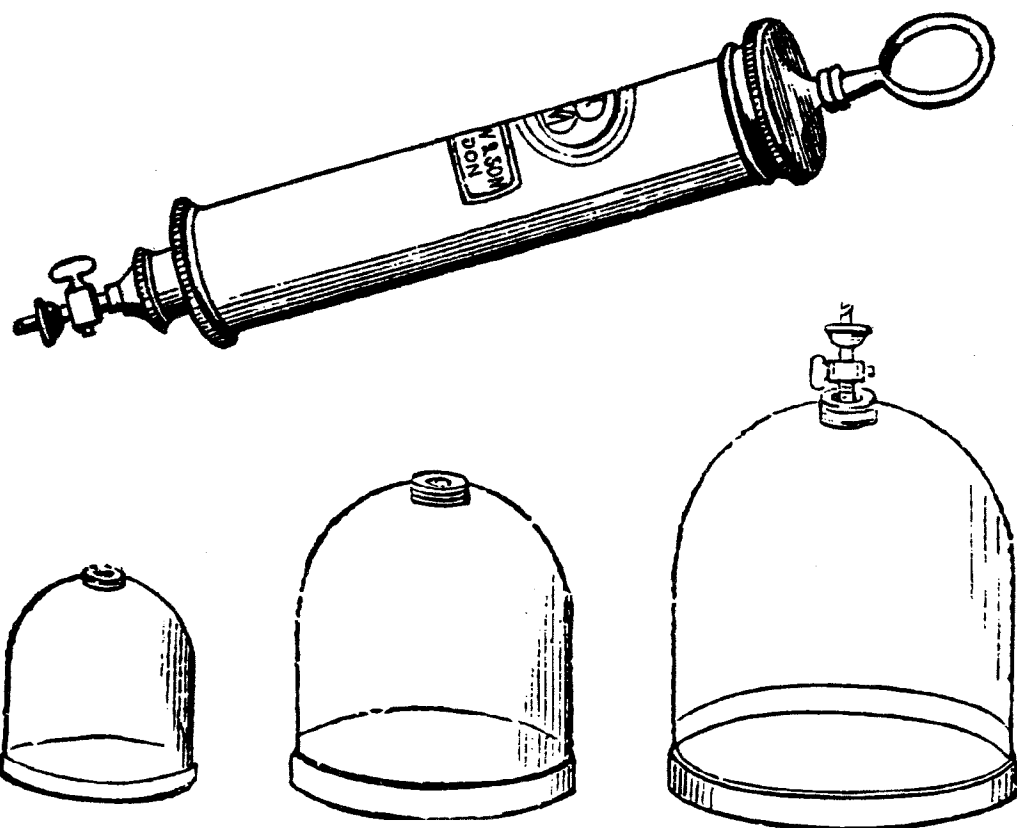


# Historical Medical Equipment Society



Bulletin  
No 2

September  
1997

## Historical Medical Equipment Society

Chairman	Mr. John Kirkup
Vice-Chairman	
and Meetings Secretary	Dr. Marios Kyriazis
Secretary and Treasurer	Vacant
Committee Members	Dr. David Hughes
	Ms. Caroline Reed
	Mrs. Sue Weir
Bulletin Editor	Ms. Belinda Heathcote

### EDITORIAL

Having (I'm not quite sure how!) found myself in the Editorial Chair, it is my sad first duty to record the death of David Warren, our first Secretary. This was obviously a shock to others who knew him better than I and a full obituary is included at the end of the bulletin.

I must declare that I am not an expert on any medical instrument. I am a medical historian by hobby and interested in many aspects of this fascinating subject. That said, being an expert is not necessary to put the Bulletin together, what is needed is the support of members by way of contributions. The Society got off to an enthusiastic start if the inaugural meeting is anything to go by and there could surely be no better memorial to David Warren's enthusiasm than to continue to keep the Society, and the Bulletin, going in the way he visualised.

