

THE LINDSAY CLUB



OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER NUMBER 8

SEPTEMBER, 1982

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COMMITTEE 1981-82

Chairman	Dr. S. Gelbier, PhD., LDS., DDPH., RCS.,
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	Dr. S. Glasstone-Hughes, PhD., LDS., FDS., RCS.,
	Mr. J. E. McAuley, LDS.,

HONORARY DEGREE FOR DENTAL HISTORIAN

This was how the British Dental Journal of the 15th February, 1982 reported that our immediate past Chairman Ronald Cohen was awarded an honorary Master of Arts degree of the University of Birmingham at a degree congregation held on 11th December, 1981.

The Journal reproduced the oration delivered on that occasion in which Ronald's achievements were described. He is, of course, an Honorary part-time lecturer in Dental History at the Birmingham Dental School.

The occasion was marked by a dinner at which he was the guest of honour and was of course, accompanied by his wife Muriel.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The 'occasional' newsletter is now a regular annual feature. A debt of gratitude is due to our honorary secretary, Brenda Fox, for compiling this booklet. We all know well how much effort is required to produce something that is worthy of keeping on our bookshelves. The aim of the newsletter has always been to provide a forum to record the Club's activities and events which have occurred during the past year, to indicate something of our plans for the future and also to provide members with a bibliography of any articles and books about dental history which have been published during the past year. A particularly valuable aspect is that it gives members a platform for other items of interest about dental history. Therefore, it can include the whole or parts of lectures given to the Club, extracts from papers written elsewhere, or other items of dental historical interest. It would be nice to see the newsletter develop into a proper History of Dentistry journal. If it were produced twice yearly then we would be more likely to find that authors produce papers of sufficient merit. Such a journal could be divided into two parts. The first section would contain notes of the Lindsay Club and its members, reviews, 'rough' papers read to the Club and simplistic articles. The second part would contain only scientific articles which had been reviewed by two referees in the normal manner of professional journals. In this way the journal would have a high status and will attract a superior standard of articles.

Obviously, people writing historical papers at the present time feel that they would rather place them in a recognised journal than in a newsletter. If our American counterpart can produce the Bulletin of the History of Dentistry to such a high standard, with some excellent articles, there is no reason why we should not do the same. What do you think? It would be very much appreciated if members could send their comments to me at the King's Department of Community Dental Health, c/o Royal Eye Hospital, St. George's Circus, London SE1 OBA. Obviously, there would be no point in attempting to undertake such a project if it is not something that our members - ie you - feel to be valuable.

A major highlight of our year was to learn that Ronald Cohen has been awarded an honorary Master of Arts degree by the University of Birmingham, in recognition of his academic contributions to the study of dental history (see page 1). I am sure that I speak on behalf of everyone in offering hearty congratulations.

We were very saddened to learn of the death of Eileen Donaldson who was a founding member of the Club. An obituary appears elsewhere in the newsletter. Our sincere condolences go out to Archie Donaldson.

A special thank you is due to Margaret Clennett who has produced the bibliography. Those of us who turn to her for advice in the library know well that her arrival at the BDA has been a real gift, building onto the high standard achieved by her predecessor, Muriel Spencer.

We were very sorry that Dr. Shirley Glasstone-Hughes was unable to present her paper on the life and work of Howard Mummary. It is to be hoped that we shall be able to read at least some of it at a future date if we cannot hear the lecture.

It was with great delight that we went to historic Brighton in June for our major meeting associated with the British Dental Association's annual meeting. We all appreciated hearing David Richards deliver his excellently researched paper entitled 'Morals and molars: physical deterioration and the establishment of the school dental service 1890 to 1920.'

David has obviously spent many hours delving into this subject. Those members who could not attend the meeting are recommended to read that part of his paper, which appeared in the BDJ (6th July 1982, vol. 153, pp. 33-6). I am sure we all look forward to seeing more of David's work when the book (Medical Men and the State 1830-1920) that he is writing with John Woodward is published.

I have been gratified to receive congratulations from members on becoming the first dentist to attain the Diploma in the History of Medicine awarded by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. It is to be hoped that other dentists will take

the course and sit the examination as it provides an excellent overall background cloth against which to set the history of dentistry. Details of the syllabus and course can be obtained from the Registrar, Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, Apothecary Street, Blackfriars, London EC4

As members know there is currently no qualification obtainable in the History of Dentistry. I am giving active consideration to the possibility of providing a part-time course in the History of Dentistry within my Department of Community Dental Health at King's College Hospital Medical School, leading to the attainment of a Master of Science Degree of London University. It is hoped to make it available to dentists and graduates of other relevant disciplines. Before proceeding along these lines I would be very gratified to hear from members as to whether or not they feel that such an idea is of value; if they are likely to consider taking such a course (which would entail being present in London on probably two days a week for two years); and whether they are able and willing to teach any aspects of the history of dentistry (including the development of instruments and materials) if such a course gets off the ground.

At the beginning of this newsletter you will have seen a list of the Club's committee members. Please let us know if you have any ideas for improving our activities.

I am sure that we are all deeply appreciative of the work that Archie Donaldson carries out as Honorary Curator of the BDA Museum. He and I have had many discussions of late about the Museum. We are very concerned that its many valuable items have never been fully catalogued and are trying desperately to attain a source of funding in order to appoint a Museum Assistant for a year or two so that cataloguing can be carried out. If anyone knows of a source of funding that can be tapped Archie would be more than delighted to hear from you. He hopes that the catalogue can be compared with those held in other places, for example, the Science Museum. Archie has reported to the Club Committee

three aspects of the work which provide some difficulties: routine maintenance of the many valuable items in the Museum; preparation of a suitable catalogue of items; and the need to increase the size of the collection. All three aspects required a great deal of work from people who have an interest in such work. If you can help please let the Honorary Curator know. He also spends much time on the many visitors to the Museum and in replying to those people who write in for information.

