

## Nova et Vetera

### BARON ALIBERT

At a meeting of the Section of Dermatology of the Royal Society of Medicine on November 18 Dr. J. D. ROLLESTON read a paper on the life and work of Baron Alibert on the occasion of the centenary of his death.

Alibert was born on May 26, 1768, and studied medicine in Paris, where he qualified in 1799 with a thesis on pernicious fevers, of which several editions were published. His rise in the profession was remarkably rapid, as two years after qualification he was made assistant physician and in the following year full physician to the Hôpital Saint-Louis. In addition to several books on diseases of the skin, of which the most important was published in parts between 1806 and 1814, and in which coloured plates appeared for the first time in the history of dermatology, he was the author of a work on therapeutics, of which he was the first professor in the Paris Faculty, and won the Montyon prize for a work on the physiology of the passions, which was translated into German and Spanish. He was physician to Louis XVIII and Charles X, who created him a baron. His death, due to cancer of the stomach, took place on November 4, 1837.

Dr. Rolleston attributed Alibert's high rank in the history of French medicine generally and of dermatology in particular to the following circumstances among others. In the first place he established the first independent clinic for dermatology in France. Secondly, he described several new diseases, including mycosis fungoides, Aleppo boil, keloid, and acromegaly, and invented new terms—namely, syphilides, dermatosis, and dermatolysis, as well as many others which have not survived. Thirdly, though not to be compared with Trousseau, his successor in the chair of therapeutics, he was by no means a therapeutic nihilist. His textbook on his subject had no rival for over thirty years, and its merits were recognized by several of his successors in the same chair. Lastly, he made the Hôpital Saint-Louis the Mecca of dermatologists throughout the world.

### JOHN GRAHAM, APOTHECARY OF CARLISLE

On Thursday, November 14, 1745, John Graham, apothecary of Carlisle, stepped into history. The story is told by Dr. Waugh, Chancellor of the Diocese of Carlisle, who is quoted by G. J. Mounsey in his *Account of the Occupation of Carlisle in 1745*.

"Some time after we were in the Castle, towards evening, the Mayor came to demand the Keys of the Town, as Col: [Durand] had retired into the Castle; and John Davinson, merchant, John Graham, apothecary, and Doctor Douglass, a physician, were sent out [to Prince Charles Edward's camp] as I apprehended, the two former at the request of the Mayor and inhabitants, and the last at the request of the Militia Officers, he being a volunteer in Sir J. Pennington's Company.

"About ten o'clock the messengers returned and said that the flags had been sent to the Pretender's Son at Brampton, and that the answer was that he would grant no terms to the Town, nor treat about it at all unless the Castle was surrendered."

This apothecary probably had the remarkable experience of seeing and speaking to such notable characters as the Young Pretender, Mr. "Evidence" Murray, and Lord George Murray.

There is in the collection of Dr. T. Hare a pressed horn snuffbox of eighteenth century workmanship, bearing the name of Graham, apothecary, Carlisle, and the arms of the Lumber Troop (a society with members in London and the provinces).

Graham died on June 25, 1757, at the age of 49, and was buried in St. Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle.

W. BRYCE MCKELVIE.

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

### A NOTE FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE B.M.J.

Starting with the issue of January 2, 1937, the *British Medical Journal* adopted the Harvard system of giving references to scientific literature, and used the abbreviations of names of scientific periodicals which are included in the *World List*. This system, which has been slightly modified, is as follows:

#### References in the Text

1. Numbered references in the text are not used, although with an exceptionally long list of references this rule might be relaxed.

2. Instead of a "superior numeral" the author's name and the date of the publication are given in brackets.

#### EXAMPLE A

Old style = It has been said<sup>1</sup> that coma in heart disease is rare.

Harvard system = *It has been said (Jones, 1935) that coma in heart disease is rare.*

#### EXAMPLE B

Old style = Dale and Dudley<sup>2</sup> isolated acetylcholine from animal tissues.

Harvard system = *Dale and Dudley (1929) isolated acetylcholine from animal tissues.*

In other words, when the author's name is part of the sentence only the year of the publication referred to is to be in brackets. When more than one paper by the same author is published in any one year each paper should be distinguished by a small letter—a, b, etc.—placed after the date—for example, (Brown, 1935a).

#### References at End of Paper

1. These references are not numbered, with the possible exception of a long list of references.

2. Authors' names are arranged in alphabetical order.

3. The year of publication is given in brackets after the author's name.

4. The title of the periodical is printed in italics and abbreviated in accordance with the *World List of Scientific Periodicals*.

5. The volume number is printed in Arabic numerals in bold-face type; this is followed by the first page number of the paper quoted.

6. When the title of a book is referred to, the name of the publisher, the place of publication, and the number and date of the edition should be given when possible.

7. When an author's name is repeated in the list of references a short line represents the repeated name.

#### EXAMPLE

"In contrast to these results O'Brien (1932) and Yudkin (1933) report that cataracts only occur in rats deprived of vitamin B<sub>2</sub> at an early age and not in older animals, while in this country Bourne and Pyke (1935) carefully repeated the work of Day and Langston (1933) and obtained an incidence of cataract of only 31 per cent. . . Bourne and Young (1934) have made a discovery of great importance in showing . . ."

#### REFERENCES

- Bourne, M. C., and Pyke, M. A. (1935). *Biochem. J.*, **29**, 1865.  
 — and Young, L. (1934). *Ibid.*, **28**, 803.  
 Day, P. L., and Langston, W. C. (1933). *J. Nutrit.*, **7**, 97.  
 O'Brien (1932). *Arch. Ophthalm.*, Chicago, **8**, 880.  
 Yudkin (1933). *J. Amer. med. Ass.*, **101**, 921.