There will be two issues per year, in March and September, and individual members may be approached for contributions if they seem to have a particularly interesting subject or specialist knowledge. However, it would be an excellent idea if anyone who has something to say just sent his/her piece at any time. If it is not needed immediately it will be kept for a future issue. The absolute deadline for each Bulletin will be the end of January and the end of July as material will have to be passed on to Philip Harris Medical who have kindly said they will print the bulletin free of charge. We offer our sincere thanks for this.

Letters to the Editor with suggestions about the content of the Bulletin or any other ideas for the society would also be welcome. Please send contributions directly to the Bulletin Editor, 55 Haling Park Road, South Croydon, CR2 6ND.

## Historical Medical Equipment Society Inaugural Meeting Report

The Inaugural Meeting of the Historical Medical Equipment Society was held at the Royal College of Surgeons, London on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1997.

Members of the HMES will be able to attend, on average, two meetings a year, usually one in London and one in another location. This inaugural meeting was entitled 'Medical Instruments - Signposts to Medical History' and it was attended by about 30 people.

The first part was dedicated to administrative and organisational matters, and details of these are presented separately.

Following a very good lunch, Mr John Kirkup presented an interesting and informative account on surgical instruments and particularly scissors. The shape of the scissors can provide clues as to their intended use. For example, generally the long ones are used for chest or gynaecological operations, small scissors were used in eye operations, curved ones for nasal use and so on.

Next, Caroline Reed of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society displayed slides of pharmaceutical jars, and museum exhibits saved from destruction following refurbishment of an old chemist's shop. She highlighted the fact that museums have long-term responsibility for their exhibits and therefore they do not usually accept temporary loans of items.

The last main lecture was delivered by Dr Tony Bennett who displayed slides of anaesthetic devices. He highlighted the dangers of early anaesthesia and showed a slide of a mask with a glass window enabling the operator to check the patient for vomiting during anaesthesia.

During the afternoon workshop, members were able to present and discuss individual items. Examples included an amputation set, a cautery device, ointment pots and others. Dr David Warren closed the session with a presentation of several curious and unusual items.

Our thanks to Philip Harris Medical who sponsored the meeting and who also offered to sponsor other activities in the future. Thanks also to the staff of the Royal College of Surgeons who ensured we all had a very fulfilling day.

The next meeting of the society will be held in Aldershot - see details on the last page of the bulletin.

### **Dr Marios Kyriazis**

## **The Symons Collection of Medical Instruments**

now on long term display at

**The Royal College of Physicians,  
11 St. Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LE**

Enthusiasts in the field of historical medical equipment will be delighted by this exhibition of the late Cecil Symons' fine collection. Housed in a single case along one long wall of the foyer to the Royal College of Physicians' new Seligman Lecture Theatre, the display is packed with beautiful and interesting objects, mounted with a coherence and simplicity of design that makes the end result elegant rather than overpowering.

Dr Symons was consultant physician and cardiologist at the Royal Free Hospital until very shortly before his death in 1987. He began collecting in the early 'fifties, originally intending to concentrate on medical silver, particularly stethoscopes, but quickly broadening his field to cover objects relating to many aspects of healthcare, in a splendidly wide range of materials. While many choice items were secured with the aid of friendly London dealers, in a talk given at the College, Cecil Symons' widow Jean recently recalled ranging the world's flea markets with her husband on holidays and business trips as well as finding gems in small provincial antique shops.

Symons was primarily interested in the Georgian period and in the Georgians' often desperate concern with preserving their health. The objects in this display not only illustrate that concern, but show how, for the more affluent classes in 18th and early 19th century Britain, the basic tools of medical self care were graced with the same flair for proportion, refinement of detail and fitness for purpose that we find applied on a grander scale to the architecture and furnishing of their houses.

The long and intensive task of sorting, cataloguing and preparing the collection for exhibition has been undertaken by Jean Symons.

Display work was done by freelance designer and craftsman Colin Lindley. The objects have been grouped chronologically within their type.

