

Radiology History & Heritage Charitable Trust

An Occasional Newsletter

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Editorial Notes

I attended a meeting at the BIR recently for a teaching session on the new RHHCT computer. A group of us were being taught how to put information onto the database *The Nemet File*. The computer uses Microsoft Windows 95 and is a Viglen 486. It will be shortly upgraded to a P133 with an adjacent printer. The database is on Microsoft Access and will record various items including journals, images audio-recordings and 3-D objects. For obvious reasons the locations and owners are coded for security. It is hoped to demonstrate the computer and database at Birmingham during *Radiology 97*. The RHHCT stand is to be number 192.

On the 3rd of March this year I gave a talk to the Literary & Musical Society here in Bromley on *The Invisible Light: 100 Years of Medical Imaging*. The talk seemed well received, however I was most intrigued to see that on the 3rd March 1924 at 8.15pm in the Congregational Church Lecture Hall in Widmore Road Bromley, the same society had been addressed by Major John Hall-Edwards, the pioneer radiologist from Birmingham. His theme was "*The Romance of the X-rays*." It was interesting to see that he had come as far as Bromley to give his talk. I suppose I had the advantage that none of my audience could remember his talk.

It is with sadness that I have to record the death of Sir Thomas Lodge. Sir Thomas was one of the RHHCT trustees and has been a keen supporter of the committee from its inception attending most of the meetings. The RHHCT was represented at his funeral that was held at Our Lady of Victories Church in Kensington, London on the 24th February by Miss Marion Frank and Grahame Mountford. Sir Thomas was a radiologist for many years in Sheffield until his retirement in 1974. He is a past president of the Faculty of Radiologists. In particular I am grateful to the full and active support that Sir Thomas gave to the RHHCT from its earliest period. We will miss him.

If you do have any news or information suitable for this newsletter then do please send it to me. It is interesting to see that material on CD-ROM is now becoming available that is of interest to us. New CDs on the atomic bomb and medical history are reviewed. There are also web sites on the Internet of interest to radiological history. Should our historical database be accessible on the Internet? Are there security implications? Should the RHHCT have its own web site? I would be interested in your thoughts and views.

Adrian Thomas



Late news of the Röntgen Centenary

To coincide with the month of Röntgen's discovery of X-rays, there were several commemorative issues of journals in November 1995. These included:

Acta Radiologica

Radiation Research

Health Physics

MedicaMundi

Don't forget that 1997 is the centenary year of the founding of the Röntgen Society, parent of all the radiological societies in Britain and the oldest in the world. The BIR is celebrating with a 100th BIRTHday Symposium and a BIRTHday debate on Wednesday 21st May during *Radiology 1997*. Please see your programme or contact the Secretariat on 0171 436 7807.

The History session at the conference is devoted to "Digital Imaging" and is also on Wednesday 21st May.

Interesting Web Sites.

Marie Curie. Address: http://www.xray.hmc.psu.edu/rci/ss4/ss4_11.html

This site has been described as a cross between *Radiology Weekly* and *Stamp Collectors World*. The site tells the story of the life and work of Marie Curie and is illustrated with postage stamps. There is an extensive list of appropriate scientific links. NetUser magazine advised its readers only to progress if they knew the meaning of 'photofluorography'!

Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine. *Current work in the history of medicine* is available on-line within the Wellcome Institute Library's database (WILDCat). The internet address is: wihm.icl.ac.uk and for JANet users: uk.ac.ucl.wihm. Once linked to WILDCat all searches are free. Current and in-progress issues of *Current work* can be browsed using the Bibliographic Current Awareness Services option. Further information is available from Cathy Doggrell c.doggrell@wellcome.ac.uk or Kate Bishop k.bishop@wellcome.ac.uk.

Please let me know the address of any web sites of medical history interest and I will circulate them in the next newsletter.

NEW BOOKS

The first two volumes of the American
History of the Radiological Sciences -

Radiation Physics ed. **Raymond A Gagliardi, MD & Peter R Almond, PhD;**
and

Diagnosis ed. **Raymond A Gagliardi MD & Bruce L McClennan MD**

Both published 1996 by Radiology Centennial Inc. 1891 Preston White Drive, Reston,
VA 20191, USA,

Seen listed in the TLS [due Dec 96] :

Kevles, Bettyann Holtzmann

Naked to the Bone: medical imaging in the 20th Century, New Brunswick NJ,
Rutgers U. P. 08135 2358 3 \$35.95

OLD BOOKS FOR SALE !

