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Dear members and friends

In the December Newsletter last year, I concluded by wishing everyone ‘good fortune in 2020’. Looking back on the impact of the pandemic, you may say that it is difficult to find good fortune in this past year. From the BSHM perspective, there have been many positives and some unexpected challenges. We have all learned a lot about pandemics by living through one. Some of our affiliated societies have organised excellent virtual meetings. The Officers and Representative Committee (ORC) meeting and AGM in September were successful and we enjoyed the excellent Osler Legacy meeting and Poynter Lecture in October. The organisation of each of these virtual meetings brought new challenges and we are grateful to all participants for their patience. However, we all yearn to return to meeting in person and to the ease of communication and networking that this brings.

Mention of virtual meetings reminds me to urge you to register for the Teaching Anatomy from Classical to Modern Times Symposium on the 12th and 26th March 2021 and organised by the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine (registration details provided later in this Newsletter).

The recent news of the development and approval of a vaccine means that we face 2021 with cautious optimism particularly thinking of the 2021 Congress in Sheffield on the 15th to 18th September. The Congress will take place in the Diamond Building in the University of Sheffield where excellent and spacious conference facilities are provided. The venue is close to the city centre and hotel accommodation.

The key theme of the Congress will be the History of Medicine in the Workplace, reflecting the industrial heritage of Sheffield and similar manufacturing centres. We expect that the History of Pandemics will be a popular theme at the Congress.

Sheffield is a welcoming city that has not forgotten its rich industrial heritage despite having to reinvent itself since the collapse of traditional manufacturing. The city is centrally located and has excellent road and rail links. There are many places of interest to visit in the city. We will visit one of these, the Kelham Island Industrial Museum, during the Congress. A further attraction of Sheffield is the opportunity to visit the ‘great houses’ nearby such as Chatsworth and Wentworth Woodhouse and to explore the roles that these played in history. Eyam, the so-called Plague Village, is within easy reach as are the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the National Coal Mining Museum. The Congress promises to be a feast of medical history where we will share our passion for the subject in addition to renewing friendships and forging new contacts. Abstract submission will open on the 1st February. Further information will be provided through the BSHM website in January.

"Nollaig shona dhuit agus fanacht sábháilte"
Happy Christmas and stay safe

Mike Collins
President BSHM
The Osler Legacy

The Osler Club of London and the BSHM held an online joint meeting on 1st October entitled “Sir William Osler 1849-1919: The Relevance of his Legacy Today”. The four invited speakers approached aspects of Osler’s life as educator, medical historian, clinician and ethicist. Between them they raised multiple points that would have kept a non-virtual audience debating the issues over coffee and dinner: a reminder of how much we miss the opportunities for interaction during face-to-face meetings.

In “William Osler: the father of medical education”, Prof. Dame Jane Dacre described how modern medical teaching is, in part, returning to Osler’s apprentice style, patient focussed teaching methods to support didactic teaching, despite the problems of a crowded curriculum.

Dr Hilary Morris in her paper “William Osler’s influence in shaping modern medical history” challenged the modern trend of a social history approach, which reduces the contribution of clinicians to the subject of medical history. In particular, Osler’s championing of the subject and use of biography to illustrate the silent influence of character needs to be revisited. Also the contribution of health care providers to the subject should not be dismissed as nonprofessional.

Presenting “Kindness as a Virtue”, Dr James Le Fanu discussed how the modern trend to manage patient populations and the quest to meet clinical targets had downgraded the Oslerian concept of patient individuality. A background of protocols and regulation had driven the process of healthcare.

Dr Daniel Sokol in “William Osler and medical ethics” used a legal case he had been involved in to discuss the failure of doctors to disclose information to patients and the resultant life altering consequences.

In a short article I cannot do justice to the four fascinating presentations, I would recommend members view or review the meeting available on line. I should like to thank the speakers not just for their thought provoking papers but for coping with the unfamiliar environment presented by a virtual meeting.

Mike Davidson
BSHM Vice President
"The great Republic of Medicine knows and has known no national boundaries.”-
William Osler, the great medical internationalist.

Dr John Ward, the noted Oslerian, was invited by the BSHM to deliver the 19th Poynter Lecture in 2020, the year in which the centenary of the death of Sir William Osler is marked.