The first of the themes explored is infant feeding, with a prized collection of nipple shields, including a few very modern examples for comparison, and some fine pap boats. The second area is invalid aids. Here we find a neatly demountable, travelling posset cup and an array of medicine spoons that can have few rivals. Double ended and folding spoons abound and there is an unusual lidded spoon with two compartments, one for bad tasting medicine, the second for a sweet reward for the docile patient. One of the Symons' favourite items is here, a leather cased medicine spoon, inscribed and presented to a friend by the Duchess of Queensberry. A similarly grand, collapsible, silver ear trumpet catches the eye at the top of the display. In the section devoted to hygiene and self care, there is surely one of the most impressive collections of tongue scrapers anywhere on public view, while among the physicians' diagnostic equipment monaural stethoscopes are particularly well represented, in materials including silver, gold, tortoiseshell and even glass.

The disciplined, systematic approach of the display is leavened, like every good collection, with some charmingly idiosyncratic novelties. Among the small, but exclusive selection of pill holders, for example, rests a 17th century silver box with a built in watch to remind the patient when their next dose was due. Given pride of place, although their exact political function remains slightly obscure, are fine examples of the two well known satirical buttons showing Louis XIV receiving a fashionable enema.

Anxious to avoid visual clutter, the designers have opted not to caption or number individual objects within the showcase. A loan copy of Mrs Symons' comprehensive catalogue is currently being prepared and will be held at the College reception desk for visitors' use. The display can generally be viewed during working hours, but intending visitors are recommended to contact the College library on 0171 935 1174 to check for details.

**May 1997**

**Caroline M Reed**

## **Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society**

**1 Lambeth High Street, London, SE1 7JN**

**Curator: Caroline M Reed BA AMA**

**Tel: 0171 735 9141 (Ext 354)**

**Fax: 0171 793 0232**

**E-mail: Info.RPSGB@dial.pipex.com**

### **COLLECTIONS**

The Museum has long played a valued part in the work of the Pharmaceutical Society of great Britain. Originally established in 1842 as a teaching collection of materia medica, it soon developed an historical role, collecting to create a unique and tangible record of the origins and development of British pharmacy.

As a result, the museum now holds some 45,000 objects, including c.7,000 photographs and a similar quantity of printed ephemera. Alone among other British museums in the field, it has a brief to cover all aspects of British pharmacy history, across a wide chronological and geographical spread. It is unrivalled in its coverage of certain aspects of that history, most spectacularly, perhaps, mortars and British 'delftware' drug jars, but also proprietary medicines, retail storage and dispensing equipment, apparatus for drug administration, advertising and promotional material, and medical caricatures. The collection is supported by good documentation and a useful historical library.

In addition to this collection of museum objects and its own small archive, the Society possesses an important collection of rare books, particularly early (15th-18th century) works on botany and materia medica, early chemistry textbooks, and later (18th-19th century) hospital formularies, pharmacopoeias and guides to medical self help.

### **FACILITIES**

Changing displays are mounted in a series of showcases throughout the Society's HQ building. These may be viewed by Society members at any time when the building is open and by non members by prior appointment with the Curator.

Research facilities are very limited, but material from the reserve collections can usually be made available for consultation by bona fide

researchers, always by prior appointment.

Wheelchair access to some display and research areas is difficult. There is no disabled lavatory.

Open:

Monday-Friday 9.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm (except public holidays). By prior appointment with the Curator

### **SERVICES**

The museum offers an historical enquiry service which is available to non members. Currently some 1000 enquiries are answered by phone, fax and letter. A charge is made to non members for 'family history' searches. Please contact the Curator for details.

Copy prints are available from the museum's photo archive. Photos may be reproduced, subject to copyright restrictions, on payment of an appropriate fee. Please contact the Curator for details.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

The following museum publications are available by mail order from the Pharmaceutical Press, PO Box 151, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8QU Tel: 01491 824486:

#### **THE BRUISING APOTHECARY: IMAGES OF PHARMACY AND MEDICINE IN CARICATURE**

Kate Arnold-Forster & Nigel Tallis, The Pharmaceutical Press, 1989, A4 paperback, 92 pages, £12.95 The Bruising Apothecary is an illustrated catalogue of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's collection of caricatures relating to the scientific and social development of pharmacy and medicine from the 17th to the 20th centuries.

