



News Update Latest Group Activities

POSTSCRIPT to the Autumn Conference of the Lindsay Society for the History of Dentistry. James Beaton's paper on the Treasures of the College has now been published in the Dental Historian issue of December 1998. The contribution by Dr Robin Orchardson, Robert Burns: Toothache and Other Pains also appeared in time for the season of Burns suppers. However it would appear that few if any Burnsians have dipped into this rich source of material. It is expected that the papers delivered by Professor David McGowan and Sir David Mason will be published in the next issue.

A final note on the Autumn Conference is sounded by a complimentary article in the Dental Historian by Professor Stanley Gelbier, treasurer of the Lindsay Society. Commenting on the "recent excellent meeting," he goes on to enumerate the aims and objects of the Group along with a brief history of its origins and continues:

"It is clear that this small group is producing an output of dental historical material out of proportion to the number of people concerned. It would be interesting to know if there are any other similar groups working elsewhere in the UK, Europe or indeed anywhere else in the world."

Reminiscences and biographical sketches of retired and deceased dentists continue to prove a popular feature and this issue includes correspondence from Alex MacGregor OBE, a prominent and highly respected member of the dental profession who died in 1963 in his 89th year. The material is taken from a letter sent by MacGregor to T Brown Henderson for his History of the Dental Hospital and School 1879-1979.

Alex MacGregor qualified in 1904 and spent all of his working life in his Shields Road practice on the south side of Glasgow. He was largely responsible for organising the Dental Benefit Scheme after the 1914-18 war for which he received the O.B.E. He chaired the committee which brought about the amalgamation of the Incorporated Dental Society, the Public Dentists Service Association and the British Dental Association in 1949. For many years he was chairman of the Board of Management of Glasgow Dental Hospital and School and Vice President of the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland. Apart from his dento-political activities he was keenly interested in music and bridge. His hitherto unpublished letter reveals an absorbing account of the early days of the Dental Hospital and the students of the 1890s and thanks are due to Bob McKechnie for unearthing this correspondence.

Observant readers may have noticed that this issue carries the letters ISSN on the front cover. The International Standard Serial Number has been assigned by the British Library following an application on behalf of the Group. The ISSN is an internationally accepted code which identifies serial publications. It is used as control numbers for serial titles in automated systems; e.g. for identifying titles, ordering, checking in and claiming by libraries and subscription agents. An increasingly important use of the ISSN is as a component of bar codes for magazines now required by most distributors and retailers. The ISSN acts as a title identifier and as with other publications available to the public a copy is required to be sent to the Legal Deposit Office at the British Library. As a result the first three copies of the Newsletter have been deposited with the British Library.

The 400th anniversary of the founding of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow is being celebrated this year commencing in October. An exhibition will be held in the Hunterian Museum illustrating four centuries of Medicine and Dentistry. The dental contribution is being put together by a HDRG team headed by Professor Moos assisted by Professor McGowan, Drs Noble and Ross. Dr I Chestnutt, Senior Lecturer in Dental Public Health, Lanarkshire Health Board is also providing material. The Royal College will also be holding its own anniversary commemorations and it is hoped that dental exhibits will also be on show.

The current issue of the Newsletter is now being displayed on the shelves of the Dental Branch library. Earlier copies may be obtained on application to either Dr H Noble or Dr R M Ross or at the library reception.

The Newsletter relies mainly on the researches carried out by Group members but contributions from dental practitioners and Hospital staff would be welcomed. Particularly valuable are practice accounts, old photographs, records or other documents associated with the history of dentistry in general and Glasgow and the West of Scotland in particular. Contact Dr H Noble or Dr R M Ross at the Dental Hospital.