In his lecture, John explained the influences that led to Sir William’s internationalism and why he saw medicine as an ‘international cooperative movement and brotherhood for the common good’. We learned that Osler’s appreciation of the importance of the history of medicine was founded on his knowledge of the achievements of the ‘great men’ and the influence of his travels especially in Europe.

Following Sir William’s death, his role as the ‘apostle of international medicine’ and ‘great bridge builder in the field of medicine beyond all national boundaries’ was acknowledged in obituaries. John’s lecture, inspiring and beautifully delivered, reminded us of the importance of Osler’s enduring legacy of internationalism especially as doctors and scientists from many countries cooperate to find the solutions to the current pandemic.

Noël Poynter (24 December 1908 – 11 March 1979) was a librarian and medical historian who, from 1964 to 1973, served as director of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.

He was one of the founding committee members who established the British Society for the History of Medicine (BSHM), and became its president in 1972.

The biennial Poynter lecture is named in his honour.

The image shown is of Noël Poynter (right) and Edwin Clarke (left), both BSHM founding committee members.
Retirement was beckoning earlier this year after several years of part time work. However, during the early rumblings of the Pandemic, the hospital and I decided that a Clinical Microbiologist and Infection Control doctor may be of continued use!

It’s been an interesting few months. We have a good team in the hospital and are coping and adapting. Travel restrictions and lockdown mean that I can’t do much socially so work represents a good opportunity to get out and about and interact.

As an amateur medical historian with a particular interest in the history of infection, it is my habit to analyse and interpret the evolving Pandemic with reference to events in history. I am not sure whether this is good at work because knowledge of history may make you conservative and negative, especially if you take the view that history repeats itself. History however does demonstrate that radical new discoveries and events may revolutionise practice - vaccination and penicillin spring to mind - however, neither developed overnight. Some of the issues that made me think back rather than forwards are:

- Coronavirus vaccines. Whenever I hear the optimism and hope pinned to a vaccine, I remember the Common Cold Research Unit near Salisbury that tried for about 40 years unsuccessfully to develop an effective coronavirus vaccine. I was a guinea pig there as a medical student, paired up with a fellow student. We were both given nasal drops and he developed a frightful cold whereas I had no symptoms and could enjoy the free beer we were given every evening. Great vaccine optimism has appeared since I wrote this little article but time is needed to assess how justified this is. History teaches us that initial elation in a potential solution to a deep crisis can be exaggerated.

- The covid lockdown response around the world and how this compared with the response to plague. Many of the reactions during plague epidemics were irrational although of course it was not understood at the time. How many of our current responses are useless or worse? The constant change in recommendations suggests that we still have a lot to learn.

- In spite of yearly reminders about the Spanish flu and how we are overdue for a flu pandemic, uptake of the flu vaccine has usually been poor, even amongst healthcare workers. This year we are inundated and short of flu vaccine. Will the present pandemic be forgotten soon?

Much of my work nowadays is on Zoom or by email and it remains to be seen whether this will last. Most healthcare professionals a year ago never dreamed that so much could be done remotely by telemedicine, indeed, many were opposed to it. The Pandemic is comparable to a war and history shows how world war leads to rapid and irreversible changes in Society. Perhaps, therefore, we shall never return to our old ways of working.

Conflicts of interests? Working and medical history during the pandemic

BSHM on the Frontline: Conflicts of interests? Working and medical history during the pandemic

Bill Dibb
BSHM Book Review Editor
Consultant Clinical Microbiologist and Infection Control Doctor
Exploring the archives: public health and social policy in the 20th century

The National Archives is home to over 11 million historical government and public records. From Domesday Book to modern government papers and digital files, the collection also includes many records of interest to historians of medicine.

A new research guide on ‘public health and social policy in the 20th century’ has recently been published on The National Archives’ website, providing advice on the records they hold and how you can search for them.

They show the ways successive governments tried to tackle social and health problems, notably on the following topics:·

Changes to the health administration of government, including the inception of the Ministry of Health and the National Health Service
- Public assistance and health insurance
- Food, diet and nutrition
- Family planning and mother and child welfare
- Mental health
- Public health and epidemics
- Sterilisation and eugenics
- The pharmaceutical industry
- Doctor and nurse recruitment

To view the research guide [click here].

