

Short Articles

note, misquoting the title of Down's paper, explained that "mongolism" had "misleading racial connotations and is hurtful to many parents"!! However, it was not until its second 1964 volume that the *Lancet* indexed the condition under its eponymic designation.

In 1965, the Eighteenth World Health Assembly awarded L. S. Penrose a prize for his contributions to the understanding of mental subnormality—notably, in the words of the President of the Assembly, of "mongolism" and "the Klinefelter mongol".¹⁰ By then, the Mongolian People's Republic had been a member of the World Health Organization for three years, and the Mongolian delegation informally requested the WHO Director-General that these objectionable terms should in future be avoided.¹¹ Henceforth they disappeared from WHO publications.

In 1969 Batchelor pointed out that the resemblance of so-called "mongols" to ethnic Mongolians was superficial, and that "the physiognomy of the mongol can still be recognized when the individual is Mongolian by race",¹² as had previously been stated by the nineteen signatories of the 1961 letter. That this should be so removes any shadow of justification for retaining the term "mongolism".

¹⁰ *Official records of the World Health Organization*, 1965, 144: 98.

¹¹ Personal recollection as erstwhile Director of the Division of Editorial and Reference Services of the World Health Organization.

¹² Ralph Campbell Batchelor. *Henderson and Gillespie's textbook of psychiatry*, 10th ed., London, Oxford University Press, 1969.

News, Notes and Queries

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OSLER CLUB OF LONDON

THE OSLER Club of London first met on 28 April 1928. It was founded by two Bart's medical students who wished to honour the memory of Osler and to start a club of which Sir William himself would have liked to have been a member. Now the Club has members from many countries. It meets regularly in London, sometimes out of town, and on rare occasions in other countries. Oxford, of course, has a special place in the Club's affections and it was appropriate that the fiftieth anniversary was celebrated there on Rogation Sunday, 30 April 1978.

At 11 a.m. on a grey, damp morning members attended matins in the church at Ewelme. The President, Dr. Neil McIntyre, read the first lesson (Ecclesiasticus, chapter 44) beginning with the words, "Let us now remember famous men . . .". The Rector, the Rev. Ivor Williams, heeded these words and in particular reminded members and his parishioners of Osler's efforts on behalf of the Church and the neighbouring Almshouses at Ewelme. As Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, Osler was Master of Ewelme Almshouses. He stayed there often and played a great part in the life of the village.

News, Notes and Queries

From Ewelme members journeyed to Oxford for lunch in the Committee Room of the Radcliffe Infirmary. After lunch the President read birthday greetings from Bill Gibson of Vancouver and from the Board of Curators of the Osler Library at McGill. Alfred White Franklin, one of the Founders and first Secretary, who has been a mainstay of the Club ever since, then gave the Oslerian Oration for 1978. Past President and Friend of the Osler Club, he retired recently from the treasurership, a post which he has held for many years. His oration was entitled 'Our early entourage: a few friends and some Hons.' He spoke of the early days of the Osler Club and of the encouragement given by men such as Humphry Rolleston, Berkeley Moynihan, Thomas Lewis, and Archibald Garrod, who was Osler's successor at Oxford; of early Friends like Geoffrey Keynes, Harvey Cushing, and Osler's "nephew", Bill Francis (each needs an oration to himself); of James Paterson Ross and John Fulton who served as treasurers. Dr. White Franklin finished by painting vivid pictures of six men whose memory he cherished warmly: D'Arcy Power; John Davy Rolleston; Cawadias, a Greek physician who settled in London; David Fraser-Harris, a good listener; Leonard Findlay, an authoritarian and dogmatic paediatrician; and Warren Doyle Dawson, the wealthy Egyptologist, whose scholarly pursuits compensated for his lack of formal education.

After the Oration members visited the Radcliffe Science Library where an exhibition of Osleriana had been arranged for the occasion. They also viewed the original of Seymour Thomas's famous painting—Osler's favourite portrait of himself. The meeting ended at 13 Norham Gardens. This was Osler's home at Oxford, when it was known as the "Open Arms". He left it to the Governing Body of Christ Church as a residence for his successors to the Regius Chair of Medicine. It was the home of Sir George Pickering, one of the original six members of the Osler Club, and is now the home of the present Regius Professor, Sir Richard Doll. Lady Doll entertained members to tea and she and Sir Richard showed members around the house, pointing out the many items which are a direct link with Osler himself.

The day was a great success thanks largely to the efforts of a local Oslerian, Dr. Alistair Robb-Smith. It was a fitting celebration of the half-century and a suitable model for those who plan the hundredth birthday party in April 2028.

"SCIENCE IN EGYPTOLOGY"

An international symposium on "Science in Egyptology" will be held at the University of Manchester, from 26 to 30 June 1979. Topics will include: the use of radiology, pathology, electron microscopy, serology, carbon-14 dating, fingerprinting, dental examination, and scientific facial reconstruction in the examination of ancient Egyptian mummified remains; and the materials used in mummification.

Further information from: Dr. A. R. David, The Museum, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL.

"DISEASE IN ANCIENT MAN"

An international meeting on "Disease in Ancient Man" will be held at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W.1, from 5 to 7 March 1979. The meeting is organized by the Royal Society of Medicine in collaboration with the

News, Notes and Queries

Academy of Medicine, Toronto, Canada. Topics will include: interdisciplinary collaboration in palaeopathology; traumatic lesions; infections; the laboratory and palaeopathology; and the evolutionary and social effects of disease on whole populations.

Information and application forms from: The Conference Secretary, Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE.

CONTEMPORARY MEDICAL ARCHIVES CENTRE

The Wellcome Trustees have established a special unit, within the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, to identify, collect, and catalogue records and papers relating to the lives and research of British twentieth-century medical practitioners and scientists. This development is intended as a contribution to the current efforts of a number of institutions to rescue and preserve the primary sources of modern science and medicine. The unit, to be known as the Contemporary Medical Archives Centre, will complement the work of the Contemporary Scientific Archives Centre which is already operating at Oxford under the direction of Professor Margaret Gowing.

The new Wellcome Centre has a full-time staff of two and commenced work in January 1979. Miss Julia Sheppard, B.A., a professional archivist with much experience in the handling of modern records, is in charge of the Centre and is assisted by Miss Christine MacLeod, B.A.

The purpose of the Contemporary Medical Archives Centre will be to seek out, collect and catalogue the personal papers and working records of contemporary British medical practitioners and scientists, and arrange for their permanent deposit either in the Wellcome Institute itself or (in accordance with the wishes of donors and historical appropriateness), in other academic institutions. Although emphasis will be placed on the acquisition of papers which seem important in the scientific development of medicine, it is also hoped to acquire representative records illustrating the social consequences of both scientific research and medical practice. Consideration will also be given to the acquisition of material which illustrates the nature and social effects of non-orthodox systems of medicine and therapy.

Anyone possessing relevant documents or having knowledge of their whereabouts, whatever their quantity or state, is urged to contact either Miss Sheppard or Miss MacLeod at: Contemporary Medical Archives Centre, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.

Dr. K. BRYN THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.F.A.R.C.S.

We regret to record the death of Dr. K. Bryn Thomas on 22 September 1978. Dr. Thomas was for many years a member of the Editorial Board of *Medical History*. An obituary will be published in the April 1979 issue.