The BDA kindly appointed me as Honorary Assistant Curator with a special interest in development of the Association's archives. The Association and its history is interwoven with that of its membership. If any of you have papers which are relevant to the history of our profession please let me know before discarding them.

It is always depressing to learn that someone has recently retired from practice and thrown out valuable old documents and papers. Similarly, if any old equipment is being discarded then first check with Archie to ensure that you are not throwing out an item that he has been seeking. The Association's archives have been listed by the National Business Archives Council and I have been having discussions with them in order to fully catalogue all our historical documents and archives to ensure that they are easily accessible to future research workers. In particular, we are trying to ensure that present day historical documents are not unwittingly thrown out by the BDA's administrative staff.

Stanley Gelbier
Chairman 1981/82

PROJECT FOR A REGISTER OF PRE-1879 DENTISTS

I count myself as fortunate in having had the opportunity to work with R. A. Cohen in the Dental History Unit at Birmingham a few years ago and in having had the most generous access to his vast expertise in the field of dental history. In the course of the research I was then involved in, I acquired the habit of noting down any dentists I came across in newspapers and trade directories, a practice that I have continued ever since. I gradually accumulated a body of information which grew so large as to need organising. It has now become the substantial nucleus of a register of all those people in England who called themselves 'dentist', 'surgeon dentist' or 'toothdrawer' in trade directories before 1879, the year of the first Dentists' Register. (I take the use of these terms to mean someone who does more than just extract teeth as a sideline; someone, in fact, who devotes so much of his time to the treatment of the teeth that he adopts the description 'dentist'. Others may have been involved in extraction (surgeons, barbers, chemists, etc) but I doubt whether anyone would advertise himself as a dentist on those terms. However, the claim to the name 'dentist' is no indicator of skill or training).

Having now moved to Liverpool, I am registered as a postgraduate student in the University here, looking into the development of the profession before the middle of the last century.

The need for such a register

We undoubtedly have a body of valuable and important literature on the history of the dental profession in England, mainly concerned with the careers and contributions of individuals. In addition, the dental reform movement has been closely examined by David Richards. Larger scale projects have been difficult, mainly because we do not possess any central listing of dentists before 1879. The lists of holders of the LDS may be useful, but they only concern a very few and do not start until 1861. Dentistry largely postdates the borough and national apprenticeship records and we have no equivalent of the 18th and 19th century records available to surgeons, physicians and pharmacists. Not until there are qualifications and licences to practice is there any need to keep a list and both these elements are relatively recent in dentistry.

Much of our view of dentists in the 18th and early 19th centuries is based on what the dental reformers of the 1840s had to say. There is no denying that, despite their prime motivation to bring about improvements in the contemporary situation, they also had something of a vested interest in demonstrating that they were a cut above the run-of-the-mill practitioner and worthy of being allied with the medical profession.

A register of early dentists should open up to us whole fields of enquiry; not only would we be able to find out just where that visiting dentist was actually based, but also whether he was able to live out his life in one place, confident in a steady supply of patients, or had to move on periodically to pastures new. At the moment we are often dependent on chance finds, with no clues to where to look if an individual disappears from the locality we are studying. More importantly, perhaps, we shall be in a better position to answer some of the larger questions: just how many dentists were there at different dates, where were they concentrated, what were the predisposing factors which led to a town attracting a resident dentist? We will be able, in fact, to see the development of dentistry in its wider historical and sociological context.

Source material

London's first trade directory appeared in 1677 but it did not have a successor until 1734. Provincial directories began to be published in the 1760s, but by no means all places were covered. Directories grew out of the needs of a changing pattern in trade, where the producer had to seek customers outside his local area, and so it was the ports and main distribution centres which saw the first directories. By the beginning of the 19th century commercial practice had changed so radically that the whole country was being surveyed for national directories. Even then, however, annual directories cannot be expected.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that publication does not necessarily ensure survival, as trade directories are, by their very nature, ephemeral. It will be seen from the above that a survey of the earlier directories will not produce a complete description of the careers of all dental practitioners; some

may well have had their names in directories which have since disappeared. However, I feel we would be very unlucky not to locate a dentist of some years' practice at least once during his career. As for the towns which were not served by directories they were probably also the towns where commerce was not sufficiently sophisticated to attract a resident dentist. So, although the register may not produce a complete practice record of all dentists before 1879, I think it will locate most of the individuals some time during their careers and prove a valuable basic research tool.

The work of locating the trade directories is considerably eased by the existence of Jane E Norton's Guide to the National and Provincial Directories of England and Wales published before 1856 (Royal Historical Society, 1950). I am aiming to look at all the separate issues of directories (more than 800) listed in this catalogue. Directories published after 1856 present something more of a problem as there is no consolidated list in existence and virtually the only means of finding out what is available is to visit all the major (and many minor) libraries in the country.

Method of data collection

Each individual book which I see is allotted a number and a location code. Thus Scholes's 1794 Manchester & Salford Directory becomes D451 and its location L020, the code for Manchester City Library.

From each individual book I extract the names of all dental practitioners, noting the year, their names, occupations (sometimes more than one), qualifications, if any, and their addresses. In a complete survey of a town, this produces a series of entries for one individual instead of the single one we are accustomed to in the Dentists' Register. The results are then entered on computer and can be sorted by any of the elements above. (This will make it feasible to ask such questions as whether there were any dentists in Newcastle in 1801 who were also cuppers). At the moment the results are being arranged alphabetically within historical county. At the same time, I am photocopying any dental advertisements I come across in order to flesh out the basic record in the directory. This is not an exhaustive search and many directories published in paper

covers have had the adverts removed before being permanently bound. I should be most grateful for copies of any advertisements members encounter in their researches, as they so often give details not otherwise available.

Progress

I now have details of dentists from virtually every part of the country, excepting London. The survey of some counties is virtually complete whilst for others the data is still somewhat scanty. My priority at the moment is to complete the survey nationally to 1855 in the next few months so that I can make progress with the research as opposed to the mere listing.