Dr Laura Robson-Mainwaring
Modern Health Records Specialist at The National Archives; and Social Media Editor, BSHM


The Ministry of Health, Department of Health and Social Security, and Department of Health Social Care records are wide-ranging and cover many aspects of the development of health policy in Britain.
Released in 1947 the Oscar-winning film *Black Narcissus*, based on the 1939 novel by Rumer Godden, depicted five nursing sisters who were sent to the Himalayas to convert an abandoned palace into a school and hospital[1]. The story has made a recent comeback in a new BBC1 three-part series of the same name, which has coincided with the publication of a thorough research on history of medicine on screen, complete with a four page list of films potentially to watch over Christmas[2].

One of the films listed is the 1951 drama *Life in Her Hands*, in which at least two of the nuns can be recognised. An almost hour long film it was co-authored by Monica Dickens (great-granddaughter of Charles Dickens), produced by the Crown Film Unit and sponsored by the Ministry of Labour as part of a national campaign to increase the recruitment of nurses following the Second World War. At that time there was a shortage of nurses which was intensified by the creation of the National Health Service. Although fiction, it was labelled a documentary and contained reconstructions of daily hospital life.

A sequence of vignettes shows everyday life of a nurse in a British hospital, strict grading of nursing roles, enduring shortages, cheeky male patients, and gender stereotypes. As was its aim, it also portrayed the benefits of nursing and endorsed the profession as an attractive career for women.

In the same year, Night Sister from *Life in Her Hands* also appears in *Surprise Attack*, a 10 minute film commissioned by the Ministry of Health, and was aimed at demonstrating the risks of ignoring official advice on vaccination. Anti-vaccination sentiment of the 19th century and early 20th century was probably one reason for making the film[3]. This issue still resonates today.

The actors included many familiar faces; John Le Mesurier as the GP, Moultrie Kelsall as the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) and Jean Anderson as the Matron.

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Deborah Kerr as Sister Clodagh, Kathleen Byron as Sister Ruth and Jenny Laird as Sister Honey (left to right)

John Le Mesurier as the GP (top left), Jean Anderson as Matron (top right) and Moultrie Kelsall as the Medical Officer of Health (bottom right)

Jean Anderson as Night Sister, Kathleen Byron as Sister Peters and Jenny Laird as Matron (left to right)

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Anjna Harrar
Honorary Secretary BSHM
At the end of the Nineteenth Century, surgeons with an interest in urology were keen to share ideas and Urology Associations began to appear around the world. In 1913, the London surgeon, Edwin Hurry Fenwick (1856-1944), an early mover in the International Association of Urology, suggested a urology section within the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM). He approached the president, Sir Francis Champneys (1848-1930). Champneys had some sympathy, but proposed a sub-section of the large surgery section. Fenwick wrote back to gently suggest that urology was no mere 'sub-section' [1]. Nevertheless, Sir Francis proposed a conference to discuss the idea [2]. However, lack of momentum and the intervention of the First World War put an end to the formation of any urology section or sub-section [3].

After the Great War, the call came again, not from Fenwick now, but from John Thompson Walker (1871-1937) of St Peter’s Hospital. Walter Spence, president elect of the RSM surgical section, looked once again at urology and in 1919, formed a sub-committee to look into it. By 1920, urology was given the status of a full section of the RSM.

Their first meeting was on 17th March 1920 and the first president was Sir Peter Freyer (1851-1921), the colourful Irish surgeon also from St Peter’s. In his presidential address, Freyer said the section would create a “healthy and friendly rivalry” between urologists allowing them to co-ordinate their work leading to a “favourable influence in continuing the progress of [urology in] recent years” [4]. He was right; the RSM urology section became the focus of British urological practice and, along with BAUS, (British Association of Urological Surgeons) remains so today.

Sir Peter Freyer

Roger Kirby
Professor of Urology,
President, Royal Society of Medicine 2020 - 2022

Jonathan Charles Goddard
Consultant Urological Surgeon
Member History of Medicine Society, RSM

1. Fenwick EH. Letter to Sir Francis Champney, dated 29th May: Library of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1913.
The Middlesex Hospital, London, which was established in 1745 in Windmill Street moved in 1757 to a new building in Goodge Street, where it remained until it closed in 2005. Orthopaedic Surgery developed as a specialty in its own right after the advances in the management of fractures and acute injuries which were made during the First World War.

