

Edinburgh Congress update

13th – 16th September 2017

Please make a note of the Congress dates.

Registration is now open at:

<http://bshm.org.uk/congress/congress-registration/>



Book now to take advantage of the early bird rates. BSHM members and members of BSHM affiliated societies enjoy a further discount - if they book now the 3 day delegate rate for the Conference is only £180.

Abstract submission is also open via the above link and will close on May 31st.

Keynote speakers will include Philippa Langley, who led the successful search for the remains of Richard III, and the Guthrie lecture will be delivered by Professor David Watters from Melbourne. The Congress is being held in association with the Society for the Social History of Medicine whose sponsored keynote speaker is Professor Malcolm Nicolson.

The congress has approval for up to 20 hours of CPD.

John Blair Trust

The John Blair Trust will be providing prizes at the Congress - £150 for the best oral presentation and £150 for the best poster by undergraduate students. The Trust also invites undergraduates who have registered with the Congress to apply for bursaries to support travel, accommodation and delegate fees. Details here <http://bshm.org.uk/about-us/john-blair-trust/>

Wikipedia

BSHM now has a Wikipedia entry which outlines its history and lists affiliated societies and previous Congresses and Poynter lectures.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Society_for_the_History_of_Medicine

BSHM Social Media

We are excited to announce that the BSHM is now a fully established member of the history of medicine digital community.

Social media plays a huge role in promoting the study of the history of medicine, and our new online presence has increased the society's exposure, allowing us to expand our relationships and attract new members. By regularly sharing, commenting and posting new content on our Facebook and Twitter accounts, we have been able to promote interest in our events and share articles on our blog. As well as sharing our own website content with our followers, we are also able to share interesting publications and event details from other sources which we deem relevant to our members.

We invite you to become part of our digital community by 'liking' our Facebook page and following us on Twitter. Why not try sharing or tweeting an interesting article? Don't forget to 'hashtag' #BSHM and #histmed for more views!



You can contact us via Facebook or Twitter, or email socialmediaeditor@bshm.org.uk with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Laura Mainwaring and Dr Lydia Thurston
Social Media Editors

LIFE IN THE WORKHOUSE

Nether Edge Hospital, Sheffield, began life as the Ecclesall-Bierlow Union Workhouse. Most of the



workhouses which later became hospitals came into being after the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act. Ecclesall-Bierlow opened in 1843.

Like many workhouses many inmates were sick or too old to work. These issues in themselves came to be seen as a reason for admission: a note from William Holland, surgeon reads: **'14 December 1845. I hereby certify that Jos Worthington, residing at Halem is suffering from Rheumatism and other infirmities and incapable of work, he is to be removed to the workhouse'**. An 1868 survey of 48 provincial workhouses showed 38% of paupers to be inmates due to sickness. Many institutions, including the Ecclesall-Bierlow workhouse, built new facilities simply to house the sick poor rather than simply the poor.

In 1873 the first Annual Report of the Health of Sheffield included data from the 2 workhouses: it recorded 60 cases of workhouse illness in the under 5's and 432 over that age. The mortality rate in both was 25%. In both groups one third suffered from 'continued fevers – types unspecified' with 20% dying. Respiratory disease (non-tuberculous) accounted for one quarter of all illnesses with a greater mortality in the young. Phthisis was recorded in 7% of illnesses (though only 1 case in the under 5's) with most dying. Rheumatic fever occurred only in the over 5's and all Smallpox, except for 1 case, was in the over 5's with no deaths.

In 1948 workhouses ceased to exist and all workhouse infirmaries became NHS hospitals. The workhouse origins of Nether Edge Hospital lived on in the names of various ward blocks (all named after Workhouse Guardians) almost all of which were added for the sick rather than destitute poor.

For more information

<http://netheredgeliving.co.uk/about/history>

Dr Rod Amos Consultant Rheumatologist (retd)
Sheffield Aesculapian Society

Archive of Professor Oliver Wrong – available for research at the Wellcome Library



The recently catalogued personal papers of Professor Oliver Wrong (1925 – 2012) give insight into the career of a major figure in the field of nephrology. Though Wrong is perhaps best known as one of the founders of Dent's Disease – a rare kidney condition -

his lifelong investigation of the intake and output of the kidney and the alimentary tract foresaw a cascade of contemporary scientific discoveries related to the gut and the human microbiome. Some of his most relevant and notable contributions were a result of self-experimentation – made explicit through entries contained in his laboratory notebooks.

As well as his notebooks, Wrong's archive also contains a variety of research files on specific kidney conditions; correspondence with professional colleagues; patient files and illustrative materials, often used for teaching. Wrong's archive can be searched on the Wellcome Library catalogue using the reference ([PP/WRO](#)). These papers complement the many other examples in our collections of self-experimentation leading to medical discovery.

Ross Macfarlane Research Engagement Officer
Wellcome Library

BSHM News

Notice board

For information about history of medicine events: <http://bsham.org.uk/notice-board/>

Individual membership of the BSHM (for those who are not members of an affiliated society/organization/museum) is now available: <http://bsham.org.uk/about-us/>

Social Media

As of 28th February the BSHM has 247 'followers' on Twitter and 260 'likes' on Facebook. Why not follow us on Twitter or join us on Facebook?