

## News, Notes and Queries

---

### A FEMALE FOETUS, DRAWN FROM NATURE BY MR. BLAKEY FOR WILLIAM HUNTER

THIS self-explanatory manuscript (Fig. 1) is reproduced from one in a collection, known as the Blackburn Cabinet (after the donor of a chest in which the manuscripts formerly were housed), in the Hunterian Library, University of Glasgow. This collection, which consists largely of manuscripts of James Douglas, Hunter's friend and teacher, is at present being investigated, and a catalogue is in preparation. Beside the Douglas documents it contains many Hunteriana, of which this is the earliest.

In 1749, William Hunter was lodging with Douglas's widow, Martha, at her house in Hatton Garden, to which she had removed after her husband's death in 1742. William had been joined by John in 1748, and together they stayed with Mrs. Douglas till Michaelmas 1749, when he opened the lecture theatre in Covent Garden, close to the house of his old master, James Douglas.

The manuscript and drawings are here published for the first time; the neat crayon and chalk drawings (8 inches long in the original) are accompanied by Hunter's text, a model of elegant and accurate clinical writing, in his own hand.

Little is known of Mr. Blakey. He is presumably that Nicholas Blakey whom Benezit (*Dictionnaire des Peintres*, 1948) notes as an Irishman who worked chiefly in Paris, where he died in 1758. He is mentioned in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, but it is not recorded that he worked on anatomical subjects even though one of his drawings was published in a famous book (*vide* Fig. xxii in William Hunter's *Anatomy of the Gravid Uterus*, 1774). No other Blakey drawings have been found in the Douglas Collection.

---

I am deeply indebted to R. O. McKenna, Esq., M.A., Hunterian Librarian of the University of Glasgow, for much help, and to the University Court for permission to publish this manuscript.

*Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading*

K. BRYN THOMAS

### MEDICINE AND MANASSEH BEN ISRAEL

JUST over 300 years have passed since the readmission of the Jews into England was 'negotiated' through Cromwell—the Lord Protector. The petition on their behalf was presented to him by Rabbi Manasseh ben Israel, or as some spelt it, Menasseh ben Israel.

He was born Manoel Dias Soeiro, in 1604, of Marrano (Spanish-Jewish) parentage. Some say his birthplace was Madeira, others Lisbon. As was the custom with many Jewish well-to-do families of the period, he was trained for the Rabbinate, and took the name of Manasseh ben Israel. The close relationship between religion and medicine among the Jews have led some historians, notably Henry Milman (1863) to regard him as a physician as well as a Rabbi. Doubtless his acquaintance with the