The Orthopaedic Department of The Middlesex Hospital opened in 1920 with 30 beds. Arthur Blundell Bankart (1879-1951) was appointed its first consultant. Bankart defined the pathology and surgical management of recurrent dislocation of the shoulder in 1923. Philip Wiles (1899-1967) was appointed Assistant Surgeon to Bankart in 1935 and described the first total hip replacement, which he performed in 1938.

Philip Newman (1912-1994) who was appointed in 1946, treated Winston Churchill’s (1874-1965) fracture of the hip in 1962. Rodney Sweetnam (1927-2013), who was appointed in 1960, became President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and was knighted. Justin Cobb; now professor Orthopaedic Surgery at Imperial College London and is Orthopaedic Surgeon to Her Majesty the Queen, was appointed in 1991 and is now Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Imperial College London.

Fares Haddad became Professor of the combined departments at University College Hospital and is currently Editor of the Bone and Joint Journal.

Over a period of 85 years members of the Orthopaedic Department at the Middlesex Hospital were involved in senior roles in both national and international orthopaedic specialist associations, the presidencies and vice presidencies of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of England and Edinburgh and the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery and its successor, the Bone and Joint Journal.

On 8 December 2021, an evening meeting of the History of Medicine Society at the RSM will be devoted to the history of the Orthopaedic Department of The Middlesex Hospital, with presentations describing the contributions made by Bankart, Wiles and Newman.

Sean Hughes
Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Imperial College
London, President Elect
History of Medicine Society, RSM
Richard Owen, the Lancaster Castle Surgeons and the Stolen Prisoner’s Head

It was at the one day BSHM symposium at the Wellcome in 2018 that I saw a flyer for the DHMSA course.

I had moved to a part-time clinical job plan in July 2019 and started the one year DHMSA course soon afterwards in September. The course runs on Saturdays, once or twice a month starting at 10 a.m., which meant travelling down by train on Fridays and staying overnight with friends. It was quite nostalgic for me: returning to study in my old stomping ground in London and I really enjoyed the course. At this stage, I hadn’t even thought about whether to take the Diploma exam. but I had decided to submit a paper to the SSHM symposium at Edinburgh in June 2020. As the examination was initially scheduled for the same month, I had decided to postpone taking the exam. until 2021. Then everything changed in March 2020. The pandemic arrived, the DHMSA course moved online via Zoom, and the Edinburgh symposium was postponed (now an online symposium in 2021). The DHMSA exam. also changed: the written exam. was moved to September and changed to a single online paper, and the deadline for submission of Dissertation proposals was moved back a few weeks.

With ‘Lockdown’, I was fairly confident I would be ready for the written examination. in September but, now that the archives had all closed, could I produce a good dissertation? Fortunately I had already done most of the research for my submission to the Edinburgh symposium, including a visit to the London Metropolitan Archive where the Hunterian museum archives are temporarily housed, so I decided to use that subject for my dissertation: Richard Owen, the Lancaster Castle Surgeons and the Stolen Prisoner’s Head[1].

Owen was a complex character and, like Lister, had not written an autobiography but had made efforts to protect his posthumous reputation by entrusting control of his official biography to a close relative. Fortunately, I had great help from retired librarian Gill Fitzpatrick, whose online researching skills unearthed vital information. Writing the dissertation was certainly challenging and during a very bad year it was wonderful news to gain the Diploma and be awarded the Maccabaeian prize for best Dissertation.

Thanks to the Maccabaeian society for supporting the DHMSA prize and Dr Hilary Morris for encouraging me to submit this year.