At the last count, I had practice records of approaching 3,000 individuals and the number grows rapidly by the day.

Results - emerging themes

Any comments under this heading must be seen, at this stage, as decidedly tentative since I shall not have the opportunity to analyse the material until all the data is collected.

However, a few cautious observations might be made.

1. Presence of a resident dentist

This could well prove one of the most interesting, if enigmatic, lines of enquiry.

A dentist writing to the Journal of Dental Science (1 Feb 1858) under the pseudonym of 'Sauviter et Fortiter' from Tavistock complained bitterly that if the proposed code of ethics were imposed they could spell disaster for a country practitioner like himself who was to be 'required by a false etiquette to remain at home in an unfashionable town of some 8,000 or 10,000 inhabitants'. He regularly visited 'two small places where a dentist could not exist (any more than in this my native place) unless, indeed, one's stamina could be maintained on Scotch diet, porridge and salt'. (Was this S. Phillips, the only dentist listed in Tavistock in Kelly's 1856 directory of Devonshire?)

If he considered that a population of 15-20,000 was adequate to support a dentist, why did Oldham, with a population of nearly

80,000 in 1843 have no resident dentist, in contrast with Preston, with only 50,000, which did?

The presence of a resident dentist seems, at this stage of the inquiry, to depend less on sheer numbers than on the social structure of the town and its proximity to a city where such facilities are easily available.

2. Dental Firms

Few major towns seem to have been without their branch of Moseleys or Gabriels in the second half of the last century. (Any information on Ephraim Moseley and his brothers Lewin and Simeon would be most welcome, as would details of Maurice and Arnold Gabriel). J. H. Parsons appears to have had a number of practices in the north of England. The number of such firms, together with firms including 'sons' in the title (which may have been a purely commercial measure on occasions), seems at the moment to amount to about 10% of the total.

Some dental dynasties are emerging and it will be interesting to trace the trade origins of the first member of such a family and the subsequent careers of later generations; in other words, to see whether the practice of dentistry was a step in social advancement and mobility at certain periods. Isolated cases would suggest this already and this survey should provide a larger sample for investigation.

3. Mobility

Some evidence is being produced of geographical mobility, but this will only become fully evident when the survey is complete and a full alphabetical print-out is obtained. In the meanwhile, one notes with interest the re-appearance in Liverpool of a dentist from County Durham or of a Liverpool dentist in Upper Norwood.

4. Qualifications

Obviously, the only genuine English dental qualification can be the LDS, but this did not stop some practitioners appending a variety of letters after their names. The most popular was 'MOS' (Member of the Odontological Society), with a few claiming 'MD', 'MRCS' and even

Preston, the occasional 'FRS'. Some of the more bizarre combinations can be put down to the editor of the directory.

5. Other occupations

The most frequent are 'surgeon' and 'cupper' but it was obviously possible to practice dentistry in conjunction with a number of unlikely trades, among them insurance agent and musician. (Perhaps the latter started out as 'instrument maker' and was altered by an editor who thought he knew better and was looking for a shorter entry). The most interesting variant on 'dentist' in 1784; presumably 'dentist' was an unknown word to both the collector of the entry who called on the gentleman and to the typesetter. One can assume the end result represents the pronunciation of Mr. Rissieux.

6. Dentist v. surgeon dentist

One point about which there can be no doubt is that, for the earlier period at least, there was no real difference between these terms. A practitioner may be called one in a directory of 1830 and the other in the following year. In subsequent directories he may change again. One can only conclude that before there were any connotations of qualifications or professionalism the designation depended as much on the editor of the directory as on anything else. Kelly uses the term 'dentist' where White calls the same people 'surgeon dentist'.

Future lines of research

It will be clear from what I have said about the nature of the source material that the register alone will not give a complete picture of the development of dentistry in this country. However, the coverage and reliability of trade directories had improved tremendously by the early part of the last century when we know that the profession had begun to expand. I hope to be able to plot the growth, both geographically and chronologically, and try to account for it.

With luck it is possible to trace the origins of those who turned to dentistry and try to see which was the predominant trade from which dentists sprang.

One of the most important questions still to be answered is just how common it was for a dentist to take to the road. By using contemporary newspapers and the invaluable Menzies Campbell collection, I hope to discover whether there were established and accepted circuits.

Finally, I should be very happy to answer any member's queries, as the value of such a register lies, ultimately, only in its being used.

Christine Hillam,
6 Brancote Road,
Oxton,
Birkenhead,
MERSEYSIDE L43 6TJ

THE RISE OF LONDON'S SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

Over the years many people have contributed to the development of dental services for London's school children, some of them known but mostly forgotten. My interest in this subject has developed over many years as a member of such a treatment service. Also as a member of a multitude of committees planning services for children. On so many occasions ideas have been put forward when the cry has immediately come forth: 'But that was done years ago'. After a while it became necessary to try and separate the myths from facts. Further stimulus to the study came from an earlier edition of the Lindsay Club Newsletter itself. How fascinating to read 'Wilfred Breese's account of his father's contribution to the development of London's services.¹ Thus, Frederick Breese has been one of the three people about whom I have made major studies: not just because of the stimulus provided by Wilfred, but also because he was the first dentist to provide care at the St. George's Dispensary in Southwark, which it so happens was sited not more than three hundred yards away from my present office, at the Royal Eye Hospital. The other two people studied also have links with my work environment. Margaret McMillan carried out much of her important and nationally-acclaimed work in Deptford, Lewisham, where a famous teachers' training college is named after her sister Rachel. Charles Edward Wallis is the third person. He achieved much success at County Hall, which

lies in Lambeth. Wallis' name is perpetuated by an undergraduate prize at King's College Hospital Dental School and in a triennial memorial lecture given jointly to the Odontological and History of Medicine Sections of the Royal Society of Medicine.