The following books have been offered for sale to raise funds for the RHHCT, and are held by Dr Jean Guy at *The Vicarage, Betws Cedewain, Newtown, Powys SY16 3DS*. She will hold them until 1st May, after which they will be offered to a bookseller. Prices include post and packing. Please pay by cheque made out to the **Radiology History and Heritage Charitable Trust**.

Cancer: Diagnosis, Treatment and Prognosis. Lauren V Ackerman & Juan del Regato, 4th ed. 1970, St Louis USA, C V Mosby. £10

Positioning in Radiography, K C Clark, London Wm. Heinemann for Ilford Ltd, 4th ed. 1945 £50

Elements of General Radio-Therapy for practitioners, Leopold Freund, trans. G H Lancashire, London, Rebman Ltd, 1904.

Man against Cancer: research and progress, Bernard Glemser, London, The Bodley Head, 1969. £6

Practical Neurology, W B Matthews, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1963 £6

The Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, List of Fellows, 31/12/1969 and 31/12/1974 the 2 issues £6

Stedman's Medical Dictionary, ed. Norman Burke Taylor, 17th ed., 1950, London, Baillière, Tindall & Cox. £6

Introduction to Pathology, G Payling Wright, London, Longmans Green & Co., 1950. £6

Journal of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, issue for January 1955, includes an article by A G G Melville "Incidence of early cancer in South Derbyshire". £1

The BIR Library

There is a large historical section to the library and it is to be found under number A12.

The following books have been included in the historical section during the last year and I am indebted to Kate Sanders their Library and Information Systems Manager for these details:

Marion D Cameron

FS Peperdene: pioneer radiologist and X-ray

Electa Press 1994

Werner Fehr	martyr. CHF Müller:mit Röntgen begann die Zukunft (...with Röntgen began the future)	Hamburg 1981
Joel D Howell	Technology in the Hospital: transforming patient care in the early twentieth century.	Johns Hopkins University Press 1995
Michael Jordan	The maturing years: a history of the Society and College of Radiographers 1970-1995 Radiation Oncology: a century of progress and achievement 1895-1995	Society & College of Radiographers 1995 ESTRO 1995
William H Shehadi	Reflections on the radiology years: a tribute to the evolution and development of X-ray tubes. Origins of the science of radiation physics and of the field of radiology.	Princeton 1991 Medical Physics vol 22 No 11, pt 2 Nov 1995 pp 1855-1976

As part of the BIRThday the library will be having a poster exhibition.

The Historical Medical Equipment Society

This new society was formed in September 1996. It is under the chairmanship of Mr John Kirkup FRCS. The aims of the society are to promote education and research into the history and evolution of instruments, apparatus and equipment employed in medicine and related health professions. The society will arrange meetings to discuss medical instruments and equipment, the publication of a newsletter and visits to museums and private collections. Membership is open to all and the inaugural meeting is planned for 12th April 1997 with the title "Medical Instruments - Signposts to Medical History." The subscription for 1997 is £10.00. Their bulletin is interesting with a good section on medical museums.

The address for all correspondence and further details is:

The Secretary, 77 Camarthen Avenue, Portsmouth PO6 2AG
Fax 01705 201479 e-mail 101767.2756@compuserve.com

BRIEF BOOK NOTICES:

Radiation Protection Dosimetry vol. 68 nos. 1/2 1996: ***Becquerel's Legacy: A Century of Radioactivity.*** Proceedings of a conference, London February 29 & March 1 1996. Editor: M.C. O'Riordan, ISBN 1 870965 47 7, pub. Nuclear Technology Publishing.

The conference was organised by the National Radiological Protection Board and the British Association for the Advancement of Science to celebrate the centenary of the publication of Henri Becquerel's account of the detection of radiation from uranium salts. His original papers were in *Comptes rendus de l'Académie des Sciences* in March and May 1896. This issue contains 154 pages in hardback. Chapters of historical interest include "Henri Becquerel : the discovery of Radioactivity" by A Allisy of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, France, "The History of Radiation Protection" by B Lindell of Stockholm, and "Radiation Accidents" by J C Nénot from the IPSN in France. There are other papers of medical and scientific interest.