Bryan Rhodes
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon,
Lancaster

[1] Dissertation : Richard Owen, the Lancaster Castle Surgeons and the Stolen Prisoner’s Head
Unpublished dissertation c. Worshipful Society of Apothecaries / Rhodes B.
As we approach the 900th anniversary of Barts in 2023 it is appropriate to recall who and what led up to such an important milestone in this country’s medical history. In the 12th Century, Britain being on the periphery of Europe - the ultima thule - of the Roman Empire, still lagged behind in both art and medicine. The generally accepted account of the specific catalyst leading to the foundation of the hospital centres around Rahere, an Anglo-Norman monk. Rahere fell ill while on a pilgrimage to Rome and had a vision of St Bartholomew, following which he vowed to found a hospital on his safe return to London. At this time the influence of Islam had already reached Rome and brought with it a compilation not only of classical Graeco-Roman medicine but also that from the Far East, India, Persia and Egypt, all of which were distilled and unified during the Arab conquest of Spain, and was introduced into Northern Europe into cities such as Toledo by scholars translating manuscripts combining the different cultures.

All scholastic activities, learning and libraries were at that time vested in the Church - and Constantinople was no exception. As the Eastern Capital of the Roman Empire, it had been founded in 330 AD as a Christian city by the Emperor Constantine following his conversion. Interestingly in 1998 a statue of him was erected in the City of York to commemorate his declaration as Emperor in AD 306. Coincidentally it was in that year that his father, Constantius Chlorus, died in York.

In 341 the Patriarch of Constantinople, Nestorius, was declared a heretic at the Council of Ephesus as a result of a somewhat semantic argument about the Trinity. Subsequently his followers and scholars fled to the East from Constantinople taking with them their manuscripts. Centres of medical learning were established in the Sassanid Empire which later became known as Persia. It was here that links were forged with scholars in cities such as Baghdad and the manuscripts were translated into Arabic. An amalgam of medical practice developed fusing the local knowledge with that from The East as well as Greece and Rome. After the Arab conquest of North Africa and the invasion of the Iberian peninsula in AD 711, this diverse medical heritage was introduced into Europe and one of those who helped bring it to Britain was Rahere, when he founded St Bartholomew's Hospital London.

Rahere's Tomb St Bartholomew the Great
Remembering When Dentists Gave Anaesthetics

From interviews for the British Dental Association Oral History Archive.

From 1846 until 2000 dentists regularly gave general anaesthetics.

Russell Hopkins (1932 - 2020) was a dental student in Newcastle in the 1950s:

You had to do twenty or more anaesthetics to be signed up. And part of your exam always included problems related to general anaesthesia. We were trained in the early days on gas, and nitrous oxide, oxygen and Trilene, and we induced patients to a degree of cyanosis. It was hairy stuff but we were much better trained than most medical practitioners, who at that time were the anaesthetists for general dental practitioners.

The first job I’d got after qualification was a temporary job in a dental practice in West Hartlepool. Every morning I gave up to about eight to ten general anaesthetics whilst they whipped out the teeth.

Later, in 1958, Russell became the dental Senior House Officer in Nottingham.

I actually became the anaesthetist for casualty. I used to give them two anaesthetic lists a week to do breast abscesses and Colles fractures and this and that. I gave them gas, oxygen and Trilene. They could never get anaesthetists so it became my anaesthetic list, unofficial, everything was unofficial. No one gave approval for this; it was just done.

Paul Bramley (1923 - 2020) had been a dental student in Birmingham during the war and gave anaesthetics in the casualty department. On qualification he became dental house surgeon.

As the dental house surgeon I used to give anaesthetics for the ENT list in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Why I was doing it and the department of anaesthetics not doing it, I really don’t know. It all happened like this; it was very casual.

By the 1970s the idea of dentists giving anaesthetics became an affront to the anaesthetic community. Paul Bramley became Professor of Oral Surgery at the Sheffield Dental School.

The General Dental Council specified what you had to do about dentists giving general anaesthetics and what practical work they had to do. The professor of anaesthetics had a very different view and I had an absolute stand up row in which he became livid and lost his temper, it got to that pitch. I think he had done his stuff at Guy’s and scared himself with dental anaesthetics and really wanted a tube down for every one of them, which is ridiculous.

Andrew Sadler
Hon. Sec. History of Medicine Society, RSM
Member Lindsay Society for the History of Dentistry

Images courtesy of Russell Hopkins and Professor Sir Paul Bramley
As with other trades, from the 1850s many people practising dentistry wanted to become ‘respectable’. That led to the first qualification, a voluntary register of practitioners following the first Dentists Act and finally a new one to make dentistry a closed profession. The centenary of that final action comes in 2021.