It is essential that the names of Breese, McMillan and Wallis should always be remembered. Without them, the development of school dental services in London might have been delayed for many years.

MARGARET MCMILLAN

Although my major concern has been with the rise of dentistry, it is clear that little if any advance would have been made but for developments on the social and general health scene. Such advances occurred as a result of pressures by individuals as well as by groups of people. It is here that Margaret Mc Millan's name comes to the fore. As the celebrated author J. B. Priestley said of her:² 'I do not ever remember setting eyes on Margaret McMillan, yet she was part of the mythology of my childhood, for my father, an elementary schoolmaster and a socialist, was one of her Bradford friends, admirers, helpers.' Over the years her experiences of life in America, Scotland and London drew her towards socialism. She was horrified by all the terrible conditions that she saw about her. After hearing her speak in London a group of socialists invited her to join them in Bradford in 1839, as a founder member of the new Independent Labour Party. Margaret was shaken to the core by Bradford. Within a year she had gained a place on the School Board and embarked on a crusade to improve the conditions for school children. She was fortunate because in the previous year Bradford had appointed Dr. James Kerr as the first schools' medical officer in this country to be concerned not only with building and sanitation, but also with the personal body health of each child. Eagerly assisted by Kerr she began immediately to enlighten the Board, parents and public with numerous lectures, pamphlets and circulars. In October 1894 they carried out the first school medical inspection in England, at Usher Street Girls School. But enough of her stay in Bradford³.

In 1902 Margaret came south to live with her sister Rachel in Bromley. She soon became manager of three schools in Deptford, then one of the poorest areas in London. Here she saw living conditions even worse than in Yorkshire: in some streets she saw hundreds of starving children who lived, and probably died, in grinding poverty, whilst the newspapers pronounced that the country was 'prosperous beyond precedent'. On the national front she led campaigns and deputations to Parliament that led eventually to the passing of two major pieces of legislation: Education (Provision of Meals) Act 1906 and Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1907. The first statute led to the availability of school meals for children who arrived so hungry that they could not benefit from the education provided. The second led to the inauguration of school medical and dental inspections.

However, the McMillan sisters realised the need for local as well as national action. And so it was that on 21 June 1910 they opened a school clinic in the Old Vestry Hall in Deptford. Margaret ensured right from the beginning that dentistry was a major component of the clinic. She turned to George Cunningham for advice about what to do, and her clinic absorbed much from Cambridge. The first dentist was Benjamin North who had been a fellow member of the Bradford School Board. Although a very upright and severe-looking man, a recent interview with one of his old patients confirmed that he was very kind. As initially the children could not come legally during school hours they visited during their lunch periods and after school. The patients came in torrents causing the staff to work at high pressure.

CHARLES EDWARD WALLIS

In 1905 James Kerr came down from Bradford to become medical officer to the new London County Council. He soon reported to the LCC that: 'The importance of dental disease is not likely to be over estimated nor was the problem confined to children. So bad was the situation that Kerr told his Education Committee that many candidates for admission as teachers had to have their certificates for fitness suspended.

Even in an age of severe malnutrition, infection and vermin, it was clear that teeth were a major problem. Kerr was pointing the way forward for a dental surgeon to be brought onto his staff.

Charles Edward Wallis qualified as a doctor from King's College Hospital in 1894. He then gained a dental diploma from the Dental Hospital of London in 1897. Within two years he was appointed assistant dental surgeon to the Victoria Hospital for Children, where he became very impressed by the importance of dental hygiene in children. Wallis was actively involved with the School Dentists' Society, where he met many other advocates of child dental care. Because of his interest he became visiting dental surgeon to Felham Industrial School. By 1905 Kerr had appointed Wallis onto his staff as an assistant medical officer to the London County Council. Wallis carried out epidemiological surveys of the children's mouths so as to give Kerr ammunition in his campaign to get the LCC to start up school dental clinics.⁴ In addition, he realised the need for prevention rather than treatment only. A major innovation was the idea of Toothbrush Clubs, where children were encouraged to purchase toothbrushes and tooth powder at school, and then practice brushing with their teachers.⁵

Wallis and Kerr persuaded the LCC's Education Officer, Robert Blair, to visit the pioneer German dental clinics in Cologne and Strassbourg. He submitted a most encouraging report to his committee. However, in spite of their efforts progress was slow. Although continuing to nudge the LCC they looked elsewhere for support.

FREDERICK BREESE

Through a medical colleague Wallis learned of the St. George's Dispensary for Children in Blackfriars. In 1908 it had been moved to the disused Old King's Arms public house in Surrey Row. Wallis convinced R. A. Kirby, the retired naval surgeon who had founded the dispensary, of the need to introduce dental treatment for the children. The latter agreed to finance an experiment provided the LCC would permit Wallis to examine the children at the nearby Blackfriars School and to send those needing treatment to his clinic. The LCC gave the necessary

permission and the experiment began. Obviously, no treatment scheme can be complete unless a suitable dentist is found. Such a dentist was Frederick Breese,⁵ a fellow member of the School Dentists' Society. Although already looking after one thousand children at two institutions he was eventually persuaded by Wallis to take on this additional commitment. How lucky were these children of Blackfriars! Breese was a firm favourite and he made a great success of the clinic work. It is no surprise that with him at the chairside the LCC came to realise that dentistry had to be a major component of any children's health service.

