

News, Notes and Queries

The list of contents (see below) is written by an English hand, presumably at the Royal Dispensary in London, while hurried notes in Gothic script have been added, most probably by Dr. Erichsen himself. Many of the original contents are still present, and they include most of the things usually found in chests of this type. Some items, however, were probably specially selected by Dr. Erichsen, e.g., no. 5, 'Pulv. Antispasmodic: Hall', no. 13, 'Ung Haemorrhoidale pr: me', and no. 24, 'Ess. amara Hallensis'.

How did this royal medicine chest find its way to a small Norwegian museum? The written notes on the back of the list of contents are signed by Niles Scythe (1727–1811). He was Erichsen's assistant in the cultivation schemes in Denmark and, after Erichsen's death, the chest came into his possession. Scythe settled in southern Norway in 1770, and the chest must have passed, directly or indirectly, from him to the prosperous Arendal family of Dedekam, for when in 1832 the Museum in Arendal was established, as the second of its kind in Norway, Mr. Morten Dedekam presented the chest as a gift.

LIST OF CONTENTS OF MEDICINE CHEST

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| 1. Wund blasun. | 17. pulv. Bezoard. Lond: v Gascoïn powder. |
| 2. Emplast Benzoinum. | 18. pulveres cum Magnes et Rhabarb. |
| 3. Spirit Lavendul extra | 19. Magnesia alba. |
| 4. Aqua Vulnerar: Lem: | 20. pulv. cum Tart. Vitr. Crem Tart Nitr. & Magnesia. |
| 5. pulv. Antispasmodic: Hall. | 21. pulv. Cort. peruv. |
| 6. ——— radii Rhabarb. | 22. pilul. contra obstruct. |
| 7. Empl. adhaesivum. | 23. Radic pyrethri: vel pellitory of Spain. |
| 8. Laudan. liq: Syd. cum. | 24. Ess amara Hallensis. |
| 9. Balsam Vulnerar. | 25. ——— Cort. aurantior. |
| 10. Sal volat ammon. | 26. Spirit: Cornu Cervi. |
| 11. Liquor. anod min. Hoff. | 27. Spirit Lavend. comp: vel patsy Drops. |
| 12. pulv. Solaris/vel aureus. | 28. Tinctur.D: A. de Hugo. |
| 13. Ung. Haemorrhoidale pr: me. | 29. Tinct. Rhabarb: vinos:Lond. |
| 14. pulv. Ipecacuan. | 30. Tinct. Castorei. |
| 15. Globul moschad: | |
| 16. Charpie. | |

ULF HAMRAN AND ADA POLAK

XII INTERNATIONAL HISTORY OF SCIENCE CONGRESS PARIS, 25—31 AUGUST 1968

JUST what are the boundaries between the areas covered by the 'history of medicine' and by the 'history of science' is a perennially interesting question and one that is remembered in the light of the proceedings of the XII International History of Science Congress. Much of the large programme of over 400 papers impinged directly on the applications of chemistry and biology to medical problems; for instance, the

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spontaneous generation of organisms, the work of Pasteur, and the two special Congress lectures, 'Recherche scientifique et personnalité' (by Marcel Florkin) and 'Mathematics, music and medical science' (by Alistair Crombie).

The papers were delivered in simultaneous sessions and while there was comparatively little overlap of biology and chemistry, this, unfortunately, was not so for some of the background information which made the Congress especially worthwhile to a medical historian. For example, information on an index of mathematical instrument makers (who also made scales and other instruments), trade cards as source material in the history of science (such cards are equally important for the history of medicine), and increasing interest in industrial archaeology (relevant to the pharmaceutical industry).

The large number of papers will be published in due course (the formal colloquia papers have already appeared, published by the Centre International de Synthèse, volume 89, Paris, 1968). With the International History of Medicine Conference, which was held a few weeks later, receiving about the same number of communications, the problem of keeping abreast with, and assimilating, research into the history of medicine is becoming more and more acute.

J. K. CRELLIN

OSLER MEDICAL LIBRARY

Dr. Fred B. Rogers has been elected to the Board of Curators of the Osler Medical Library at McGill University, Montreal, Canada. Dr. Rogers is Professor of Preventive Medicine at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE
XXI INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

The 21st International Congress of the History of Medicine was held in Siena from 22 to 28 September 1968, with the President of the Italian Republic as its patron. Professor Adalberto Pazzini, the President of the International Society of the History of Medicine, served as President of the Congress, with Professor Luigi Stroppiana as Secretary-General, and a distinguished Committee representing most of the medical faculties of the Italian universities, as well as the civic authorities of Siena.

The medieval city of Siena provided a perfect setting for such a meeting and the pageantry of the grand opening in the thirteenth-century City Hall emphasized its historic character. The city authorities had clearly co-operated to the full in the organization of the Congress, which was notable for the warmth of the hospitality provided and the interest of the excursions to historic sites.

Nearly 500 members from 38 countries attended the Congress, including 19