In the 1850s dentistry was practised by a variety of people, some more respectable and caring than others. Some people’s teeth were pulled out at markets: no anaesthetics, only drums and bugles to drown their screams. There were people who did dentistry part-time alongside their normal jobs of surgery, watchmaker, barber or blacksmith.

Against the wishes of non-medical practitioners some surgeons practising dentistry agitated for the Royal College of Surgeons of England to introduce a dental qualification. That became possible after passage of the 1858 Medical Act. In 1860 the first people gained a Licence in Dental Surgery from the College. Some agitated for a Dentists Register, emulating the doctors, to stop un-licenced dentistry. Partial success came in 1878 when a Dentists Act enabled the establishment of a voluntary Dentists Register. It also allowed the Edinburgh, Glasgow and Irish colleges to institute an LDS.

The first Register published in 1879 shows 483 LDS men and 4,808 people who had declared themselves to be in bona fide practice. Two had a Harvard dental degree. Unfortunately the Act did not prevent un-licenced practice. It simply stopped people using the titles ‘dentist’ or ‘dental practitioner’ or name or description implying he was registered or qualified to practise dentistry. Once this was realised there were many protests and some lawsuits. Following reports of terrible treatment and deaths a new Dentists Act was passed in 1921 to forbid un-registered practice.

In 1879 there were 5,289 Registrants (of whom 126 practised outside the UK). It rose to 5,610 in 1921 and 13,818 in 1925, by which time the 1921 Act had taken full effect. In that last year still only 5,447 practitioners had a British LDS or Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree; 59 a Colonial qualification and 32 from elsewhere. The vast majority still had no qualification, registered after providing evidence that they had been in practice before the appointed day.

Stanley Gelbier
Professor and Head of the Unit for the History of Dentistry, KCL
Member Lindsay Society for the History of Dentistry
We re-started our lecture programme with our prestigious George Blair Memorial Lecture on 30 October, delivered by Richard Villar, previously Regimental Medical Officer to 22 SAS, and now a renowned consultant orthopaedic surgeon. We were determined not to cancel this, so it became our first virtual lecture, attracting a record number of participants. The title of Richard’s far-ranging talk was “Winged Scalpel - a Surgeon at the Frontline of Disaster”. It described his early days with the SAS and his time as the surgical lead for the UK disaster response (to earthquakes and conflict in Kashmir, Haiti, Java, Philippines and Libya). He also covered his ongoing commitments to the international Committee of the Red Cross in Lebanon and Gaza. The talk was inspirational, entertaining and informative – a great combination. Our second virtual talk was on 27 November, by Brigadier (ret’d) Alistair Macmillan, on ‘A history of the AMS TA and its pre and post guises’, attracting an even larger audience. Alistair described himself as a ‘jobbing military medical historian’, a modest appellation indeed for someone with an unrivalled knowledge of the history of the Army Medical Services.

His erudite presentation did justice to the subject, for the commitment to their country of the Territorial Army (now Army Reserves) Medical Services is unsurpassed. His lecture is now on our website. Our pre-Christmas virtual talk is by Jessica Meyer on Friday 18 December, speaking fittingly, in this year of adaptation to adversity, on ’It worked’: Innovation and Improvisation in the Work of the Royal Army Medical Corps in the First World War.

Registration is via our homepage, you are all warmly invited. Lastly, to whet your appetite for 2021, our virtual talk on Friday 29 January will be by Mick Crumplin, whose passion is the aftermath of battle and the human cost of war, speaking on: ‘Losing Sight of the Glory – six centuries of combat surgery’. I look forward to welcoming you, and wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthy new year.
The Hunterian Society Prize is awarded annually for the best essay of up to 2000 words that connects contemporary medical or veterinary practice and knowledge to 18th and 19th century medicine/comparative anatomy/evolutionary biology in Britain, with particular relevance to the work and legacy of John Hunter.

Applicants who are shortlisted are required to present their essays at a meeting of the Society; the winner of the Award receives £500 and free Fellowship of the Hunterian Society for five years.