X-Rays - the first 100 years. eds. Alan Michette and Shawska Pfauntsch. Pub. John Wiley, Chichester 1996. £34.95

The papers were given in a conference at King's College London in 1996. They commemorated amongst others the King's College professor Herbert Jackson, who made important contributions to radiation science. The majority of the papers are concerned with scientific discoveries and applications of radiation. Richard Mould has contributed the only chapter on Medical Applications, and those familiar with his books will recognise the themes and illustrations.

A History of the Radiological Sciences: Diagnosis. eds. Raymond A Gagliardi & Bruce L McClennan, pub. AJR: American Journal of Radiology, P.O. Box 18001 Merrifield, Virginia VA 2218-00, USA \$45.00.

This book has 673 pages, 6 major sections, 28 chapters and 37 authors. With the volume on physics and radiation oncology, it is part of a multi-volume series on the history of radiology published to celebrate the Röntgen centennial in the USA. Naturally, there is a bias to events in the USA, but there is plenty of background material. The first chapter concentrates on the general philosophical background to science in 19th century Germany, the second on Röntgen and the discovery of X-rays. From then on, though there are acknowledgements of other nationals, the Americans get most of the credit. After three more chapters on the pioneers there is a section on the clinical applications of radiology in various specialities, one on modern sectional imaging (CT, MR, US) and nuclear medicine, one on the profession, including a chapter on the technologist (read, radiographer in Britain) a group of three chapters on military radiology, forensic radiology and radiology in popular culture, and a closing chapter looking forward. The book is too heavy to read in bed, but well printed and fully referenced. It is well laid out with plenty of illustrations, many of which are unfamiliar. However I am disappointed by the quality of reproduction of the illustrations.

Prices of the other volumes are:

Radiation Physics: \$30.00

Radiation Oncology: \$35.00

J M Guy

REVIEW:

**CD-ROM History of Medicine (1996) Flagtower, First Multimedia Limited
£39.99 (special purchase £19.99 Virgin Megastores)**

This double disc CD-ROM contains some 30 minutes of video, over 2000 pictures and two hours of commentary. As would be expected it requires a multimedia PC with a 486/50MHz processor, dual speed CD-ROM drive and 8Mb of memory. The discs are designed for the general reader and the detail given is not aimed for the medical historian. However there is much of interest and many video clips are included. It is unfortunate that so much of the material related to X-rays is negative concentrating on the dangers of irradiation, particularly in relation to the unborn. There are sections on ancient and mediaeval medicine. Imaging is covered quite well with mention of CT

scanning, ultrasound and nuclear medicine including PET scanning. The discs can be recommended particularly at the new price.

CD-ROM Critical Mass. America's race to build the atomic bomb. (1996) Corbis £40 ISBN 1-886802-02-5

This CD traces the story of Los Alamos and the building of the first atomic bomb and looks at political, cultural and medical changes resulting from the first nuclear test. There is a virtual 3-D environment. Timelines explore scientific events, warfare technology, political history and popular culture. There are in depth biographies of J Robert Oppenheimer, Niels Bohr, Enrico Fermi and Richard Feynmann with other scientists depicted. The material is very well presented with good graphics and excellent music. There is a great deal of detailed information with background and follow up on the consequences including influences on popular culture. It can be strongly recommended.

Adrian Thomas

The **British Society for the History of Medicine** will be meeting at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol from 4-7 September 1997. The Frenchay Hospital has a medical museum with a collection of X-ray items, which will be on display during the meeting.

Women in Radiology: An exhibition of the German Roentgen-Museum of the town of Remscheid.

There is a new exhibition at the R★ntgen Museum at Remscheid-Lennep devoted to women in radiology. There are sections on pioneers, science and research and female victims. There is also a section entitled from Roentgen nurse to Radiographer. It should be recalled that the first radiograph obtained was of a woman, Anna Bertha R★ntgen. British women mentioned in the exhibition include Kathleen Clark, Florence Stoney, Ellen Clark and our own Marion Frank. I have to admit to knowing very little information about Ellen Clark although I gather that she was at the Middlesex Hospital and is recorded on the martyrs' memorial at Hamburg. The whole relationship of women to the new rays is most interesting and I am sure that the exhibition would be well worth a visit. It would be excellent if the exhibition could be shown in the UK.

For further details please contact:

Deutches R★ntgen-Museum
Schwelmer Str. 41
D-42897 Remscheid
Tel: ++49-2191-62759
Fax: ++49-2191-163145

Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday: 10am-4pm, Saturday and Sunday: 11am-5pm.

