

News, Notes, and Queries

CHANGES FOR *MEDICAL HISTORY*

From January 1988, the Assistant Editor of *Medical History* will be Dr Christine Stevenson. A historian of art by original training, Christine Stevenson received her PhD from the Courtauld Institute of the University of London with a thesis on Danish prison and asylum architecture in the Neoclassical period. She will combine her duties with those as Publications Officer of the Wellcome Institute. The Editors look forward to a long and pleasant association with her, and feel sure that readers and contributors will come to value her efficiency and enthusiasm.

The Editorial Board, too, undergoes some changes from this issue. The Editors are grateful for the help that the retiring members—Prof. Theodore Brown, Prof. C. G. Roland, and Dr Charles Webster—have given them; and welcome Mr David Hamilton, Dr John Pickstone, and Prof. John Harley Warner to the Board.

MRS JEAN RUNCIMAN

Alert readers of *Medical History* will already have noticed one significant change in the journal's editorial team, the retirement of Jean Runciman from the post of Assistant Editor. Although her name did not appear on the cover until 1974, she had been acting in that capacity since 1966, and, as secretary to Noël Poynter since 1958, her involvement with the journal goes back still earlier. She has seen *Medical History* grow in both size and reputation, not least because of her own high standards.

As Assistant Editor, she has been responsible for the detailed administration and production of the journal, from writing letters to publishers, communicating with contributors, and copy-editing, to making up the pages in proof and preparing the index. In all this, she has shown a meticulous passion for accuracy and good style, allied with a tactful firmness. All those involved with *Medical History*, whether authors, printers, or readers, have had good cause for gratitude for Jean's advice and expertise. Not least, of course, a succession of Editors, whose workload has been immeasurably lightened by the security of the trust they could place in her, and by her gentle reminders of what they were still required to do. The Tuesday editorial meetings will not be the same without her cheerful laughter at the follies of the world, which belied the high seriousness with which she performed her many editorial tasks. It is a measure of her commitment, and her ability to secure the very best out of her colleagues, that in all her years as Assistant Editor there was no issue of the journal that did not arrive in the Institute in the month in which it was scheduled to appear. This, despite printers' strikes, the hiccups of technological innovation, postal and transport delays, and changes of printer.

Even when, in summer 1987, she was rushed to hospital for emergency surgery and spent several weeks recuperating at home, she continued to carry out any necessary editing in order to ensure the journal's smooth production.

She is leaving early to spend more time with her husband, her dogs, her garden, and her Château Runciman. We wish her and David a long and happy retirement, and we are only too conscious that, as Editors, our most appropriate way of showing our thanks for her devoted service to *Medical History* will be to maintain the same high standards of quality that she has taught us.

THE HUMAN EMBRYO: ARISTOTLE, THE ARABIC AND EUROPEAN TRADITIONS

University of Exeter, 25-27 March 1988

Recalling the debt to Constantinus Africanus (*ob.* 1087) and Gerard of Cremona (*ob.* 1187) among the translators of the Arabic philosopher-physicians into Latin, members of the Faculty of Arts at Exeter have convened an international colloquium under the above title to study one element in the tradition. Papers will be read on the human embryo in Greek medicine and philosophy, Arabic and Scholastic learning, Maimonides and Dante, and through the Renaissance and nineteenth-century changes of understanding to research with the human embryo today. Particulars from Professor G. R. Dunstan, Queen's Building, University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4QH.

THE LINDSAY CLUB

To celebrate its Silver Jubilee, the Lindsay Club, Britain's society for the history of dentistry, is holding a weekend conference on 4-6 March 1988, at the Viking Hotel, York. For further information please contact Miss M. A. Clennett, Hon. Secretary, Lindsay Club, British Dental Association Headquarters, 64 Wimpole Street, London WC1M 8AL.

THE PYBUS CLUB

Two meetings of the Pybus Club will be held at 5.30 in Room 1.6, Department of Classics, Percy Building, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Visitors will be very welcome.

Thursday, 25 February 1988—'Chaucer's alchemists: the elixir, the stone, and legerdemain', by Alex Campbell (Department of Inorganic Chemistry, University of Newcastle upon Tyne).

Thursday, 19 May 1988—'The autobiography of a madman: early-nineteenth-century Bedlam', by Roy Porter (Wellcome Institute, London).

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

The graduate programme in the Department of the History of Health Sciences has now been expanded. It covers fields in the history of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and dentistry, and awards both MA and PhD degrees. A joint MD/PhD programme for students interested in combining a medical and historical career is also available. The Department and Graduate Division at UCSF offer a series of pre-doctoral fellowships. All departmental offerings can be supplemented with courses at UC Berkeley and Stanford University. Close relationships have been established with the History Department at Berkeley, especially the Office for the History of Science and Technology. The Faculty consists of Guenter B. Risse, MD (modern European

medicine; disease and society) and Jack D. Pressman, PhD (twentieth-century American medicine, neurology, and psychiatry), supported by twelve experts on the related disciplines.

The deadline for applications for the academic year 1988/89 is 15 February 1988 (UCSF, Department of the History of Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Box 0726, San Francisco, California 94143, USA).

WELLCOME INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

The following exhibitions will be open to the public at 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP. The Wellcome Institute is open from 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday to Friday, excepting Bank Holidays. Illustrated catalogues will be available.

11 January to 19 February 1988 — *A Mirror for Medicine: Some Resources of the Wellcome Institute Library*

7 March to 8 April 1988 — *Photography and Medicine*

18 April to 20 May 1988 — *Taking the Waters*

6 June to 2 September 1988 — *The National Health Service*

19 September to 2 December 1988 — *Women in Medicine*

12 December 1988 to 17 March 1989 — *Teaching Physiology*