, and it forms the most complete list published up to this day, and is a very useful tool.

His more important papers were collected and reprinted with the title From a Trade to a Profession (1958), with a revised and augmented edition in 1963 called Dentistry Then and Now. Such was his passion, almost obsession, for accuracy that his statements can be accepted completely without question. His style is simple, direct and factual, appealing to those without special historical knowledge as well as to the informed reader. Arguably the most important paper is the biography of Bartholomew Ruspini, and one feels Menzies' special interest in biography, especially of the 18th and early 19th centuries, depended upon the challenge such work presents, since information relating to this period is so difficult to obtain. Weinberger, the American dental historian

and biographer, was unwise enough to criticise the Ruspini article. His criticisms were dealt with by Menzies Campbell with his usual directness, the reply beginning with one of the best opening sentences for a paper : 'I shall endeavour to deal, as succinctly as possible, with Dr B W Weinberger's somewhat rambling, confused and confusing article'.

The lives and works of these two dental historians, although so different in many respects, are alike in two : a love of dental history and a realisation that we build upon foundations which our predecessors have laid.

THE WESTERN COUNTIES BRANCH : CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

11 - 14 OCTOBER 1979

The Western Counties Branch of the British Dental Association is older than the Association, having been founded on 13th April 1879 as the Western Counties Dental Association by a group of 11 dentists. The Centenary of its founding was marked by weekend celebrations at Kingsbridge and Plymouth, where the Lord Mayor welcomed a large gathering to the formal business of the annual general meeting. The president, G Pendlebury, gave his valedictory address and installed as his successor C K Millman who delivered the presidential address which follows in an abridged form. The Spence Bate Lecture was given by Lord Caradon who described his travels overseas and the notable statesmen he had met during his career. After a buffet lunch Professor D J Anderson spoke on the history and techniques of silversmithing, showing pieces he had made himself. Dancing occupied the evening. On the following day the morning session was devoted to a lecture on photogrammetry by Robin Williams of Charing Cross Hospital and in the afternoon there were nature and archaeological films about Dartmoor made and shown by Roger Hosking. At the centenary banquet the Earl of Morley proposed the toast of the Association and Professor F E Lawton that of the Branch. The remainder of the weekend was left for leisure pursuits.

WESTERN DENTAL WORTHIES

An epitome of the Presidential Address at the Centenary Meeting,

Western Counties Branch, 12th October

by C KEITH MILLMAN

The history of the influence from the West Country upon British dentistry is distinguished by the number of West Countrymen of vision and practical endeavour who have served the dental cause. The first three presidents of the British Dental Association had West Country origins, Sir John Tomes, Henry Campion and Charles Spence Bate. The latter was a Cornishman who, having qualified in 1841, built up a practice first in Swansea and from 1851 in Plymouth. He was the first provincial dentist to be elected president of the Odontological Society and made many contributions to the

professional literature. Because of his great interest in natural history, he was welcomed by scientific men and joined the British Association in 1848. On the strength of his co-authorship of the standard work on British sessile-eyed crustacea he was elected F.R.S. It was Spence Bate who founded the Western Counties Dental Association, with 10 others, in 1879, the precursor of the Western Counties Branch of the British Dental Association.

Samuel Lee Rymer of Plymouth had collaborated in forming, with James Robinson, the College of Dentists in London, later encouraging his colleagues to join the Odontological Society of London and creating the Odontological Society of Great Britain of which he became president in 1882. In 1889 he was elected president of the British Dental Association. To his credit it is that the Benevolent Fund was launched in 1883 in Plymouth.

Rymer was succeeded by another West Countryman as president, J T Browne Mason of Exeter taking office in 1890. He too was a founder-member of the Western Counties Dental Association, a distinguished practitioner and a passionate advocate of dental services in the Armed Forces for many years before the first dental surgeons were appointed to the Army.

Nine years later Dr W A Hunt was installed as president of the British Dental Association in Bath, also a founder-member of the Western Counties Branch and its president in 1884. His father was very probably the first practitioner beyond London to administer ether for surgeons, and the son pioneered in 1886 the use of cocaine hypodermically.

The next national president from the West Country was Stuart Carter in 1921, the year when the Dentists Act 1921 restricted unregistered practice, though Carter was at pains to point out that the act could not fight dental disease.

In 1935 another Plymouth dentist, Sydney Venning, became president of the Association. He foresaw the likelihood of a national dental service and looked forward to a new era of preventive dentistry which would change the role of dental practice to one of maintenance rather than repair.

1959 saw the installation as president of Sydney Venning's brother Lotan, though he died shortly after the assumption of office. For many years he had been the most influential member of the Western Counties Branch, with a record of service to the profession, the community and the hospital service.

Rodney Swiss, knighted in 1975, was born in Plymouth but practised in Middlesex. He became national president in 1971, having been Chairman of the General Dental Services Committee for ten years and a member of the General Dental Council since 1957, being elected president of that body in 1974.

Robert Hunt of Torquay had served the Western Counties Branch for many years, notably at the time of Amalgamation when he was branch secretary, before becoming president of the British Dental Association in 1975. He had served as chairman of the Representative Board between 1967 and 1974, the first West Countryman to hold this office,

and he was appointed O.B.E. in 1974 in recognition of his services to dentistry; he still makes his wisdom and counsel available to the Association in his retirement.