Dentistry at St. George's began in January 1910: that at Deptford did not get off the ground until the following July. Kerr and Blair emphasised to the LCC the favourable opportunity for the Council to take over such existing facilities for the provision of dental treatment. The offer was accepted. Wallis and his colleagues were ecstatic. Their plans had paid off and London had the beginnings of a school dental service. Those of us who came afterwards and our patients, have much to be thankful for. We shall always remember Charles Edward Wallis, Margaret McMillan and Frederick Breese.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grateful thanks are due to Wilfred and Ruth Leigh Breese, Frederick's son and daughter-in-law, for all their help and advice. Also the archivists of the Greater London Council and the Rachel McMillan Teachers Training College, for allowing access to their documents. The Nuffield Foundation helped by providing a research grant to pursue this study. A special thank you is due to Sheila Randall who spent many 'happy' hours in the basement of County Hall going through dusty minute books.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Breese, W. Leigh (1977) 'The early school dental clinics'. Lindsay Club Newsletter No. 3, pp. 22-5
2. Priestley, J. B. (1948) Foreword to D. Cresswell, Margaret McMillan: A Memoir, London: Hutchinson & Co. Ltd. p
3. For further details see Gelbier S. (1982) 'Margaret McMillan, "Mother" of child health'. History of Medicine (in print)

Gelbier, S. and Randall, S. (1982) 'Charles Edward Wallis and the rise of London's school dental service'.
Medical History (October).

Gelbier S. and Randall S. (1982) 'Frederick Breese and London's first school dental clinic'. British Dental Journal 151: 309-11

Stanley Gelbier

(based on a lecture to the Lindsay Club
on 25th November 1981)

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Members of the Lindsay Club who are pursuing some research were invited to describe areas where they would welcome help from colleagues. If you can help them please write direct to the researcher.

1. Professor G. E. M. Hallett 63 Runnymede Road, Ponteland,
Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE20 9HJ

Description of research:

James Robinson DDS Baltimore born 22.11.1813 died
February 1862.

"Especially that concerning his role in founding the
National Dental Hospital (often ascribed to Lee Rymer)".

His obituary - Dental Review Vol. 4 1862 p. 189-90

2. Dr. A. S. Hargreaves Dept. of Prosthodontics,
The Dental School, Framlington Place,
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE2 4BW

Description of research:

- 1) Early French dentists and their techniques
- 2) The use of gold in prosthetic dentistry

3. Mr. John M. Fairley

44 Albany Terrace, Dundee.

8.

Description of research

History of Dentistry in Scotland - Dundee and District in particular.

4. Dr. F. E. R. De Maar

tandarts GOETLIJFSTRAAT 112
2596 RL 's-Gravenhage,
The Hague, Netherlands.

Description of research

Paintings Engravings and Designs made by Dutch artists from 15th Century - 20th Century.

5. Ms. Christine Hillam

6 Brancote Road, Birkenhead
Merseyside L43 6TJ

9.

Description of research:

- 1) The compilation of a register of those calling themselves 'Dentist' before 1879.
- 2) Continuing research into 18th and early 19th Century Dentists : then distribution, pattern of practice, itineraries etc.

6. Dr. S. Gelbier

Dept. of Community Dentistry,
Royal Eye Hospital,
St. George's Circus,
London SE1 OBA

THE

Description of research

- 1) Development of public health services.
- 2) Development of school dental services in London.
- 3) The work of J. Smith Turner.

7) Mr. Ian Maddick

Dental Dept. Central Health Clin
East Park Terrace, Southampton.

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Description of research

The history of Dental Health Education.

8. Mr. Sydney Levine,

5 Upper Cliff Avenue,
Northbridge N.S.W. AUSTRALIA 2063

Description of research:

Dental Practice in the Colony of New South Wales
1789-1850

"The following who practised dentistry in N.S.W."

Joseph Hyams born London 1789 Sent to N.S.W. Oct. 1813
Life Sentence.

Simeon Lear born Amsterdam 1787 Convicted Plymouth
Assizes 5 Auth 1816 Sent to N.S.W. for 14 years.

9. Dr. David Richards,

Dept. of Social Studies,
Trent Polytechnic, Burton Street,
Nottingham, NG1 4BU

Description of research:

The Development of school dental services in England
and Wales.

THE "MENZIES CAMPBELL" INAUGURAL LECTURE IN GLASGOW

The British Dental Journal reported on 1st December, 1981
that Sir. Robert Bradlaw, C.B.E., had given the inaugural
Menzies Campbell Lecture in Glasgow.

The University of Glasgow Dental School has been fortunate
in having a lecturer endowed to continue the development of
and interest in the history of dentistry and further the work
of the late Dr. John Menzies Campbell, a well know authority
in this field.

CYRUS FAY

In the current number of the Bulletin of the History of Dentistry is printed a letter from D. B. S. Moskow of Ridgewood, New Jersey, saying that he wishes to obtain some biographical data on "Cyrus Fay, a dentist (possibly American) who practiced (sic) in London (ca. 1820-1830). He was the author of Fay's Dental Surgery and was known for a particular type of extraction forceps he devised. All my efforts here have been unsuccessful and I am wondering if you know anyone in England whom I might contact for assistance. I have recently acquired a large portrait of Dr. Fay and would like to document his life if possible".

I have sent some notes on Cyrus Fay and his family to Dr. Moskow asking if he would be good enough to send me a photograph of the portrait together with its provenance, if known.

A paper by M. J. Fay, a grandson of Cyrus Fay, gives some biographical information.¹ He was born at Harwich, Mass., U.S.A. on 15th April, 1778, and was the son of Captain Stephen Fay, born on 19th February, 1739 at Westborough, Mass. He was in practice in New York in 1808, was in England by 1822 living at 7 Sackville Street, Piccadilly, and later at 7 George Street, ~~Hanover~~ Square. He died in Liverpool on 11th February, 1839. All this information is from the paper written by M.J. Fay and has not been checked except that in 1826 Cyrus was certainly at 7 Sackville Street.

In the Lancet for 20th August 1825 appears this advertisement :

Mr. Fay, Surgeon Dentist, and Lecturer on the Structure and Diseases of the Teeth, Operations, and continues to give PRIVATE INSTRUCTIONS to Medical Students, and other Members of the Profession. In these Lectures, his peculiar mode of operating with Instruments of a new construction by which the Teeth are extracted perpendicularly, with infinitely less pain than in the ordinary method, will be demonstrated, and effectually taught; as well as the easy removal of the decayed parts of teeth by decapitation, or excision of the crown only which he has practised for the last fifteen years.

