

Society Reports

THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

THE Report of Proceedings of the Session 1957-8 fully maintains the standard set by the earlier publications of this extremely active Society. At the Annual General Meeting held in October 1957, Dr. W. S. Mitchell, Librarian of King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, was elected President of the Society in succession to Mr. A. L. Goodall, who retired after a very successful term of office. In his Presidential Address, delivered on 26 April 1958, Dr. Mitchell spoke about William Bullein, the Elizabethan physician and author. A summary of the address, together with a reproduction of the woodcut portrait of Bullein contained in his *Government of Health* (1558), appears in this Report of Proceedings. The full text of the paper will shortly be published in *Medical History*. The Report also contains a long abstract of Dr. Douglas Guthrie's important paper on 'The Influence of the Leyden School upon Scottish Medicine', read at the October 1957 meeting. This includes a very pleasing photograph of the University of Leyden as it appears today. The full text of the paper is to appear in the *Edinburgh University Journal*. The sections devoted to Medico-Historical Notes and to Book Notices are also full of good things and should not be missed by anyone attempting to keep up to date with current activities in the historical field.

News, Notes and Queries

A PHOTOGRAPH OF SIR CHARLES SHERRINGTON AND PROFESSOR CHARLES SMART ROY AND THREE LETTERS BY SIR CHARLES SHERRINGTON

THE accompanying photograph of Sir Charles Sherrington and Professor Charles Smart Roy which was taken at the entrance of the Pathology Department, Cambridge in 1893 is of interest in that it portrays two distinguished men, a physiologist and a pathologist, whose early training had much in common.

They began their careers in Cambridge about the same time. Sherrington came in October 1879 as a non-collegiate student and entered Gonville and Caius College the following year. He was then twenty-three years of age. Roy who was three years older than Sherrington was elected as the first George Henry Lewes Student in Physiology in 1879 and came into residence in Cambridge in 1880. He had served as a surgeon in the Turkish Army in the Turko-Serbian war after which he returned to England where he investigated pleuro-pneumonia at the Brown Institution, Wandsworth. He had then gone to Berlin where he had studied pathology under Virchow and Koch and worked on the physiology of the heart under du Bois Reymond. From Berlin he had gone to Strasbourg as assistant to F. L. Goltz in the physiology institute; after a time he had transferred to the pathology department under von Recklinghausen but not being very interested in the anatomical study of



Fig. 1

C. S. ROY

C. S. SHERRINGTON

At the door of the Old Pathological Laboratory, Cambridge, 1893.

23 May, 1948. 12 Grassington Road
Eastbourne

Dear Dr. Graham-Smith,

in record to your interesting letter, I remember well the snap-shot photograph of Roy taken at the entrance door of the old pathological Laboratory — one very hot afternoon. ^{I cannot remember with certainty} I recall also the sojourn of the Department in the 2 second-floor rooms in the building which at that time housed the library of the Natural Sciences — I helped Roy in some experiments & recollect a physicist coming in & remarking on the clumsiness of our apparatus for delivering electric 'shocks' at different rates of rhythm. Poor Roy was a very impunctual person — he was failing then mentally. & very forgetful. He once told me that the three outstanding events of his life all came to him in the same year; they were Election to the Alpine Club, his appointment to the Cambridge Chair & I have forgotten the 3rd. In those days he was still interested in devising 'oncometers' for different organs — each with its membrane, a method later given up. Directly his instrument worked nicely, his further interest in the experiment vanished. He was particularly dexterous with his fingers. He smoked Morris (Haymarket) Cigarettes all the time — scores a day. I hope I have not bored you. Yours very truly, C. S. Sherrington

Fig. 2

Sir Charles Sherrington's letter to Dr. Graham-Smith in which he recalls the photograph of himself and Professor Roy.

disease he had removed to Leipzig to work with Cohnheim on the renal circulation in a study which has become a classic.