His successor as chairman of the Representative Board was another Plymouth dentist, K G Swiss, brother of Sir Rodney. Behind him lie many years of distinguished service to the dental profession and he will be president of the British Dental Association in 1982.

Many others who have not achieved presidential status at national level have nevertheless given sterling service to their branch or to dentistry. Three Cornishmen deserve mention. K C B Webster, born in Bodmin, dedicated himself to the school dental service, working in Croydon, and was responsible both for the co-ordination of the dental services of the Inner London boroughs when in 1967 the Greater London Council was reorganised, and for the initial planning of the reorganisation of the National Health Service in 1974, though he died before the work was complete. He was appointed O.B.E. in 1971 for his manifold services to public dental health education, the Dental Whitley Council and the British Dental Association. A Cornishman by adoption of over 30 years' standing, W R Gunlack has worked on the General Dental Services Committee where his influence and contribution have been considerable. Professor G L Howe is Cornish by birth and was chairman of Council from 1973 for nearly five years and chairman of the E.E.C. Liaison Committee for Dentistry for three years. In this capacity he helped to overcome seemingly insurmountable problems. He is now the first Dean and Dental Director of the new Dental School in Hong Kong. Here is a West Countryman with influence in Europe and the Far East.

These men have contributed at national or international level to their profession, and they represent countless others from the Western Counties who might well have been mentioned, had time permitted.

FIFTY YEARS IN GENERAL DENTAL PRACTICE

G H LEATHERMAN, D.M.D., F.D.S.R.C.S.

Having graduated from Harvard in 1924 and qualified L.D.S. at Guy's, I began to practise in the West End of London in 1925 and except for the six wartime years, remained in practice there until 1973. Some things have changed very little : the principles of oral hygiene on which I based my treatment from the beginning are much as they were in the twenties; filling procedures are similar though the materials and some instruments are new and we apply our biological knowledge better; the same applies to endodontics.

In education the changes I have seen include emphasis on a good occlusion for natural teeth, the teaching of the value of fluorides in preventing caries - though the profession has failed to convince the public of this or of the importance of diet, and the realisation of the part played by plaque in causing caries and periodontal disease. I did, in the twenties, know that plaque should be removed and I used Talbot's

iodine as a disclosing agent and glycerine and pumice polish to clean the teeth. Nor has local anaesthesia changed much, though it is much more widely used than it used to be in dental treatment; on the other hand, the development of good general anaesthesia has been a major advance, helping in the treatment of children and nervous patients. The improvements in x-ray equipment, particularly the introduction of panoramic radiography, have aided better diagnosis.

A major change has been the advent of the high speed drill and handpiece and the new cutting instruments. At the F.D.I. Congress in Rome in 1957, the Borden Airtor was introduced, and together with the arrival in 1962 of the reclining chair, first shown at the F.D.I. Congress in Cologne, it radically altered the dentist's working position and gave birth to four-handed dentistry. I, in contrast, learnt to cut cavities and prepare teeth with a foot engine, burs, stones and discs and progressed to the dental engine, cutting dry and later under water, so that high-speed and diamond stones were a real innovation.

Materials have been a great influence in advancing dental practice, in conservation, endodontics and prosthetic dentistry. I used a great deal of black copper cement and silver nitrate, yet my cement-lined amalgam and hand-plugged cohesive gold fillings have been known to endure for fifty years. More teeth seem to survive nowadays with good root canal treatment and no longer have to be extracted because of focal sepsis; apicectomy is more commonly done than in the Twenties and Thirties. In prosthetics the direct wax impression once so widely used for inlays has virtually died out because of accurate modern impression materials. I had a choice in the early days of compound which was inaccurate or plaster of Paris which was very accurate but difficult to handle, while the vulcanite or gold used for denture bases has been replaced by plastics and chrome cobalt. In the early days it took two or three hours to prepare a jacket crown by adapting the platinum matrix to the tooth and building up the porcelain which was baked in a furnace alongside the chair, being fitted during the bakes to the tooth. Now we have aluminous porcelain!

One marked difference in practice then and now which I deplore is the relationship between dentist, staff and patient. We see a marked lowering of behavioural standards, revealed by choice of dress, familiarity and use of first names. The more formal atmosphere of the past made for good administration and practice; staff gave long service and the patients valued the more professional relationship.

Dentistry has always demanded a marriage of scientific understanding, technical skill and good perception. In the last fifty years we have learnt much more about tooth formation and structure, bone, gingival reaction and the relationship between oral and general health. We are beginning, influenced by social science, to understand and motivate patients better and to relate dental care to the environment. Dental practice has become much easier, thanks to new instruments, equipment and materials. What has not changed is the need for dental treatment, and until the profession is totally committed to prevention we shall not make the real advances that will enable

us to practise dentistry as part of a total health care system for the peoples of the world.

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STOP PRESS!

GEORGE CUNNINGHAM MEETING

On 17th March 1981 in Downing College, Cambridge, at 7 p.m. there will be a sherry reception (black tie) after which H Colin Davis, OBE, will show his film on George Cunningham and speak on Dr Cunningham of Cambridge. At 8.30 p.m. there will be a buffet supper with wine.

Inclusive cost of the evening is £5 a head, and numbers are limited to 70. Early application is urged.

The plaque to be erected will be displayed; it has a cameo of Cunningham with his vital dates and the inscription : The Father of Preventive Dentistry. Since its cost will be approximately £100, donations are invited.

PLEASE APPLY USING THE FORM ON PAGE 22