Applications for Terms to be made to Mr. Fay, at his residence. No. 8 Dover Street, Piccadilly.

The two interesting points about this advertisement are of course the statement that he has used his excising forceps for 15 years and his address at that time.

In 1826 Fay was awarded the large silver medal by the Society of Arts for his forceps. His communication to the Society, with two plates, was published in volume XLIV of the Society's Transactions and as a separate pamphlet in the following year. Both the extracting forceps and those of excision of teeth are described, together with a number of testimonials from physicians and surgeons. The important improvement made by Fay consisted in the careful fitting of the beaks of the forceps to the necks of the teeth. Except for straight-handled forceps for the extraction of upper incisors, all the forceps are right-angled and there is an illustration of a piece of wood to lay across the jaw to obtain a fulcrum for the vertical extraction of teeth.

A work written by F(iske) Fay gives some additional information : the author states that Cyrus Fay was his father and that the latter was "de Vermont". It is further said that Professor Benjamin Silliman, the American scientist, when in Montreal sometime before 1820 suffered severe toothache. He visited Dr. Fay of Vermont and the tooth was extracted perpendicularly with relatively little pain. The procedure is described. F. Fay was elected a member of the Odontological Society in 1859.

In the British Journal of Dental Science, volume XXIV, 1881 is a letter from T.W.W. Fay, M.R.C.S., surgeon dentist, of Canning Street, Liverpool, regarding the priority of the invention of 'modern' forceps. He claims, quite correctly that the principle of adapting the beaks of forceps to the tooth was originated by his grandfather. He also says that he has in his possession the silver medal awarded to his grandfather and bequeathed to him by his father, T. P. Fay, "Dentist, of this town". In the same volume is an article in two parts entitled "Forceps". It deals with the history of modern forceps and is unsigned and says that Cyrus Fay has not received the due credit for his instruments.

Tullius Priest Fay was the son of Cyrus Fay and in 1839 was in practice at 159 Duke Street, Liverpool.

Another member of the family, presumably a grandson of Cyrus was listed in the 1879 Dentists Register: Arthur Louis Fay was at two addresses in Cannes, and in 1900 and perhaps before 1920. He received the L.D.S.R.C.S.I. in 1881.

The Fay family would make a very interesting subject for detailed study. It is likely that members of the family may still be living in England, Belgium or France.

The subject of the shapes of forceps has been studied in well-documented detail by Colver³, but it is possible that a new assessment should now be made.

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3. Old instruments used for extracting teeth, London 1952.

R. A. Cohen.

A DENTAL ENIGMA

There has been occasional correspondence in the British Dental Journal during the past year or two about the origins of the Royal Army Dental Corps. It was initiated by an article on the history of the Corps which appeared in the British Dental Journal of June 1980 containing several inaccuracies. In it the author states: "In 1914 when the First World War began the facilities for dental treatment were minimal, in fact not one dental surgeon accompanied our Expeditionary Force to France. In October of that year the story goes that the Commander of our First Army, Sir John French, was assailed by a raging toothache and the atmosphere at army headquarters, always somewhat strained, became electric. Frantic signals erupted, medical officers were upbraided, telephone shrilled, field hospitals were scoured, staff-officers galloped hither and thither but not a dentist could be found within the British Expeditional Force.

It has been generally accepted that the General Headquarters in France became aware of the fact that there were no dental officers with the British Expeditionary Force when General Sir Douglas Haig, who was in command of the First Army and actively engaged in fighting in the Aisne area, developed 'sever toothache' in October 1914. The story continues that the services of a French dentist were eventually obtained to cope with the situation. Needless to say there were repercussions at both General Headquarters in France and at the War Office at home, and early in November a group of dental officers were sent to France to be attached to military hospitals, and honorary dental consultants were appointed to organise a dental service for the Army. This story is also given in the history of the Royal Army Dental Corps published in 1971.

Following the publication of the above article a letter to the Editor of the British Dental Journal appeared the next month from Mrs. H.E.S. Crease: "Madam - with reference to Mr. H.L. Wickes' article..... my father, the late Ernest Tait, LDS., who qualified at Guy's in 1910 was in France with the British Expeditionary Force in 1914 serving as a medical orderly with the Royal Army Medical Corps. To the best of my belief it was he who was called upon to give assistance to Sir John French, who then personally recommended him for officer training. He served throughout the remainder of the 1914-18 War as a dental officer with the 8th Army Corps, in 1915 at Cape Helles in the Dardanelles at a casualty clearing station and in 1916-17 in Alexandria. He left us an extensive photographic record of those years, including pictures of his field surgeries."

The writer was subsequently able to see the photographs taken by Mr. Tait at various times during his war service. There are some particularly interesting pictures taken on the beach at Gallipoli in 1915. It seems from the captions with the photographs that Mr. Tait did not go to France until November 1914, but he could well have been among the first group of dental officers to be commissioned as such. It is quite possible that both French and Haig had dental troubles, and in any case the request to the War Office for dental officers whatever its origin would pass through Sir John French's General Headquarters. The fact that Haig succeeded French as Commander in Chief in France has caused some confusion about the activities of the two men.

It is perhaps relevant to consider briefly the biographical backgrounds of the two generals. French was born in 1852, the only son of Commander John French, R.N. Both his parents died while he was a child but fortunately he had six sisters and he was brought up by them. Because of his father's profession he

joined the Navy as a midshipman at the age of 14, but he was so unhappy in that service that he transferred to the Army in 1870 and began a successful career. By 1902 he was a Lieut-General and in 1912 was appointed Chief of the Imperial General Staff when he was made a Field Marshall. He did not enjoy desk work and resigned his post after the Currah mutiny in Ireland in May 1914. This apparently did not affect his career and following the declaration of war he was appointed Commander in Chief of the British Expeditionary Force.