At Cambridge, Sherrington and Roy came under the stimulating influence of Sir Michael Foster who was then Praelector in Physiology at Trinity College. The Chair of Physiology was not created until 1883, but, with the help of men of the calibre of W. H. Gaskell and J. N. Langley, Foster was founding the great Cambridge school of physiology. Both Sherrington and Roy worked in Foster's department which consisted of two rooms in the university buildings on the new museum's site.

Sherrington's first research was undertaken as a junior colleague with Langley. Langley was then examining sections of the medulla oblongata and spinal cord of a dog from which Professor Goltz had previously removed portions of the right hemisphere. Langley and Sherrington described their results in the *Journal of Physiology* 1884.

Roy continued his investigations on the heart and kidney and began work on the spleen. In addition he gave a course of lectures on physiology for advanced students which Sherrington, no doubt, attended. In 1881 he left Cambridge to succeed W. S. Greenfield as Professor Superintendent of the Brown Institution in Wandsworth, the first pathological laboratory founded in this country.

In 1884 he returned to Cambridge as first Professor of Pathology, aiming to advance scientific pathology by the methods which had been so successful in physiology. He was a physiologist turned pathologist. He had been greatly influenced by Cohnheim and although there was a wide difference between their ages they had become close friends.

Sherrington, in due course, left Cambridge to undertake clinical studies at St. Thomas's Hospital but before qualifying he spent the winter of 1884-5 working with Goltz at Strasbourg. In 1885 he obtained a first class in Part II of the Cambridge Natural Sciences Tripos and his medical degree. He then accompanied Roy and Graham Brown to Spain on a commission appointed by the Royal Society, the Association for Research in Medicine and the University of Cambridge, to investigate an epidemic of Asiatic cholera. The causal organism of cholera had been isolated the previous year (1884) by Koch. In 1886 Sherrington continued to investigate cholera alone in Northern Italy and then took the necropsy material he had collected to Berlin where he worked on it in Virchow's laboratory. On Virchow's recommendation he went to Koch for a course on bacteriological technique and stayed in his laboratory for the remainder of 1887. While in Berlin he took the opportunity of attending Waldeyer's lectures on histology and went to Zuntz for experimental physiology. He also visited Cohnheim at Leipzig.

These were formative years for Sherrington and, in spite of his interest in neurology, which had been fostered by Langley and Gaskell, it looked as though he might become a pathologist, but, on his return to London at the end of 1887, he was appointed Lecturer in Physiology at St. Thomas's Hospital. The same year he was elected Fellow of Caius College. His association with Roy continued and in 1890 they published a joint paper on the regulation of the blood supply to the brain. In 1891 Sherrington succeeded Sir Victor Horsley as Professor Superintendent of the Brown Institution, a post previously held by Roy. In 1893 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and the accompanying photograph was taken that year when he was paying a visit to his friend Roy at Cambridge. It was taken at the door of the pathological department which had been built in 1888 after Sherrington had left Cambridge.

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In the following letter to Dr. Graham-Smith, Sherrington recalls the photograph.

23rd May, 1948.
12 Grassington Road,
Eastbourne.

Dear Dr. Graham-Smith,

In regard to your interesting letter, I remember well the snap-shot photograph of Roy taken at the entrance door of the old pathological laboratory—one very hot afternoon, I cannot recollect who took it. I recall also the sojourn of the Department in the 2 second-floor rooms in the building which at that time housed the library of the Natural Sciences—I helped Roy in some experiments and recollect a physicist coming in and remarking on the clumsiness of our apparatus for delivering electric 'shocks' at different rates of rhythm. Poor Roy was a very unpunctual person—he was failing then mentally and very forgetful. He once told me that the three outstanding events of his life all came to him in the same year; they were Election to the Alpine Club, his appointment to the Cambridge Chair and I have forgotten the 3rd. In those days he was still interested in devising 'oncometers' for different organs—each with its membrane, a method later given up. Directly his instrument worked nicely, his further interest in the experiment vanished. He was particularly dexterous with his fingers. He smoked Morris (Haymarket) cigarettes *all* the time—scores a day.

I hope I have not bored you.

Yours very truly,
C. S. Sherrington.

The photograph was taken by Dr. Louis Cobbett who was working in Roy's laboratory at that time.