#### **PHARMACY HISTORY: A PICTORIAL RECORD**

Nigel Tallis & Kate Arnold-Forster, The Pharmaceutical Press, 1991, A4 paperback, 96 pages, £10.95 Drawn from the Museum's photographic archive of some 7000 images, PHARMACY HISTORY features over a hundred and fifty of the earliest and most interesting.

## **The Royal Army Medical Corps Museum**

The Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) Museum houses, as one would expect, some fine examples of medical equipment and surgical instruments.

The Museum commences telling the story of the Army Medical Services in 1660 on the formation of a regular army after the Restoration of the Monarchy. The earliest example of equipment is a set of German instruments dated 1715 and includes amputation knives and saws. These are closely followed by what is believed to be a syringe for the rectal administration of potions. Made of pewter it was donated by The Queen in the 1970s.

All military surgeons were required to equip themselves with a capital set of instruments and many examples are on display, along with the smaller pocket cases carried by the Regimental Surgeon.

Waterloo was the turning point of medical reorganisation under the direction of Sir James McGrigor, Wellington's Surgeon General. A display of dental instruments used on Napoleon, whilst in exile, features in the Waterloo display.

Readers may be familiar with the name of Weiss as a surgical instrument maker but in the 19th century Weiss also made instruments used for the punishment of deserters in the army. This was a spring loaded tattooing instrument comprising needles in the shape of a D which was used to tattoo the deserter under his arm. The mark was made permanent by Indian ink or gunpowder. The regimental surgeon was always present at this punishment. An example of the instrument and a piece of marked skin are on display in the museum.

A large display case is filled with equipment for making pills and medicines and also examples of bottles and containers along with other dispensary equipment.

Towards the end of the last century many military surgeons were at the forefront of design when it came to medical equipment. Sir Thomas Longmore, a regimental surgeon with the 19th Foot during the Crimean campaign, is credited with introducing the First Field Dressing into the British Army. In later years he introduced a bullet extractor, which is on show. Another example of an extractor features a buzzer that when the two opposing jaws of the instrument made contact with the bullet the buzzer would sound and hopefully lessen the need for endless probing with its associated trauma.

The well known 'Swiss Army Knife' has its

predecessor in the museum. A Sikh Kirkpan from the Indian Mutiny in 1857 has a hollow handle in which will be found a set of surgical instruments.

As readers will be aware, the 20th century has seen many outstanding innovations in the field of medical equipment and those used by the army will be found in the museum from the Boer War until the present day.

The museum collection also contains other items such as stretchers, ambulances, a first war horse drawn ambulance and an ambulance train ward coach. As one would expect from a military museum there is also a fine collection of uniforms, medals and headdress.

The museum welcomes visitors and can be found within Keogh Barracks on Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett, Surrey. The postal address is RAMC Museum, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ. Tel 01252 340212. It is open Monday to Friday 0830 - 4pm. The Curator, Pete Starling is very willing to open at weekends and evenings for an organised party.

**Capt (Retd) Peter Starling**

## **The Belgian Museum of Radiology**

Brussels is very privileged to have one of the few Museums of Radiology in the world. The oldest is in Lennep-Remscheid, Germany, where Roentgen, the physicist who discovered X-rays on November 8, 1895, was born. His discovery completely changed perceptions of solid material whether human or inorganic.

The museum has been open to the public since 1990, being completely original in that it is fully integrated into a working radiology department. A poster at the entrance of each examination room gives the patients a full explanation of what is going to happen to them, an idea originally thought of as a way of using waiting time positively. "Patient" meaning both being examined and having patience!

Under the motto "He who mocks the past is not worthy of the present" the museum authorities have emphasised the work of Belgian pioneers in the field. We can well be proud of their achievements.

Along the corridors of the department posters

explain medical applications of X-rays. Classical X-ray, digital X-ray and CT (computerised tomography) as well as interventional X-ray procedures, Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Ultra-sound techniques. In addition, reconstruction of historical X-ray rooms recreate the atmosphere of bygone days, Professor Roentgen's laboratory (1895), Dr. Henrard's X-ray room (1910), an X-ray installation of the inter-war years, a radiological shelter dropped in Bastogne (1944), an X-ray installation of the sixties and the first CT in Europe (1974) amongst others. This not only gives an overview of the past but an indication of the vision for the future.

