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had been moved to specially designed bookstacks with controlled temperature and humidity so that they could be preserved in well-nigh perfect conditions. The space thus cleared had been handsomely laid out and furnished for readers and special exhibits, with a dais, lectern and public address system so that the room could be used at need for meetings of up to 150 people. A novel feature of the new extension was the Recording Room where distinguished workers in medicine and science would be invited to recall the circumstances of their pioneer work so that their words could be recorded for posterity, thus helping to build up a 'library of living history' which would supplement the manuscripts and printed books in which were recorded the great advances of the past. The importance of combining sound and vision was also clear in the 'guide-lecture equipment' which was fitted to all the exhibition cases. This consisted of earphones through which visitors may hear recorded commentaries on the items displayed. The display cases in the Entrance Corridor contained at present a series of books and manuscripts which were 'Landmarks in the History of Medicine' from Hippocrates to Sherrington, the commentaries on which lasted more than thirty minutes. Dr. Poynter said that the Library's aim was to serve the history of medicine at all levels, from that of the casual visitor and student to the scholarly level of those who wrote erudite works on the subject.

Among the items which attracted particular interest when the visitors inspected the Library after the official proceedings were the Vesalian screen at the rear of the dais, where the six muscle-men from the first edition of the *Fabrica* were enlarged to life-size on formica, and the temporary exhibition of 'The Evolution of Hospitals in Britain' which had been set up for the Third British Congress on the History of Medicine.

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FACULTY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

THIRD BRITISH CONGRESS ON THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

THE Third Annual Congress organized by the Faculty was held in London on 26–28 September 1962, under the presidency of Lord Amulree, being sponsored by John Wyeth and Brother Limited. The subject on this occasion was 'The Evolution of Hospitals in Britain', one which produced a series of unusually informative and valuable papers, which will be published in volume form in 1963.

More than 150 Congress members and guests attended the Congress registration at the Wellcome Historical Medical Library, only a day after the official reopening of the enlarged and transformed library, where a special exhibition on the Congress theme was on view. Before opening the Inaugural Session at Apothecaries' Hall the Chairman, Dr. W. S. C. Copeman, conferred the Faculty's Honorary Fellowship on Professor C. D. O'Malley, Professor of the History of Medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles. Subsequent sessions were held at The Royal College of Physicians (where also a Congress exhibit was displayed), the Royal Society of Medicine, and the Royal College of Nursing. By courtesy of the Treasurer and the Board of Governors of the Royal Hospital of St. Bartholomew, a reception was held for Congress members in the Great Hall of the Hospital on the evening of Thursday, 27 September, when visitors were able to see an important selection from the Hospital's archives arranged by the

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Archivist, Dr. N. J. Kerling. As Sir George Godber pointed out in his speech at the Congress Dinner at Apothecaries' Hall, which was attended by the Lord Mayor, Sir Frederick Hoare, as guest of honour, the Congress had traced the growth of the British hospital system from a confusion of hospitals which had been developed from different origins, for different purposes, and from many motives. He went on to discuss the present and future state of the British hospital system, referring to the Blue Book known as 'The Hospital Plan' published earlier in the year. This was, he said, the first attempt to give a *national* picture of what it is hoped the historian of the future would be able to record as the opening of a splendid new era.

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The Fourth Congress is to be a week-end residential meeting held at Nottingham University on 20–23 September 1963, the theme being 'The Evolution of Pharmacy in Britain'. Congress members and their guests will stay at the new Lincoln Hall of the University, where the Congress sessions will also be held. The Congress Dinner will be given at the Portland Hall on Friday, 20 September. Further details, including the inclusive charge, will be published in due course.

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On 28 November the second Sydenham Lecture was given at Apothecaries' Hall by the Faculty's Chairman, Dr. W. S. C. Copeman, his subject being 'The History of Gout', a topic on which both Sydenham and the speaker are acknowledged authorities.

THE OSLER CLUB OF LONDON

THE Annual General Meeting and Family Evening were held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, on 7 June 1962, following refreshments in the Great Hall, where an exhibition was displayed of printed papers originally read to the Osler Club since its inception. Dr. S. T. Anning read an interesting paper on 'Dr. Allbutt and his thermometer', with slides to illustrate his remarks, and Dr. Anning has kindly deposited a copy of his paper in the Osler Club Library. The following papers were also read, and some have been submitted for publication; a note of their locations will be recorded here when available: Major-General R. E. Barnsley, "Teeth and Tails" in the Crimea'; Prof. G. P. Crowden, 'A legend, a coin and a seal'; Dr. Richard Hunter, 'John Frost and the Signature Book of the Royal Medico-Botanical Society of London'; and Dr. F. Clifford Rose, 'History of the Salpetrière'. Dr. V. Moller-Christensen exhibited a remarkable collection of coloured slides illustrating 'Bone changes in leprosy', a subject to which he has made significant contributions. These 'family evenings', at which short papers are presented mainly by members of the Club, have proved so popular that an extra one is planned for next session.

On 12 July 1962, the traditional Osler Club Annual Dinner was held at the Hotel Rembrandt, and was attended by a record number of members and guests. The major attraction was the appearance of Dr. Walter R. Bett as Oslerian Orator, taking as his title for the occasion 'The epitaph of Adrian's Horse'. Dr. Bett is a founder of the Osler Club and, among other offices held, served for many years as Secretary, before departing to the States. His many friends welcomed his reappearance on the stage, and if they still wonder 'where the bloody horse comes in', at least they enjoyed a typical, witty, anecdotal diatribe delivered in an inimitable manner.

J. L. T.

THE VETERINARY HISTORY SOCIETY

THE Inaugural Meeting of this Society was held on 31 October in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library, Euston Road, London. Twenty-eight people attended