Three short-listed candidates presented their essays to members of the Hunterian Society at a virtual Zoom meeting on Monday 19th November. Tamari Rose Nyakunengwa was awarded the prize for her insightful essay and presentation entitled *John Hunter’s unsung contribution to obstetric medicine and its role in the diagnosis and management of fetomaternal haemorrhage*. The judges were also impressed by the overall high standard of the two other short-listed presentations, and awarded runners’ up prizes of £300 to Ho Cheung Anthony Yip and SenTan for a *Review of John Hunter’s work regarding cardiovascular events* about Hunter’s work on the management of popliteal artery aneurysm and angina pectoris, with a comment on the concept of psychoneuroendocrineimmunology, and to Paul Williams for his comparison between the 18th and 21st centuries entitled *Hunterian ideals in the time of COVID 19*, emphasising that research should inform best clinical practice.

Emeritus Professor Susan Standring
President, Hunterian Society

I am currently a third year medical student at St. George’s University of London and this year’s Hunterian Society Prizewinner. The conceptualisation for my essay stemmed from my evolving passion for obstetrics and gynaecology and, in a broader sense, women’s health. My initial and ever-present impetus for studying medicine was gaining the invaluable opportunity to contribute to the provision of equitable healthcare, as well as to analyse the healthcare disparities often experienced by those from developing countries and under-served communities; overcoming the prevalent disparities within maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality is a cause that is very close to my heart.

Winning the Hunterian Prize was an incredible honour, because in bringing John Hunter’s 18th century anatomical observations into a modern, obstetric context, I hoped to highlight the true importance of cross-specialty collaboration and retrospective accreditation in innovating our approaches to healthcare challenges for posterity.

Tamari Rose Nyakunengwa
Hunterian Society Prizewinner 2020
More Notices and Events

Thank you to Chris Derrett for continuing his work on the BSHM COVID-19 page.

Affiliated societies can advertise their meetings on our future events page and may contribute to the newsletter by contacting the President or Hon. Secretary with their suggestions

secretary@bshm.org.uk

"We are always looking for new contributors on history of medicine topics from our members. If you have an idea for a contribution, or would like advice on writing a blog, you can contact me at blogeditor@bshm.org.uk"

Flora Malein
BSHM Blog-Editor
This symposium on anatomy teaching was originally due to be held in Edinburgh but in view of ongoing COVID restrictions and the uncertainty over larger organised events, the symposium will now be held as a virtual event. This online symposium will run over 2 days on the Microsoft Teams platform.

Each of the days will consist of two 2 hour sessions and will feature presentations from eminent invited speakers as well as free paper submissions covering a broad range of topics in the history of anatomy teaching.

The symposium is held in association with the BSHM, the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries and the History of Medicine Society of the Royal Society of Medicine. The overall aim is to explore the development of anatomy teaching from the earliest times to the present day.

Presentations will cover the ways in which anatomical knowledge has been acquired, portrayed and taught, examining the evolution of techniques used in the teaching of anatomy through the ages and its relevance not only to surgery and medicine, but also to art and society in general.

Topics to be covered include:
- The rise and fall of comparative anatomy
- Cadaveric models
- Wax and paper models
- Anatomy textbooks
- The rise and fall of the private anatomy schools
- The role of anatomy museums
- Modern technologies
- Anatomy in art

Invited speakers and faculty include:
- Prof. Peter Abrahams, University of Warwick
- Prof. Vivian Nutton, University College London
- Prof. Stuart McDonald, University of Glasgow
- Dr Sam Alberti, National Museum of Scotland
- Dr Sara Sulaiman, University of Bristol
- Dr Mike Collins, President, BSHM
- Ms Cat Irving, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
- Prof. Tilli Tansey, History Society RSM
- Prof. Stephen Challacombe, Kings College London
- Prof. Corinna Wagner, University of Exeter
- Prof. Raffaele De Caro, University of Padova, Italy
- Prof. James Garden, University of Edinburgh
- Dr Hilary Morris, The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London
- Prof. David Sinclair, St Andrews University

This promises to be an outstanding interactive event with participants having the opportunity to ask questions. We hope you will join us for our first virtual event.