The third outstanding event in Roy's life which Sherrington refers to was his election to the Fellowship of the Royal Society.

Roy began to show signs of mental deterioration in 1892. A. A. Kanthack was appointed his deputy in 1895 and Roy died of a seizure on 4 October, 1897.

The other two letters are from Sherrington to Sir Clifford Allbutt thanking him for the gift of books. The first is for *Science and Medieval Thought* given as the Harveian Oration in 1900 and published in an expanded form in 1901. The second is for a small book *On Professional Education, with Special Reference to Medicine* which was based on an address given at King's College Hospital on 3 October, 1905, and published in 1906. The reference to a visit to Canada is to the British Medical Association Meeting at Toronto, both were present as delegates for their respective universities and Sir Clifford received the honorary degree of LL.D. from the Universities of Toronto and McGill.

22.ii.1902
16, GROVE PARK,
LIVERPOOL S.

My dear Allbutt,

Never have I received so much pleasure or instruction from a Harveian as from that you so kindly send. It has made me feel my own ignorance profoundly on many points but not—praise be to you—in an altogether despairing spirit. I realise after listening to you how absolutely in the dark I was as to the well-springs of Harvey's movement toward his great discoveries, how vast the stride he took from his immediate ancestors and yet how direct a lineage of thought connected him with mediaeval endeavour and the mental ambitions of the middle ages.

Interesting also is to gather from you how much easier a consort for the learning of the

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middle ages anatomy was than physiology could be—and finally the incentive and directing role which medicine has played and must ever play in history of the making of knowledge.

Thank you much for so kindly sending me this copy.

Sincerely yours,
C. S. Sherrington.

19.ii.06
16, GROVE PARK,
LIVERPOOL 5.

My dear Allbutt,

Accept my thanks for the copy of your delightful little book compact of much that is witty as much that is wise. I have just lent it to an old Cambridge man—not a medical—a glimpse within it having pleased him greatly—Iles, a Trinity man, and senior Wrangler in his year.

I wonder if you will be going to Canada in August: I hope to go.

Sincerely yours,
C. S. Sherrington.

My thanks are due to Mr. H. E. Tunnicliffe for searching in the Department of Physiology, Cambridge, for the negative of the print, to Sir Brian Matthews for permission to use it, and to Prof. H. R. Dean for permission to publish the letters which are in the library of the Department of Pathology, Cambridge University.

RAYMOND WILLIAMSON

JEAN DE CARRO (1770–1857)

JEAN DE CARRO was born in 1770 near Geneva, where his father had an old square-shaped farm (Carré)—hence the family name Carro. After attending schools at Geneva he went, as did many of his young countrymen at that time, to study medicine in Edinburgh. Most of the lectures were given, and the examinations held, in Latin at this period, and de Carro was already proficient in that language; during his stay in Edinburgh he also attained a perfect mastery of English. His teachers were William Cullen, Francis Home, Alexander Monro (*secundus*), Daniel Rutherford and James Gregory. He also attended some of the lectures of William Robertson, the historian, Joseph Black, one of the creators of modern chemistry, and Hugh Blair, whose sermons were translated into many languages. The teacher who exerted a life-long influence upon him was James Gregory.

After taking the M.D. degree at Edinburgh in 1793 with a thesis on acute hydrocephalus, de Carro left for Vienna where he studied for two further years, passed the necessary examinations, and began to practice. He soon became known in diplomatic circles through the English Ambassador and also made a number of friends among French *émigrés*.

When Jenner's work on vaccination appeared in 1798, de Carro corresponded with him and shortly afterwards he successfully vaccinated his two sons. He studied the 'Grease' in horses, a condition similar to cow-pox, and through the influence of the British Ambassador, Lord Elgin, he was mainly instrumental in introducing Jennerian vaccination into India. In spite of the dislike of some of his Viennese colleagues, he secured a large practice. Dr. Richard Bright, who met de Carro at Vienna in 1814, referred to him in his *Travels from Vienna through Lower Hungary* (1818) as 'Jenner's