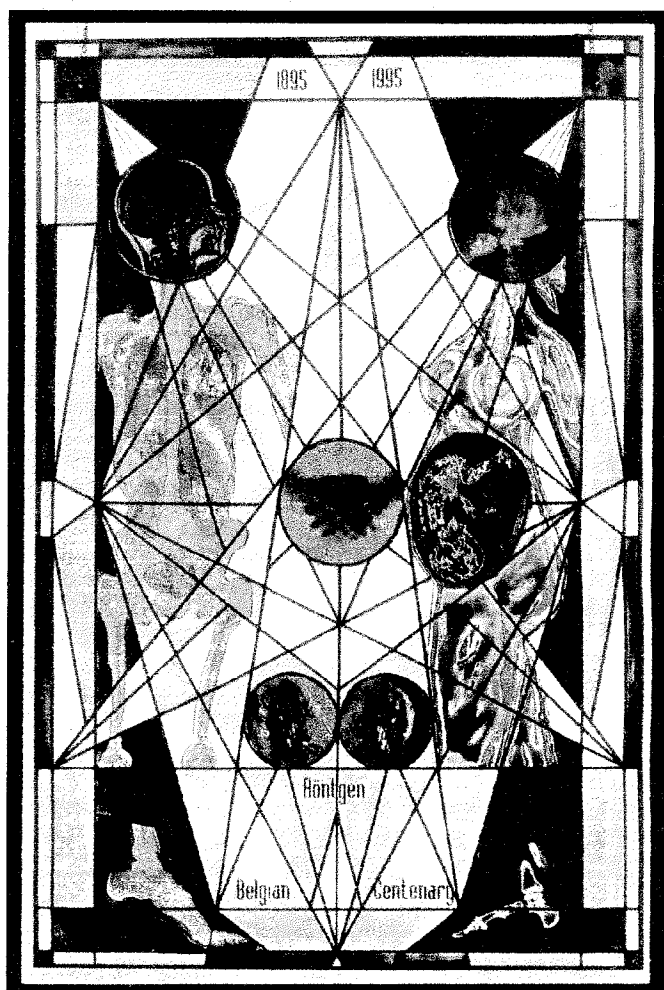
Other exhibits show how X-rays are used in such fields as science, palaeontology, in restoration of paintings, in art, security systems and air travel. Interested readers can learn how the first atlas of medical radiology in the French language was produced by Belgian radiologists, and that eminent Belgians were present at almost every step in the development of medical imaging. Lovers of the beauty of wood, fine furniture, old and rare objects, those interested in science and technology and those who are just interested in expanding their general knowledge will enjoy wandering down the wide corridors of this X-ray department which has abandoned its sterile and utilitarian appearance in favour of a complete history of radiology from its inception to the most recent technical advances.

The aims of Dr. R. Van Tiggelen, the Curator of this unique museum, is to inform both patients and visitors of the history and current position of radiology, to honour his predecessors in the field, and offer information to a wide public. These have been brilliantly achieved, while his search for new and interesting articles for the museum is a permanent process. Situated in the centre of Brussels at the Queen Astrid Military Hospital, Bruynstraat 2, 1120 Brussels, the museum is non-political, multi-academic, bilingual and - perhaps most important of all - has ample parking space. It is easily accessible from the North-East Ring road, exit 6, or by buses Nos. 47 and 57. It is open during consultancy hours and guided tours can be arranged on request (Phone: 00 32 2 264 4097; fax: 00 32 2 264 4098). Admission is free - so why not pay a visit, and bring family and friends.

**Dr. R. Van Tiggelen**

## **The Stained Glass Window Commemorating the Belgian Centenary of Radiology at the Belgian Museum of Radiology.**

Commemorating the centenary of the discovery of X-rays has presented an ideal opportunity to examine the many different ways in which radiology has developed. The stained glass window shown below has been designed as an artistic and symbolic tribute to the evolution of this discipline. The main colours in the window are black and white - symbolic of the colours of radiology.