Andreas Demetriades
Iain Macintyre
Generously supported by the SSHM Guthrie Trust and the BSHM

For more details and to register
Arthur Schuller’s research and books (1905 and 1912) were foundational in neuroradiology. Fleeing Vienna in 1939 he spent three months in Oxford, then emigrated to Australia. This documentary entitled *Xrays to Exile* describes his medical career and his family life, scarred by the Nazi murder of his two sons and granddaughter.

### Book Reviews

The BSHM Book Reviews include regular reviews of recent history of medicine books.

They have proved to run in line with current concerns and events and include topics pertaining to infectious disease, vaccination, the pharmaceutical industry and more.

The BSHM are grateful and thank all the book reviewers for their efforts.

### John Blair Trust

The Trustees invite applications from undergraduates in medicine and allied sciences throughout the UK, for grants-in-aid, up to £150, to enable them to pursue their studies in the history of medicine. ([Click here](#))
The Royal Society of Medicine

History of Medicine Society

Wed 17 Feb 2021 from 6:00pm to 7:35pm

Professor Tilli Tansey introduces Christopher Mathias, Emeritus Professor of Neurovascular Medicine, Queen Square Institute of Neurology, University College London (The autonomic nervous system and the creation of a medical specialty) and Mark Weatherall, Consultant Neurologist, Stoke Mandeville Hospital (Migraine: From bedside to bench, and back again).

This webinar will provide new insights into the recent creation of a clinical neurological specialty and the development of new treatment options for migraine.

Norah Schuster Prize

The Norah Schuster prize in honour of the first female president of the Association of Clinical Pathologists (1950).

Open to pre-clinical, clinical medical and dental students. See guidance.

Submission deadline Wednesday 20 January 2021
Society of Apothecaries

While the Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy is currently operating a fully online programme, we have a wide variety of events over the next few months.

Highlights include ‘Creative Writing for Medical Ethics’, and a one-day symposium on ‘Barks, Berries and Bitter Pills’ which we hope to hold in-person in May. Our next evening lecturer will be talking on Leonardo Da Vinci.

You might also be interested to watch a film - “New Normal’ – that the Faculty produced for History Day with the Institute of Historical Research, within its theme for 2020 of ‘New Worlds’.

Ideas for seasonal presents? Gift yourself or a loved one Faculty or Fellows’ Membership. Become a Patron of the Faculty to celebrate our Diamond Anniversary year. The monies from this fund will allow us to explore new projects and exciting collaborations, and we welcome ideas and thoughts from Patrons.

To say thank you, the Faculty will send a personal letter from the President and a special pin to commemorate the year. Find out more by clicking here.

Maria Ferran
Faculty Manager & Webmaster

The BSHP events programme covers a wide range of pharmacy history topics. We hold 3 evening meetings each year, and annual conference, a summer visit, and a joint meeting with a School of Pharmacy.

Monday 11th January at 6:30 pm ‘What is the future for pharmacy history?’ panel discussion Chaired by Mark Nesbitt (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew), Anna Greenwood (University of Nottingham), Briony Hudson (independent curator and pharmacy historian), Selina Hurley (Science Museum), and Yewande Okuleye (University of Leicester) will explore what the future of pharmacy history might look like.

Monday 22nd February at 6:30 pm Dr Freya Harrison (Warwick University), ‘Unlocking the Medieval Medicine Cabinet’. We are pleased to be hosting a joint event, the Sydenham Lecture, with the Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Society of Apothecaries.

Friday 26th to Sunday 28th March, Annual Conference Join us for a series of online short talks, discussions and social activities over our conference weekend. Full programme to be announced.

Joining instructions and further details will be announced via our website and our Facebook and Twitter accounts (@PharmHist). To register your interest for these events, email honsec@bshp.org

Briony Hudson
Conference Organiser/Social Media Officer, BSHP
The 2021 Congress will take place in Sheffield, renowned for over 600 years for its silverware and cutlery industry and for steel-making that featured at the heart of the city’s heavy industry particularly during the industrial revolution and into the 19th and 20th century.

This prestigious biennial event will provide a forum to explore the history of healthcare in the workplace and the related social and cultural impact on people’s lives. Other key themes of the Congress will include the contribution of medical engineering, pandemics and historical perspectives in nursing.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to Sheffield and to the Congress in 2021.

Abstract submissions on the key themes and general topics will be welcome. Submission dates to be announced on the BSHM website in January 2021.