

and lent by families in which they have been heirlooms for generations, are being translated by scholars of Arabic and Sanskrit, a labour which may yet prove valuable.

In Delhi, not far from the All-India Institute, there has already been laid the foundation stone of an Institute of the History of Medicine which, it is claimed, will be the largest in the world. This ambitious project has the support of the Government of India, the World Health Organization and many professional bodies. It will include, besides offices and classrooms, a museum, a library, a botanic garden and a hospital with full clinical facilities. The aim of the Institute, as stated by the founders, will be 'to study and promote knowledge of the history of medicine, to undertake scientific appraisal of the various systems of medicine in India, and to attempt a solution of the intricate problems of the indigenous systems of medicine and the evolution of humane medicine'. It will be noted that the re-discovery of forgotten drugs of vegetable origin is only a part of the scheme. Such a plan surely deserves widespread support from all quarters.

Those who have taken the trouble to investigate the Indian Medicine of the present day are convinced that it must remain 'The Art', as Hippocrates called Greek Medicine, however scientific it may become under the influence of modern trends. Certainly nothing but the best in Medicine will satisfy India's aspirations.

A noteworthy sign of recent progress has been the action of the University of Edinburgh, which is about to co-operate by sending a team of experts to pursue teaching and research at the Medical School of Baroda, and thus to strengthen the efforts of their Indian colleagues.

If wisely guided, Ayurvedic Medicine, despite its shortcomings, may also have some contribution to make to the new Indian Medicine of tomorrow.

DOUGLAS GUTHRIE

HUGHLINGS JACKSON MEMORIAL PLAQUE

On the occasion of the recent meeting of the Association of British Neurologists at Harrogate, a visit was paid to Providence Green in the village of Green Hammerton, Yorkshire, where Dr. Macdonald Critchley, President of the Association, unveiled a plaque commemorating John Hughlings Jackson, the Father of British Neurology, who was born there on 4 April 1835.

Members of the Association then proceeded to York where an address of welcome was delivered by Dr. Harold Royle, President of the York Medical Society. He traced Jackson's interest in neurology to the time of his apprenticeship, from 1851 to 1855, to Dr. William Charles Anderson of York, a founder member of their Medical Society and lecturer in surgery and midwifery at the York School of Medicine (1834-1859) in whose house, now the headquarters of the Society, they were meeting. Thomas Laycock at this time taught on nervous diseases at York Medical School and Jackson had the inspiration provided by his lectures. Doubtless he was also influenced by the great interest in mental diseases at York in the first half of the 19th century which stemmed from that centre of humane and progressive care of the mentally ill, the Quaker Retreat. It was at this time too, that Jackson and Jonathan Hutchinson, also a surgeon's apprentice in the city, started their lifelong friendship.

In reply, Dr. Macdonald Critchley summarized Hughlings Jackson's contribution to neurology, and told of how he stressed the importance of minute painstaking clinical observation and the exact chronicling of clinical data which, when distilled by that master mind of reflective and yet visionary cast, became the foundation of what is neurology today.