

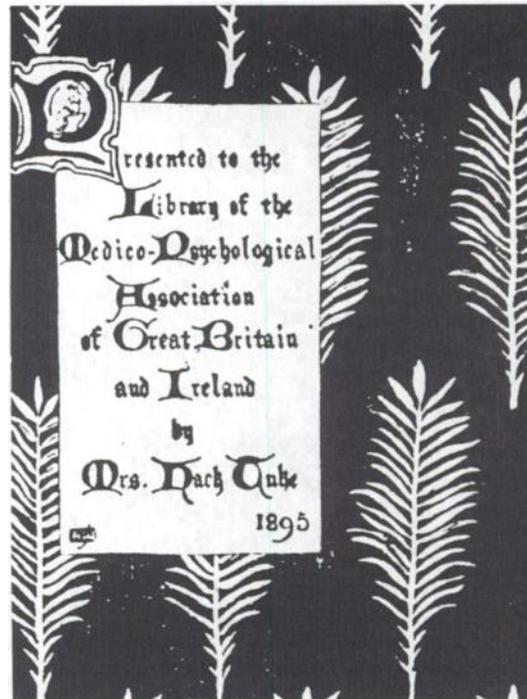
Library and Information Service

1995 is the centenary of the College Library. When the members of the Medico-Psychological Association at the 1895 annual meeting heard the news that they were to receive books from the library of the late Daniel Hack Tuke, it is most unlikely they gave any thought to what their successors would be doing with these books in 100 years time. This bequest, however, marked the foundation of the Library which is an established part of the College today.

The death of Daniel Hack Tuke had been announced at the beginning of the meeting and the Council minutes of the previous day record that Mrs Tuke had presented "a large amount of books that had been in the possession of the late Doctor Hack Tuke" to the Association.

As Daniel Hack Tuke's reputation is largely based on his written rather than his clinical work, it seems appropriate that it is for his library that he is remembered. Born in York in 1827, he was a son of Samuel Tuke, philanthropist, and a great grandson of William Tuke, founder of the York Retreat. He worked at the Retreat before going to London where he continued his medical studies at St Bartholomew's and qualified with MRCS in 1852. In 1853 he received MD from Heidelberg University, following which he visited asylums abroad and then returned to the Retreat as Visiting Physician. Soon after, for health reasons, he moved to Falmouth only resuming practice as a lunacy consultant in 1875 when he moved to London.

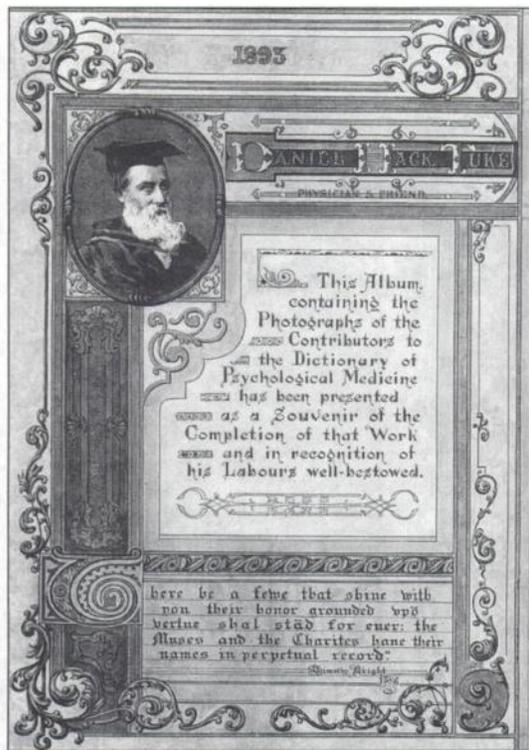
Tuke took an active interest in the Medico-Psychological Association. He joined soon after qualifying and is recorded as having attended annual and quarterly meetings from the 1860s until 1894. His contributions to these meetings covered topics as diverse as the history of Bethlem (1876), criminal responsibility (1880), hypnotism (1883), moral insanity (1885) and insanity in Ireland (1894). His submissions to the *Journal of Mental Science*, of which he was editor at the time of his death, were equally wide-ranging. He also served on the Parliamentary Committee and was a trustee of the Gaskell fund. In 1881 he became President and in his Presidential address he not only summarised



The bookplate.

19th century psychological medicine and the work of the MPA but also looked to the future. He was not to know that his widow would be instrumental in contributing to that future by bequeathing his library to the Association, in whose care it has become a permanent memorial to him.

The mid-1890s was an appropriate time for the Association to develop a library. Membership stood at just over 400 and members came from institutions throughout the British Isles. As well as the Council, there were standing Parliamentary and Education Committees. The South West Division had been founded in 1894 and formal meetings were held regularly in Ireland and Scotland; the *Journal of Mental Science* was well established. An Association Certificate of Psychological Medicine and examinations for asylum attendants had been introduced. Furthermore, after years of discussion about



The commemorative album.

a permanent headquarters, rooms had recently been taken with the Medical Society of London.

