

## Obituary

chose 'vivisection' as the theme of his maiden speech in the House of Lords. As an orator he was superb and his after-dinner speeches sparkled with wit and erudition so that he was much in demand. From 1950, when he gave the Harveian Lecture, to 1970, when he delivered the Harveian Oration, hardly a year went by when he did not give some well-known memorial lecture or address. It was probably these demands which first stimulated his interest in the history of medicine. The subject of his Harveian Lecture was 'Harvey and the scientific method'; a few years later he called his Hunterian Oration 'Reflections on the Hunterian method'; his Nuffield Lecture in 1967 was on 'The fruits of error and false assumptions' in scientific discovery; his first John Ash Lecture at the University of Birmingham in the same year was on Erasmus Darwin, and his Harveian Oration in 1970 on 'Motion of blood in the veins' in which he drew attention to the pioneer work of James Carson of Liverpool. A similar spirit of local patriotism had inspired his account in 1959 of the pioneer investigations into electrophysiology of Richard Caton of Liverpool in the 1870s. His Sherrington Lectures given at the University of Liverpool were published as a monograph in 1958 with the title *Sherrington, physiologist, philosopher and poet*.

Lord Cohen was for two years the President of the British Society for the History of Medicine and organized a most successful congress of the society at Liverpool in 1971. On that occasion some of us were privileged to see his own historical collection of medical silver and also to obtain a more intimate glimpse of the courtesy and kindness of the man as well as to enjoy the fruits of his superb organizing ability. His death leaves a gap in British medicine, and particularly in historical circles, which will be hard to fill.

NOËL POYNTER

## *News, Notes and Queries*

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### FACULTY OF THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY OF THE WORSHIPFUL SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

The Faculty, which was founded in 1959, has now been enlarged to include the Philosophy of Medicine, and its constitution has been revised. The purposes of the revision are to strengthen the link between the Society and the Faculty, to enable the membership to take a more active part in its organization, and to make the Faculty more effective in its role as a co-ordinating body for the history and philosophy of medicine and pharmacy. A new grade of Fellowship has been instituted.

Copies of the new constitution may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary at the Apothecaries Hall, Black Friars Lane, London EC4V 6EJ.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

*Jason A. Hannah Chairs for the History of Medical and Related Sciences.* The following Jason A. Hannah Chairs are among the five being established at medical schools at Ontario universities with an annual grant of \$55,000 each from the Hannah Institute for the History of Medical and Related Sciences, Toronto (see *Med. Hist.*, 1977, 21: 91):

1. Dr. Charles Gordon Roland has been appointed to the Hannah Chair in McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. Well known internationally as a medical historian and biomedical communicator, Dr. Roland was one of the senior editors of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* from 1964 to 1969. For the last eight years he has been Professor and Chairman of the Department of Biomedical Communications, Mayo Foundation, Rochester, Minnesota, where he was also Associate Professor and Head of the Section of the History of Medicine.

2. Dr. Toby Gelfand will be the first incumbent of the Hannah Chair at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Gelfand studied for his Ph.D. in the History of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University. He taught at the University of Minnesota before becoming a Professor of the History and Philosophy of Science at Princeton in 1974.

*Medizinhistorisches Institut der Universität Zürich.* Urs Boschung, M.D., has been appointed to the newly created post of conservator of the Historical Medical Museum at the University of Zürich, Switzerland.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis has presented the Max A. Goldstein Collection of Rare Books in Otology and the Education of the Deaf to the Library of the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri. About 700 volumes are included, among them an incunabulum on language by Guarinus Veronensis printed in Venice in 1496; about a dozen sixteenth-century works: many early anatomical volumes; and a fine collection on sign language.

Several meetings of a new History of Medicine Club were held during 1977 in the Washington University School of Medicine Library. The organizers of the Club are Dr. Richard M. Ratzan of the Jewish Hospital, and Dr. Estelle Brodman, Librarian and Professor of Medical History.

CONFERENCE ON CAPTAIN JAMES COOK AND HIS TIMES

Simon Fraser University History Department is organizing an international interdisciplinary conference to mark the bicentenary of Captain Cook's landing at Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The conference will be held at SFU from 25 to 29 April 1978, and the programme includes papers on the scientific aspects of Cook's voyages. Further details and enrolment forms may be obtained from: Director of the Cook Conference, History Department, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5A 1S6.