

News, Notes and Queries

WELLCOME INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

On 1 October 1983, Professor Sir William Paton, FRS, became Honorary Director of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine. He succeeded Dr P. O. Williams, FRCP, who will continue to serve as Director of the Wellcome Trust.

Sir William Paton has been Professor of Pharmacology in the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Balliol College since 1959. He is internationally known for his pharmacological researches, including work on histamines, anti-hypertensive drugs, and the pharmacology of drug-dependence. He has also had a long-standing interest in the history of science and medicine, and has published on a number of topics, including the history of therapeutics and of animal research. Since 1971, he has been co-editor of the Royal Society's historical journal, *Notes and Records of the Royal Society of London*. A Wellcome Trustee since 1978, he has had particular responsibility for the Wellcome Trust's many activities in support of medical history. His ever-closer association with the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine augurs well for its continued growth and prosperity.

RECENT AWARDS IN MEDICAL HISTORY

Readers of this journal will be aware that the Wellcome Trustees have long made direct grants to historians of medicine; indeed, two of their earliest positive measures before the last war, were to support Charles Singer's studies on Vesalius and to finance Dr Richard Walzer's edition of Galen's *On medical experience*.

At their meeting in June 1983, the Trustees approved two new awards for Research Fellowships: (1) To *Mr J. S. Henderson*, at present a member of the European University Institute, Fiesole, Italy, for a study of The plague in Florence, 1520–30. He will be attached to the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine at Cambridge and also work with the Cambridge Group for the History of Population. Mr Henderson is a graduate of Westfield College. (2) To *Dr J. C. Henry*, who is associated with Hatfield Polytechnic and has published a number of articles on the history of science, for a study of the contributions of medical theorists to the development of the mechanical philosophy in seventeenth-century England. His Fellowship will be tenable at the Wellcome Institute.

In addition, four Research Fellowships were extended for short terms: *Dr F. M. Getz* (Wellcome Institute) will continue her studies of medieval English medicine, its practitioners, and their writings; *Dr L. S. Jacyna* (Wellcome Institute) will extend his present investigations on cell theory into Germany during the 1830s and 1840s, in order to enrich the comparative aspects of the book he has in preparation; *Dr I. S. L. Loudon* (Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine at Oxford) will carry on with his study of the dispensary movement in England (1770–1850) and complete a book on the history of general practice in this country; *Dr N. D. Morgan* (Wellcome Institute) means to employ the extension of his Fellowship in writing a book on the development of biochemistry in Britain, 1850–1912.

Further, Research Training Scholarships were awarded to four students to enable them to complete their PhD dissertations: *Miss M. Lyons* (School of Oriental and African Studies), "Disease, medicine, and social history in N. E. Congo (Zaire),

1885–1940”; *Mr C. R. Morgan* (Oxford University), “History and philosophy of the medical science of ancient India”; *Mr M. A. P. Shortland* (Leeds University), “Historical aspects of nineteenth-century biology and medicine with special reference to sexuality”; *Mrs K. A. Webb* (UMIST), “Medical practitioners in Manchester, 1750–1860”.

As in recent years, provision was made to support a small number of medical students for the London Intercalated BSc in history of medicine; this time a similar provision was made for the support of a small number of students taking an MPhil course in the history of medicine offered by the Wellcome Unit at Cambridge.

A grant in aid of research was made to Professor M. K. Sykes (Oxford University) for a proposed book on “The history of the Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics; its relationship to the development of anaesthesia, 1937–1978”. Professor Sykes will be attached to the Wellcome Unit at Oxford. Smaller grants of a similar nature were made to Dr R. S. Porter (Wellcome Institute) for assistance in gathering material of medical interest from the *Gentleman’s Magazine*; to Dr J. H. Cule (Welsh National School of Medicine), for the history of medicine in Wales; to Dr R. Murray, to aid the transcription of the diaries of Peter Holland, physician to Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, Cheshire; and to Dr M. R. Worboys (Sheffield City Polytechnic), studying the differentiation of the biomedical disciplines in Britain, 1870–1940.

Travel Grants to permit study in Britain were awarded to Dr R. Barkai (Tel-Aviv University) and Professor Lloyd Stevenson (Johns Hopkins University).

Finally, grants in direct aid of publication in the history of medicine were made to Professor J. O. Leibowitz (Jerusalem) for an edition and translation of the *Book of medical experiences* attributed to Abraham ibn Ezra, and to the Bibliographical Society in support of the scholarly edition of the 1583 Catalogue of the Library of Dr John Dee, prepared by Dr R. J. Roberts (Bodleian Library, Oxford).

These awards followed from recommendations made to the Trustees by the History Advisory Panel after reviewing grant applications, whose value, had they been all approved, would have far exceeded the sum allocated for grants in the history of medicine. The Panel normally meets for this purpose in May and November.

THE DALE PAPERS

The Royal Society and the Trustees of Sir Henry Wellcome announce that the scientific papers and correspondence of Sir Henry Hallett Dale (1875–1968) have now been prepared for preservation in the archives of the Royal Society, of which he was Secretary from 1925 to 1935, and President from 1940 to 1945. The papers are open for consultation with the permission of the Society’s Officers and a hand-list of them is available.

The papers concerning Sir Henry Dale’s Chairmanship of the Wellcome Trust (1938–1960) have been retained by the Trustees.

CONFERENCE ON PLINY THE ELDER

A conference on Pliny the Elder and his *Natural history* will be held at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London W1, on 7, 8, and 9 December 1983. Further details may be obtained from Dr Frank James, at the Royal Institution.