Although there is no record of the titles of the books that made up the bequest, judging by those that remain in the College Library, the collection consisted predominately of contemporaneous handbooks, monographs and textbooks almost exclusively on psychological medicine. No doubt Tuke had other works in his library but these were not given to the Association and the bequest, apparently, did not include valuable antiquarian works. Apart from the volumes of his own writings, it is interesting that the majority of the volumes had been presented to Tuke by their authors, many of whom, judging by their dedicated presentation copies, held him in high esteem. This is particularly noticeable among the continental works which are well represented. Regis, for example, dedicated his gift of *Manuel pratique de médecine mentale* (1885) to Tuke with the words "A M. le Dr Tuke hommage de respect et

de vive sympathie – Dr E. Regis". Charcot wrote in his *Exposé des titres scientifiques* (1883), "Dr H. Tuke, avec mes meilleurs souvenirs – Charcot" and Marie, in his *Étude sur quelques symptômes de délires systématisés et sur leur valeur* (1892); "A Monseigneur le Docteur Hack Tuke hommage très respectueux, et rémoignage de profonde sympathie de son très reconnaissant et dévoué – Dr A. Marie" – surely sufficient homage to deserve a good review in the *Journal of Mental Science!*

All of Tuke's own published works were included in the bequest. He is perhaps best known as author of the much lauded *Dictionary of Psychological Medicine* and the Association was the fortunate recipient of a magnificent commemorative album which had been presented to Tuke on completion of the dictionary. It holds photographic portraits and signatures of the contributors to the dictionary and is inscribed "Physician and Friend – This Album, containing the Photographs of the Contributors to the Dictionary of Psychological Medicine has been presented as a Souvenir of the Completion of the Work and in recognition of his Labours well-bestowed".

A Library Committee was established at the Council meeting of July 1895, consisting of Drs H. Rayner, H. J. MacEvoy and the Association's General Secretary, Dr Fletcher Beach. Dr Rayner, who had been President of the Association in 1884, was an extremely active and dedicated member of the Committee who contributed to the development of the Library until he resigned from the Committee in 1925.

Initially, the Hack Tuke donation proved to be something of a problem to the newly founded Committee, which, in its report to Council of November 1895, described the books as being in "a state of confusion and disorder and incompleteness". They lost no time in setting to work on sorting the books and by February 1896 were able to report to Council that "about 700 volumes were worthy of retention in the library although 350 of these required repair". The Committee also considered the best means of making the collection of use to the membership and recommended that it could "only be of use to so scattered a body by being made circulating". Three months later Dr Rayner reported that the books had been catalogued and the typewritten cards had been arranged in an oak tray, adding that the "cost of this work, including the oak tray, has been

£9.13.6". The Librarian to the Medical Society of London agreed to take on the administrative duties connected with the Association's book collection for an annual fee of £10. At the Annual meeting of 1896 Dr Rayner was able to report that all the gifts from Mrs Tuke had been catalogued and arranged in the Association's "room for its use" – the first reference to library accommodation. At this meeting Dr Rayner also acknowledged Dr F. Hay of Perth who made a unique contribution to the collection by designing an unusual commemorative book plate. It features a feather motif on a bronze background.

Financial matters are the main feature of Library Committee reports of the following years with requests for small but increasing sums of money to cover administration and accommodation rather than the purchase of books. In 1897 the Hack Tuke Memorial Committee made its approval apparent by agreeing to "hand over to the MPA the sum of £350 to be vested in trustees, the annual income derived therefrom to be expended in maintaining and increasing the library, of which Dr Hack Tuke's gift to the Association has proved such a valuable nucleus". This capital was later invested in New Zealand Stock, maturing in 1940 and was probably reinvested in war bonds.

By the turn of the century the Library was well established. Other donations of books were received, with those of past Presidents Dr C. Lockhart Robertson and Dr J. C. Bucknill of particular note.

In November 1899 Dr Fletcher Beach, Secretary of the Library Committee, informed Council that a catalogue of books held in the Library had been "printed and issued to every member of the Association". The aim of the Committee that all members should have access to the Library was thus achieved.



The Medical Society of London.

Health of the Nation and the medical profession

Members of the College will have received an information pack from the Department of Health, entitled *The Health of the Nation – what you can do about it*. This documentation has been produced by a working group of hospital doctors which was set up by the Chief Medical Officer, to look at ways of promulgating the health messages contained in the *Health of the Nation*, and to produce brief, clear guidance for hospital doctors on achieving the targets in the key areas outside their individual specialities.

The Department of Health has circulated to all consultants, senior registrars, and other doctors, a brochure suggesting methods of facilitating health promotion in each of the five *Health of the Nation* key areas. A concise,

pocket-sized leaflet has been circulated to junior doctors. In both cases, actions are listed which it is considered that hospital doctors could usefully take to further the *Health of the Nation*.

The Chief Medical Officer, in his introductory letter, recognises the enormous time constraints under which hospital doctors work but emphasises that doctors have a great deal of influence in getting patients to change their lifestyle.

The Executive and Finance Committee of the College wishes to encourage members of the profession to work towards the *Health of the Nation* targets in the ways suggested.

Dr F. CALDICOTT, *President, Royal College of Psychiatrists*