

The middle of the nineteenth century was dominated by Whitley Stokes, who was a United Irishman as well as a scientist and philosopher, and his son William, whose career and work are too well known to be described; a list of his appointments, honours, and works would take many paragraphs. His famous stethoscope is included in the exhibition.

This brief account, by concentrating on the early professors, inevitably has omitted many names: Cope, Foreside, Barry, and Clement in the eighteenth century, and more recently Hudson, Banks, Little, Purser, and Moorhead. Also it has neglected completely other aspects of Trinity's medical teaching. The late Dr. T. P. C. Kirkpatrick published in 1912 a *History of the Medical Teaching in Trinity College Dublin and of the School of Physic in Ireland*, which has so far not been superseded. The current exhibition in the library of Trinity College has been arranged by Miss Mary Pollard and Mr. William O'Sullivan, of the Library Staff, and Professor J. D. H. Widdess, Librarian to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. It will continue until the spring.

THE LONDON'S FIRST 100 YEARS

The Reformation, despite Sir Thomas More's protest, *Supplication of Souls in Purgatory* (1529), abolished the monastic hospitals. Only with difficulty did those of St. Bartholomew and of St. Thomas eventually survive to serve the needs of the sick poor of London. By the eighteenth century, through the growth of the city and its population, the demand for more hospitals was pressing. The first of the "voluntary hospitals," the Westminster Infirmary, was opened in Petty France in 1720. In 1721 Thomas Guy, having made his fortune in the "South Sea Bubble," built and endowed Guy's Hospital, while St. George's Hospital was begun in the West End in 1733. The East End had no special provision until seven gentlemen, including Mr. John Harrison, a young surgeon, met at the Feathers Tavern in Cheap-side and founded the London Infirmary (later termed Hospital) with a subscription of 100 guineas. Looking at the present great hospital, "who hath despised the day of small things?"

In this detailed and well-written first volume Dr. Clark-Kennedy, consulting physician, narrates the history of the first hundred years of the London Hospital, from 1740 to 1840.* It began in a rented house in Featherstone Street, Moorfields, and was so successful through "the very great Skill and Diligence of the Physician (Dr. Andrée) and Surgeon (Mr. John Harrison)," who attended daily, that in 1741 the hospital moved to a house in Prescott Street, Aldgate. By 1744 it occupied four houses in the street. In 1749 the Committee bought the site in Whitechapel to build a new hospital, and ten years later reported that "the hospital is now completely finished and that no Money has been paid on that Account but what has been subscribed and bequeathed for that purpose." The second volume will trace the progress and growth of the hospital from 1840 to 1948, when it became part of the National Health Service.

The London has been fortunate in its presidents and patrons. Royalty early approved it. The second Duke of Richmond (grandson of Charles II), the Earl of Macclesfield, Sir Peter Warren, the Dukes of Gloucester, Devonshire, and Bedford, the two Archbishops, most

**The London. A Study in the Voluntary Hospital System.* By A. E. Clark-Kennedy. Volume One: *The First Hundred Years, 1740-1840.* (Pp. 264+xiii; illustrated. 30s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1962.

bishops, and many of the peers and landed gentry were among its governors, gave money, and induced others to subscribe. Generous too were the gifts of the Jewish community. Reference is made to the early physicians and surgeons on the hospital staff, whose services given without fee or reward strengthened the voluntary system. Outstanding among them was Sir William Blizard, P.R.C.S. (1743-1835), who examined at the Royal College of Surgeons up to an advanced age, operated until he was 84, and only retired from the active staff of the hospital when he was 90. He founded the Medical School of the London Hospital in 1785 and the Samaritan Society for the relief of poor patients in 1791.

Sad reading are some of the hospital intrigues and the disgraceful attacks made on John Harrison, the founder, who died at the early age of 35. The accounts of misdemeanours of nurses, "watches," and porters might have been shortened with advantage. George II, not his grandson, reigned in 1757 (p. 132), but apart from such minor criticisms and a few misprints—for example, "Cheseldon" (p. 8) for Cheselden—the book is an admirable hospital history. Especially will all "Londoners" enjoy reading it and will look forward to the second volume.

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PHARMACY IN BRITAIN

One can still see traces both in name and content of the medicines that, from early times, enabled horses, cattle, and men to bear their burdens more consistently. The growth of medical learning, reinforced by the emergence of chemistry, enabled the pharmacopoeias to be compiled. The first *London Pharmacopoeia* (1618) appeared in the year after the Society of Apothecaries was chartered. The apothecaries became the general medical practitioners of the subsequent two centuries and virtual monopolists in the supply of drugs and dispensing of medicines. Later they were themselves challenged by chemists and druggists—men of the calibre of William Allen, F.R.S., of Plough Court, John Bell, of Oxford Street, W. B. Hudson, of the Haymarket, and John Savoy, of Bond Street. And, just as the apothecaries secured their professional status by acquiring the power to examine, so the pharmacists moved to secure their status, first in 1829 and then again in 1841 under William Allen.

With a school of pharmacy (another emergent profession) and the blessing of chemists they prospered and one of them entered Parliament to speak for them in 1850. This M.P., Jacob Bell, secured the passage of a pharmacy Act in 1852 which established a register of chemists and druggists, admission to which could be obtained only on production of a certificate. The society helped compile the *British Pharmacopoeia*. Their role as a pressure group resulted in the progressive control of drugs and those who supplied them by Acts of Parliament in 1868 and 1908 which cemented the position of the society. Indeed, the increasing purity of foods and drugs was in great measure due to their activities and conferences.

In addition to giving us a substantial and authoritative history of all this, which will supplement that published

†*History of Pharmacy in Britain.* By Leslie G. Matthews. Foreword by Sir Henry Dale, O.M., G.B.E., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. (Pp. 427+xiv; illustrated. 45s.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone. 1962.