The two figures (the man recognisable by his solid skeleton and the woman by her rounded curves) were coloured by using the now obsolete method of thermography. They represent Humanity being scanned by Radiology in order to improve her health while carrying the future bearer of life and hope, represented by the foetus. Between these two figures is a clear crystal representing the high ideals and lack of self-interest of the father of radiology: Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen.

The different types of radiological examination and the universal diffusion of Professor Roentgen's discovery are represented by rays criss-crossing from all sides of the window. These rays merge together to demonstrate the diversity, the complementary aspects and the convergence of the different techniques used in medical imaging.

The rays emitted from the top right-hand corner of the window, light up an old X-ray of the skull reminding us of the very early days of radiology; in the diagonally opposite bottom left-hand corner is a present-day digital X-ray of the foot, representing the long distance covered in the development of the technique - presumably on foot! The bottom right-hand corner contains a longitudinal view of the other foot made, with considerable difficulty, by another technique derived from X-rays, computed tomography (Scanners).

Above these two feet which illustrate two basic techniques of modern medical imagery, there are two circular pictures representing examples of interventional radiology, showing the introduction of catheters into the kidney arteries via the endovascular passage, for purposes for opacification.

The rays emitted from the top left-hand corner fall on a skull being examined by yet another non-ionising technique of medical imaging - magnetic resonance. These rays continue further to fall on the foetus, illustrating the enormous contribution made by echography another non-ionising technique of the future which was first applied in obstetric medicine.

All these rays converge on the central medallion, a conventional X-ray representing the handshake of fraternity. This symbolises both the teamwork essential in medical imagery, the co-operation between radiologists and other medical scientists as well as the important contributions and research of our predecessors, without which the progress we see today would not have been possible. The colour red was chosen for the medallion as representing the first man mentioned in the Bible, Adam, which in Hebrew means 'red'.

In addition to falling on the skull, the rays coming from the top left-hand corner enclose the brain, the heart, the handshake and the foetus:

research in radiology (the skull) has the wish (the heart) to co-operate (the handshake) in the future of humanity (the foetus).

Any symbol is rich only in its potential for varying interpretations: we sincerely hope that our interpretation will contribute to enriching the symbolism of this beautiful window, made by the Rumanian artist Dumitru Georgescu, for others.

**Dr. R. Van Tiggelen and Patrick Derley**

## **SOCIETIES, MUSEUMS AND MEETINGS**

### **Historical Medical Equipment Society.**

This Bulletin No. 2 could be regarded as a Welcome to the formally established Society. As mentioned in the Editorial, future Bulletins will depend on the response of members to requests for contributions. These could be:

1. Notices of future events.
2. Sales and wants (excluding dealers).
3. Requests for help in identifying objects. Please send good quality B/W photos, no more than 8x8cm with details of size and materials.
4. Advertisements from both businesses and members. A 25 word lineage ad costs £5 per insertion (£10 to non-members). Please send these with remittance directly to the Chairman at 1 Weston Park East, bath, BA1 2XA, UK.
5. Interesting or amusing pieces relating to instruments or equipment.
6. Details of collections of rare items in general museums.
7. Reviews of about 100 words of relevant books published in the last 12 months. Include Title, Author, Publisher, Year, ISBN Number and Price.

Enquiries about Membership and subscription rates should also be addressed to the Chairman at the above address.

### **British Society for the History of Pharmacy.**

The British Society for the History of Pharmacy held its Annual Conference over the weekend of 18-20 April 1977. The theme was "The First 60 Years 1840-1900" i.e. the first 60 years from the foundation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

Speakers were Mr. John Hunt on 'Some Dorset Apothecaries & Pharmacists', which included Dr. Roberts of "Poor Man's Friend Ointment" fame; Dr. Melvyn Earles on 'Pharmacy and Education 1841-1899'; Mr. Anthony Morson on 'The 1851 Exhibition'; Mrs. Enid Lucas-Smith on 'The Shop' with reminiscences of mixture and pill making; Dr. Annet Bierman on 'The Continental Parallel - the development of Pharmacy in The Netherlands' and Professor W. H. Brock on 'Justus von Liebig, Gatekeeper of Chemistry'.

