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The Society

R.H. Smith, Scriba

Abstract

Retrospect – The 229th Season

Syllabus – Spring Term

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THE SOCIETY

RETROSPECT — THE 220th SESSION

At the time of going to press it can be said that we have just witnessed an historic session of Society business; a fundamental change in the atmosphere and conduct of Private Business has accompanied a new attitude to membership and a keen interest in the running of the Society.

There can be little doubt that the change was primarily wrought by our move from the dilapidated grandeur of Melbourne Place to the homely simplicity and warmth of Hill Square; and there is no doubt that livelier interest in the Society was sparked off and kindled by a most extraordinary Senior President, the flames being fanned further by a doughty Treasurer and Secretary.

One cannot but be impressed by the new potentialities of Private Business in the seminar-like atmosphere of Hill Square. The first session's business was perhaps a little shaky and experimental, but the liveliness, even the heated excitement, of many evenings has given great confidence to those who doubted the Society's chances of survival after the move. The Society has entered its first truly exciting phase for some considerable time.

Public Business, far from suffering, has gained a great deal in variety by its frequent changes of surroundings. The Society is most grateful to the Royal College of Surgeons and to the Post Graduate Medical Board for their unflinching generosity in providing accommodation.

With a new home there have inevitably come changes in the financial structure of the Society. In particular, the heating of Hill Square is both our strength and our downfall, for while it makes the libraries, museum and coffee lounge most popular places to work and meet in, its cost makes an almost intolerable burden on an already shaky current account. The equalising of pre-clinical with clinical subscriptions was thought both appropriate and fair to most members, and together with the increase in life membership subscription represented the first real increase in income since subscriptions were last increased, over fifty

years ago. But although we were generously aided by the University Disbursement Fund we completed the session with more bills than could be met.

During the year we have been visited by a number of our senior members, and have been greatly impressed by the interest that they have taken in the new premises. A few of our private meetings have been attended by senior members of the profession, and we invite all life members and past presidents living around Edinburgh to come to both Public and Private Business, and to renew their active membership.

So we have completed our first year having doubled attendances at Private Business, and having created a Society with daily instead of weekly life. We look forward to the new session when we can build on this firm foundation.

R. H. SMITH, Scriba.

SYLLABUS — SPRING TERM

Fri. Jan. 13—ADDRESS: Professor Neville Butler, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.C.H. "Pre-natal Paediatrics." *In Surgeons Hall, Nicolson Street.*

Fri. Jan. 20—Dissertation: Miss Clair E. M. Guthrie. "The Sacred Disease."

Fri. Jan. 27—TALK: Dr. George Ashcroft, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.

Fri. Feb. 3—Dissertation: M. H. Kaufman, Esq. "Foetal Distress."

Fri. Feb. 10—Dissertation: Ronald J. Nixon, Esq. "The History of Medicine in Malta."

Fri. Feb. 17—ADDRESS: Dr. Macdonald Critchley, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. "Some aspects of the Life and Death of Oscar Wilde." *In Surgeons' Hall, Nicolson Street.*

Fri. Feb. 24—Dissertation: Miss Frances M. Marr. "Cruelty to Children and its Complications."

Fri. Mar. 3—Dissertation: John M. Garland, Esq. "A Plague on both your Houses."

Wed. Mar. 8—Annual Extraordinary General Meeting.

Fri. Mar. 10—President's Valedictory Address.