Douglas Haig was born at Edinburgh in 1861, and his father was a member of the well known whisky firm. After studying at Oxford University without taking a degree Haig entered Sandhurst Military Academy. In 1905 he married a lady-in-waiting to Queen Alexandra, wife of King Edward VII and later became a close friend of their son King George V. After his marriage he was appointed Commander in Chief, India, and returned to England in 1911 to become General Officer Commanding Aldershot where he still was at the outbreak of war. The personalities of these two men were quite different. French was an easy-going man but a good soldier and his relationship with men serving under him, especially the lower ranks, was very close. Haig on the other hand was an aloof man, and made little contact with his junior officers, and seemed unaware of the conditions under which the private soldier had to live and fight. He was addicted to physical fitness, and a great believer in health foods and faddish diets and took good care of his teeth.

Whose tooth trouble was it that brought dentistry to the British Army - was it French, Haig, some other senior officer, or was it just a military myth? Perhaps French was of an age when acute dental emergencies are less likely to arise, and as Commander in Chief he would have more freedom of movement than his active commanders so that he could easily have consulted privately some

French dentist. Haig however was actively engaged in the first Battle of Ypres during October 1914 and would not have been able to leave his headquarters. Volume one of 'The Medical History of the War' published in 1921 clearly states that Haig was the person concerned, and assuming that work on the history started as late as 1920 information about the incident should then have been fairly reliable. The relevant paragraph reads:-

"Another innovation that resulted from the experiences of the Battle of the Aisne was the employment of dentists with the field army. It so happened that Sir Douglas Haig, in command of the First Army, suffered from toothache at a time when all his energies were required for the battle. The immediate needs were met by bringing a civilian dentist from Paris to Fere-en-Tardenois. He remained there for three days and treated several cases. In consequence of this incident a telegram was sent to the War Office asking for provision of dental officers...."

Assuming that there was an SOS for dental aid from Haig's headquarters the probable procedure would be for the request to be made to the Assistant Director of Medical Services on his staff, who aware that he personally could not help would send a message to the office of the Director of Medical Services in France. He was Lieut-General Sir Arthur Sloggett, who was then one of the best known and most decorated officers in the medical service. He had been in the Army for 30 years and was an experienced and progressive administrator, who was then facing great problems in developing a medical service to deal with the increasing casualties. He was also aware of the number of maxillo-facial injuries, and had recently come in contact with an American dental surgeon of French

parentage. Auguste Charles Valadier was a successful practitioner in Paris, who on the outbreak of war had offered his professional services to the French government but they were unwilling to employ him as he was an American citizen. His services were however accepted by the British Red Cross Society in Paris, and General Sloggett who was also Chief Commissioner of the British Red Cross Society would be informed of Valadier's availability. This is confirmed in volume two of the Medical History of the War published in 1922 which states: "Dental Surgeons commenced to arrive in France early in November and were allocated to clearing hospitals. An eminent dentist, M. Valadier, a citizen of the United States, who had been sent by the British Red Cross Society from Paris to Abbeville, was also accepted for duty with the British troops on 29th October." Thus Valadier seems to have been the first dental surgeon to provide treatment officially for British troops in France.

Sloggett therefore would know of Valadier's whereabouts and that he had sufficient equipment with him to set up a dental surgery and even a laboratory as he had his technicians with him. By courtesy of Major General E. J. Bowen, late director of the Army Dental Service, the writer was able to study the file on Valadier in the archives of the Ministry of Defence, and this revealed that Valadier was given in October the temporary rank of local lieutenant attached to the Royal Army Medical Corps by General Sloggett. Could this have been because of services rendered to Sir Douglas Haig?

Further confirmation of Valadier's activities are to be found in "The Principles and Art of Plastic Surgery" published in 1957, and written by Sir Harold Gillies, the doyen of plastic surgery in

Britain in collaboration with Ralph Millard, an American plastic surgeon. In this Gillies writes : "In Boulogne there was a great fat man with sandy hair and a florid face, who had equipped his Rolls Royce with a dental chair etc.... The name of this man whose high brown riding boots carried a polish equal to the glitter of his spurs was Charles Valadier. He toured about until he had filled with gold all the remaining teeth in British headquarters. With generals strapped in his chair he convinced them of the need for a plastic and jaw unit, and one was set up in the lovely little town of Wimereux....."

Much of this is written in a facetious tone but Gillies went on: "The credit for establishing the first Plastic and Jaw Unit, which so facilitated the later progress of plastic surgery must go to the remarkable linguistic talents of the smooth and genial Sir Charles Valadier." It was apparently true that the limousine was in fact a mobile dental unit, and it seems quite possible that if a formal request was made for dental treatment in October 1914 Valadier would have been the obvious person to provide it especially as the dentists concerned 'stayed for three days and treated several cases'. Whether Haig was one of these patients cannot be confirmed, but at the time that the Medical History of the War appeared he was still alive, and if his name had been used wrongly the statement should have been corrected.

Another interesting fact is that in Valadier's War Office file there is a personal recommendation for the C.M.G. from Sir Douglas Haig which reads:-

"I cannot speak too highly of the excellent and most valuable surgical work on the jaw performed gratuitously by this gentleman for all ranks of the British Army. He

has performed a large number of operations on jaws, that required a high degree of surgical skill, with the most excellent results and had not hitherto been attempted by the profession. I strongly recommend that he be given some tangible recognition of his valuable services."

signed D. Haigh, General
30th April, 1916

This citation was further endorsed by Lieut-General Sir Alfred Keogh, Director-General, Army Medical Service at the War Office, and the C.M.G. was duly awarded to Valadier in the Birthday Honours of 1916. He received his knighthood in the Victory Honours in 1920.

There is therefore a fair amount of circumstantial evidence available, but it is unlikely now that definite details of this incident, which occurred nearly 70 years ago, will ever be found although true historical inquiry never ends.