There was also an informal historical items session which included ear trumpets, medicine spoons, weights and measures, photographs and documents.

The Society was formed in 1967 and aims to act as a focus for all areas of the history of pharmacy. Membership is open to all and details can be obtained from: The Professional Secretary BSHP, 36 York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3HU.

**The London's Museums of Health and Medicine Group and The Thackray Medical Museum** in Leeds will be holding a Launch Meeting for a National Medical History Collections Group at The Thackray Medical Museum on October 9, 1997. Anyone interested can obtain further details from Caroline Reed at the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1, Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN. Tel: 0171-735-9141 ext. 354 or Fax: 0171-793-02332.

**The Belgian Museum of Radiology** (address in the article by Dr. Van Tiggelen) has two publications to do with the Roentgen Centenary for sale:

- 1: A Short History of Radiology in Belgium. 32pp. BeF 250 (Available in English)
- 2: 100 Years of Radiology. 600pp. Contributions from 106 specialists. 1/3 of the articles are in English, the others in French or Dutch. BeF 2.800.

No. 2 is marked 'Out of Order' which may mean 'Out of Print' (?) but they are still advertising it! There are also sets of slides with text and a 45 minute video but these are available only in French or Dutch. Payment includes postage and packing but must be paid by Eurocheque in Belgian francs with the order.

**St. Bartholomew's Hospital** now has a museum open to the public from 14 May 1997. Details from 0171-601-8152.

**The London's Museums of Health and Medicine Group** has a brochure listing all the medical museums in London. For further information about the Group and its activities and copies of the brochure contact the Old Operating Theatre Museum on 0171-955-479.

**The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine** has regular exhibitions open to the public free. The latest 'Dr. Death' has just finished and the next one will be on 'Art in Medicine' which will run until 28 November. Details from 0171-611-7211. The Library is also open to the public for research purposes. Joining the Friends of the Wellcome Institute brings a series of privileges including attendance at seminars, lectures and study groups without fee, reduced fees for attendance at symposia, circulation of the Academic Programme and notice of symposia free of charge and reduction in the subscription to Medical History. Contact Tracey Wickham at Friends of the Wellcome Institute, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE. Tell: 0171-611-8500.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

**Wanted: Rare and fine quality medical antiques** in the following categories - Very large case, general and neurosurgical operating sets, bloodletting sets and individual pieces including fleams, lancet cases, medical etvis, scarificators, bleeding bowls and leech jars. also looking for tourniquets.

Contact: Douglas Arbitter MD, 215 Ten Eyck Street, Watertown, New York, 13601, USA.  
-mail: darbitt@imonet.net

**M&R GORDON** deal in medical and dental antiques. We do not publish a catalog but we are happy to receive wants list.

57 Bundy Lane, Storrs, CT 06268, USA.  
Tel/fax 860-429-3834. E-mail: gordon@neca.com  
URL: neca.com/~gordon/med.html



**Old Medical Books:** Send for our first catalogue containing over 2,000 good quality medical books at sensible prices. Emphasis on 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century rare and out of print books. we are pleased to offer a 10% discount to HMES readers.

Dr Victor G Daniels, 4 Hines Close, Barton, Cambridge, CB3 7BB, England, UK.

Tel: 01223 262490; Fax 01223 264684

**Belinda Heathcote** can offer translations from German, French, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, and Spanish and arrange for such from Russian, Italian and Portuguese.

Tel: 0181 688 7636; Fax 0181 681 8202

Please bring instruments and equipment for discussion, identification or display. If you plan to contribute please let Dr Kyriazis know when you register, or call 0850 221796.

To register for the meeting, please send your details together with a cheque (payable to the HMES) for £5.00 (members) or £8.00 (non-members), to the Meetings Secretary, Dr Kyriazis, 14 The Avenue, Cliftonville, Northampton, NN1 5BT.

Pub lunch, payable locally, is available near the Museum.

Directions: The Museum is on Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett, Surrey. It is close to the Basingstoke Canal Centre and it is sign-posted with brown tourist signs 'RAMC Museum'. Please do not go to Ashvale. For further details contact Captain Starling on 01252 340212, or Dr Kyriazis on 01604 30779.

