

spasms could not be controlled by other means for treatment with muscle relaxants and intermittent-pressure respiration. Four of them had recovered completely, and this was considered encouraging. The technique, however, was expensive in both time and money, and could be carried out only in suitably staffed and equipped centres. The patient was anaesthetized and then completely paralysed with a curariform drug. A cuffed endotracheal tube was inserted and artificial respiration applied by an anaesthetist. The patient could then be transported to the Unit (even severe cases could travel in this way), where a tracheotomy was carried out and the positive-pressure apparatus set up. Very careful nursing, attention to feeding, and strict biochemical control were necessary. The worst thing from the patient's point of view was that he could do nothing for himself—not even communicate—but this form of treatment could be continued satisfactorily for at least three or four weeks.

Nova et Vetera

ROYAL DENTAL HOSPITAL AND SCHOOL

The opening of the extension to the Royal Dental Hospital of London School of Dental Surgery by the Queen on June 3 was a memorable event in a series of anniversary commemorations.

The Royal Dental Hospital of London was opened on December 1, 1858. Ten months later, on October 1, 1859, there came into existence at the hospital the London School of Dental Surgery. This was the first dental school with full facilities for practical instruction and the acquisition of clinical experience to be opened in Great Britain. The twin institutions of hospital and school owed their being to the founders of the Odontological Society of London, which was established on November 10, 1856, for the purpose of rescuing dentistry from the chaotic condition into which it had fallen at that period.

The general standard of dental practice was extremely low. The extraction of aching teeth was all that dentistry

comprised in the minds of the vast majority of the population, and it was commonly carried out by blacksmiths, tinkers, chemists and druggists, cuppers, chiropodists, and by itinerant quacks. Even those who had served some sort of apprenticeship practised dentistry on tradesman-like principles, issuing the most blatant advertisements and writing their names on their shop fronts in decayed teeth. The skill and renown of a few excep-

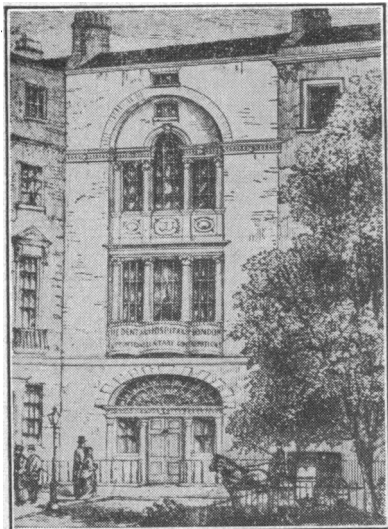


FIG. 1.—Dental Hospital, Soho Square.

tional men only served to throw into greater relief the appallingly low standard of practice of the great majority.

The task which faced the founders of the Odontological Society was nothing less than the creation of a dental profession with defined standards of education, training, and ethics. It was recognized that the only method of achieving this aim was the drawing up of a curriculum which would lead to a professional diploma in dentistry; this in turn necessitated the establishment of a hospital and school.

The select band of reformers who succeeded in raising dentistry from a trade to a profession included Sir John Tomes, Sir Edwin Saunders, W. A. Harrison, Arnold and Thomas Rogers, the two Samuel Cartwrights, and several members of that remarkable dental dynasty the Parkinsons. It was due to these men, and to Tomes's friend James



FIG. 2.—Dental Hospital, Leicester Square.

Moncrieff Arnott, F.R.C.S., that a curriculum and a dental licence (L.D.S.) were established under the aegis of the Royal College of Surgeons.

The first home of the Dental Hospital (1858–74) at 32, Soho Square (Fig. 1) was the beautiful town house of Sir Joseph Banks, P.R.S.; its second was a converted soup-kitchen in Leicester Square (Fig. 2). The present building was opened in 1901, and in the same year the hospital was granted the title of Royal. The Odontological Society, which had shared the hospital premises in Soho Square and Leicester Square, moved into those of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, and six years later it became the Odontological Section of the newly formed Royal Society of Medicine. In 1911 the school was admitted as a School of the University of London. On July 5, 1948, when the National Health Service Act came into force, the Royal Dental Hospital became part of the St. George's Hospital group, and the school was incorporated as an autonomous body.

ASSOCIATION OF POLICE SURGEONS

The Association of Police Surgeons of Great Britain held its seventh annual conference in Eastbourne, from May 29 to 31, under the presidency of Dr. R. D. SUMMERS. On the first day, Dr. JOSHUA CARSE spoke on "A New Approach to Psychiatric Practice for Adults." Dr. MARY MOFFETT then opened a discussion on the Wolfenden Report. The next day, Dr. WALTER HEDGCOCK introduced a debate on *aides-mémoire* and questionnaires for examining "drunks-in-charge," during which Mr. C. H. H. BUTCHER discussed the legal implications of standardized examination and report forms. There was a large majority vote against the adoption of a national standardized *aide-mémoire* for this purpose. On the last day of the meeting Mr. NORMAN RAE, chief crime reporter of the *News of the World*, gave a revealing talk on crime reporting.

At the annual dinner the toast of the Association of Police Surgeons was proposed by Dr. DONALD TEARE; Dr. R. HUNT-COOKE proposed the County Borough of Eastbourne, to which the Mayor, Councillor J. W. G. HOWLETT, replied. For the guests Mr. R. W. WALKER, Chief Constable of Eastbourne, replied to the toast proposed by Dr. F. M. P. MARSHALL.