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(Based on a talk given to the Windsor Section B.D.A.)

PLAQUE TO WILLIAM MACPHERSON FISHER

In March this year the North of Scotland Branch of the British Dental Association invited Mr. Ian Maddick and Mrs. Brenda Fox to give a paper on William MacPherson Fisher.

A special guest at this meeting and at the sherry reception which followed was Miss Violet Fisher, a retired schoolmistress and niece of William Fisher.

The North of Scotland Branch of the B.D.S. had erected a plaque to Fisher on the site of his practice in the Nethergate, Dundee. Dental Historians will recall that he led the campaign for dental public health because of his concern for the teeth of working class children.

PUBLIC RECORDS AND THE HEALTH SERVICE RESEARCHER

Preservation of the National Health Service Records.

As many members of the Lindsay Club will know the National Health Service was reorganised in April, 1982. Twelve months earlier I was gratified to receive a memorandum from the area administrator of the health authority for which I worked. It was headed "Preservation/Destruction of Records". The memorandum reminded senior staff that in making preparations for closure of the authority they should consider any action to be taken in deciding which records should be preserved and which destroyed. At the height of all the reorganisation worries it was reassuring that future historians were being enabled to delve into at least some of the goings-on of the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authority (Teaching) which had existed from April 1974 until March 1982.

Of course, together with other public bodies National Health Service authorities have for a long time been concerned with the preservation of relevant records. Statutory arrangements for the disposal of public records were changed in January 1959 following passage of the Public Records Act 1958, which replaced the Public Office Acts, 1839 - 1898. The effect of the 1958 Act was to ensure that government departments and other authorities responsible for public records had a duty to make proper arrangements for selecting under the guidance of the Public Records Office those records which should be permanently preserved. In addition, records destined for permanent preservation had to be transferred to suitable places of deposit and eventually made available for public inspection. A 1961 Hospital Memorandum HM(61)73 entitled "Preservation and Destruction of Hospital Records" included two appendices drawn up in consultation with the PRO: appendix A lists those hospital records which should not be destroyed at all; appendix B lists those which may be destroyed. Included in appendix A are minute books of governing bodies and their sub-committees, title deeds of property, one set of annual reports, documents of permanent value relating to benefactions and special donations and materials of any kind, post mortem books and all documents dated prior to 1858.

The Act directed the transfer of all records selected for preservation not later than thirty years after their creation to the Public Records Office or to another place agreed by the Lord Chancellor unless the latter agreed otherwise. There is a clear intention that all such records should be available for public inspection after fifty years. Records about individual patients are withheld for one hundred years. Hospital and other health authority records are recorded as a category of document which should most appropriately be deposited in a local record depository or, in the case of records of a medical nature, in a medical institution.

It is clear that provided all area administrators issued similar instructions and their subordinates took action, future generations should have some primary NHS sources available for their researches. Let us hope that all Area Health Authorities did take such action. As pointed out by John Walter ("The problems facing the historical research worker", BDJ, May 1975, p. 401) "The authority of the research worker, must be the original document... no one else's account will suffice".

During the course of my own investigations into the origins of school dental services, especially in London, I have had occasion to use two major depositories of public official records, the Public Record Office and the Greater London Council archives. It is for the benefit of other intending researches that the following notes are presented.

THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

The PRO is the national repository of United Kingdom records especially those arising from central government and from the courts of law. It claims to contain millions of documents from the eleventh century up to the present day. In general, they are available for public inspection after thirty years.

There are two major PRO depositories, at Chancery Lane in London and at Kew. In addition, microfilm copies of the 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 censuses are held at the Land Registry Building in Portugal Street, WC2. Most records of interest to the health researcher can

be found at the PRO Depository, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, PW9 4DU (Kew Gardens Station - District line and North London line).

In order to carry out research at the PRO researchers have to have a valid Readers Ticket which is issued free of charge after application to the reception counter at Kew or Enquiry Office at Chancery Lane. Applicants should have been recommended in writing by "a person of recognised position (preferably one whose address can be obtained from a professional or similar directory) or who can otherwise satisfy the Keeper of the Public Records of their suitability to be allowed access to the records". In addition, documentary proof of identity and which carries a signature, such as a passport or driving licence is required.

Tickets issued in either building may be used in the other.

The reading rooms are open from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays except for public holidays and annual stock taking (normally during the first two weeks in October).

Working at Kew is like entering a whole new world. Upon arrival a specific seat is allocated together with a small bleeper (radio paging device) with a number corresponding to the allocated seat number. Special groups of seats are allocated to researchers who wish to use either a typewriter or a tape recorder.

The Reference room contains well catalogued lists of documents filed usually according to the official department of origin: for example, the Cabinet Office, Ministry of Health or Admiralty. Once the appropriate record is located the reference number, Reader's Ticket number and bleeper number are inputted by the researcher to a computer terminal. Up to three documents at a time can be requested. It is then simply a case of returning to the allocated seat - or even taking time off for a cup of coffee as documents take quite a long time to arrive at the beginning of the morning - until everything arrives. Once available the bleeper sounds and one simply collects the documents

from the counter. At that point three further documents may be ordered so that they are ready when the researcher has finished with the first three.

It is a real joy to see some of the very old and historic documents. Not surprisingly, in order to ensure their preservation no liquid ink, ballpoint or felt tip pens may be used in the Reading room. Pencils are the order of the day. Even then, particular care must be taken.

Stanley Gelbier.

Eileen Fanny Donaldson

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Eileen Donaldson on February the 2nd this year. A full obituary for Eileen appeared in the British Dental Journal which recorded her long service to the profession.

Eileen was a member of the Lindsay Club and attended many meetings over the years with Archie. She will long be remembered as a colleague who always contributed warmth and friendliness to any meeting. She is sadly missed.

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- JONES, W H. Public dentistry : a handbook for the public dental officer 1944? Four handwritten notebooks, paged 1-581.
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