## **The Historical Medical Equipment Society - 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

**"Military Medical Equipment"**  
at the RAMC Museum, Aldershot on  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 1997

### **Provisional programme**

10.00 Registration and Coffee

#### **Meeting Chairman: Captain Starling**

10.30 "Field Medical Equipment"  
(speaker to be announced)

11.30 "Military Aspects of Imaging"  
Adrian Thomas,  
Clinical Director of Diagnostic  
Imaging, Bromley Hospital

12.30 Lunch

14.00 "Irrigating Wounds During the First  
World War"  
Claire Herrick,  
National Maritime Museum,  
Greenwich

15.00 Tour of Museum, Exhibition and  
Tea

16.00 Workshop, 'Hands-On', Short  
Presentations

17.00 Close

### **3<sup>rd</sup> HMES Meeting**

It is hoped that this will be in the spring of 1998. details will be announced later.

## **Dr. David John WARREN (1941-1997)**

With great regret we record the death of David Warren on 22nd July, aged 55 years, after a short but cruel illness. All members will be aware that David was our Secretary-Treasurer but, they may not know, he was the prime-mover in conceiving and establishing the Historical Medical Equipment Society, to which he contributed till the end. At our very successful Inaugural Meeting in April last, he displayed tremendous sang-froid as he calmly guided proceedings, despite recent radiotherapy for malignant disease of unknown origin.

In recent years he developed a successful consultancy service supplying antique instrumentation and equipment, employed in medicine and allied sciences, to important museums and collectors, for which he acquired both a national and international reputation. Hence our good fortune in his initial leadership of the Society. However, David also had an outstanding career as a distinguished physician.

Born in Romford, Essex, the son of a postmaster, he was educated locally before commencing pre-clinical studies in Sheffield where he gained a first-class degree in physiology and a University medal in 1963. He then took a year off to work for Voluntary Service Overseas teaching medical students in Kampala, Uganda. Medical training continued at St Catherine's College, Oxford, where David gained a prize in medicine and qualified in 1967. Following house posts to the Professorial Units in Oxford, he was a Fulbright Scholar and Fellow in nephrology at the Ohio State University, U.S.A. for a year. On return he joined the unit of the Nuffield Professor in Oxford and became M.R.C.P. From 1970 to 1972 he was a Beit Research Fellow at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford and took a D. Phil. with a thesis on renal disease. He continued kidney research and teaching as Lecturer in Medicine at the University of Edinburgh., until appointed Consultant Physician, Wessex Regional Renal Unit, Portsmouth and Senior Lecturer in Medicine at Southampton Medical School in 1976. A busy clinical career was accompanied by teaching responsibilities, continuing research, many scientific communications and the completion of a new laboratory for which he raised funds. In 1985 he decided to change direction and became Assistant Clinical Director of the private health care organisation BUPA. He was promoted Clinical Director, BUPA Health Services in 1987 with extensive management duties including integration of a team of 5 full-time and 400 part-time doctors, and responsibility for BUPA Medical Research and Development. Sadly, due to major reorganisation of BUPA in 1992, the Director's post was made redundant. Subsequently, he worked for the Independent Tribunal Service as a member of disability appeals and as a medical assessor to Incapacity Benefit Tribunals. David was a member of the British Medical Association, the Royal Society of Medicine, the Medical Research Society and the Scientific Instrument Society. Latterly, his public service work occupied 3-4 days weekly, leaving him opportunity for the development of Wessex Medical Antiques and the publication of communications based on his great knowledge of discarded instrumentation.

The severe loss of David's input to the Society, particularly at an embryonic stage of our evolution, needs no emphasis. Aware of his situation, he attempted to install a successor as Secretary but, unhappily, was forestalled by swiftly moving events. David's determination that the Society should continue is clear and, indeed, we have a duty to build on the solid foundations which he pioneered. Undoubtedly, the Society will remain a memorial to his foresight and endeavour.

We express our sincerest condolences to his wife, Diana, their two sons and daughter who have lost a husband and a father prematurely, at a critical period.

**John Kirkup 8<sup>th</sup> August 1997.**