

**'Dilling, WJ'**

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DILLING, W. J. GLASGOW

'12/'15

H.M.M.

4 September 1915.

Dear Dr. Dilling,

I have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt from you of the two old bone specula which you have so very kindly loaned to this Museum. I will see they are insured for £10, and you may rely upon the greatest care being taken of them while in our possession.

I am sorry your time in London has been so very short, but was very pleased to have a few minutes with you and to meet your wife. I trust the next time you are in London I shall be able to have more time at my disposal.

With kind regards to your wife and self,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.



259 Rowallan Gardens  
Broomhill

Glasgow  
24<sup>th</sup> Aug 1915

Dear Mr. Thompson

My wife & I are coming  
up to London on Saturday for a week  
& we are both anxious to see the  
Museum, which I hope is open with  
you in attendance. I shall bring with  
me the two bone vaginal specula in  
which you are interested. Will you  
kindly tell me when we may find  
you at the Museum leaving me if  
possible a choice of days. Please  
address reply to 46 Wellfield Way  
Hampstead Garden Suburb, London N.W.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely  
Walter J. Dilling



Kareol,

Whitchall Terrace,

Aberdeen,

5<sup>th</sup> Oct 1914

Dear Mr. Thompson

Many thanks for your  
congratulations which I appreciate very  
much! <sup>I returned from Glasgow only yesterday & got your note.</sup> You shall hear of my new  
address in due course.

I shall be very glad to let  
you have the specula for copying, and  
if I come up to London soon as I hope I  
shall not forget to bring them. If you  
require them sooner just let me know

With kind regards & renewed thanks

Yours sincerely  
Walter J. Dilliey

*W. W. W.*

28 September 1914.

Dear Dr. Billing,

Just a line to congratulate you very heartily on your new appointment to Glasgow. I trust you will be very happy and successful in your new field of work.

I am very interested in your old bone specula, and if it is impossible to acquire one for our Museum, I hope you will allow me to have one copied some time, which I can get done in a few days.

I hope you will still be able to carry out your plans and bring your wife to see the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum. You know I shall be only too pleased to do anything I can to make your visit to London a pleasant one.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

*W. W. W.*





University of Aberdeen.

Kareol  
Whitehall Terrace  
Aberdeen

17<sup>th</sup> IX 14

Dear Mr. Thompson,

Yours to hand, I shall be very glad to bring the goods up to London with me I hear further news that they were found in an old midwifery Bag cracked and useless which had Dr. Jackson's name on it. Unfortunately the other goods it contained were thrown away

I am sorry to say you are unlikely to gain possession of them. The following are the reasons. 1) I am very proud of them and if I had my way they would be in the drawing room china cabinet. 2) The assistant curator - mentioned in several critical despatches on my collection as Miss Ducat - is now my wife and she refuses to



purchase from lack of funds.

My wife has not yet seen the London  
Historical and it was to be one of her first  
treats on her honeymoon - but the best card  
schemes - !!! We were to have taken you & it  
en route for Belgium & Germany and I  
had promised her a whole half day  
in your collection. However when we do come  
I shall inform you and insist on having  
you as guide.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely

Walter J. Dilleny

part with these interesting relics 3/ As they belonged to Dr. Jackson they have a personal attachment as probably he first put medicine into my head when I was at the toddling stage. He used to come often to the house and I used surreptitiously and with his connivance to slip out of the house with him and either drive in his cab or walk with his hand down the street. He also endeared himself to the kid - who was like all such born a gutter-snipe - by telling my mother to take off these plush suits and other nonsensical finery and let the bairn out to play in the mud !!! I have also vivid recollections of his treatment of a very serious burn of my leg where he gave me "pennies" if I did not cry while he dressed it. Thus I have kept any relics of him I have found. I have curiously the die for his visiting cards found in a heap of rubbish at our rag fair.

Meantime this district is bone dry in medical relics so far as I can find. I have made few additions since Christmas but I shall certainly inform you of anything which I have already or am unable to



Hamm

14 September 1914.

Dear Dr. Dilling,

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 9th inst.

I am sorry to hear of your imprisonment, but I trust it will not be for long. I am afraid we are all in the same boat now as regards purchases, but still we may be able to help one another, and if you come across anything in your neighbourhood that you cannot commandeer you might let me know.

The bone specula sound exceedingly interesting, as during our excavations into the early history of these instruments of which we have considerable data, I have no record of this material being used. It does not follow from this that bone was not used, and it is quite possible your instruments may have been improvised by one individual, just as Marion Sims used the pewter gravy spoon for the same purpose. I shall be very pleased to see them, and I hope when you come to London you will bring them with you. I may say if you would be willing to part with one for the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, and would send it to me for inspection,



I should be willing to treat you as liberally as I could for it.

Our one-time friend in Germany, is, I think, not feeling quite so well these last few days, and the news this morning is distinctly re-assuring.

With kind regards,

Faithfully yours,

C. J. H.

Kareol,  
Whitchall Terrace,  
Aberdeen,

9<sup>th</sup> September 1914

Dear Mr. Thompson.

Please note new address. Writer has recently been captured and imprisoned; he is now ~~spied~~ spied upon and kept on short rations in the way of pocket money for historical purchases.

Regarding the specula. They are so far as I can tell perfectly genuine. They were given me by an instrument maker who himself was interested in historical things and I think he had no record of their purchase I shall however write to ask him — In an interval I have asked him & he tells me they belonged to <sup>late</sup> Dr. Angus Fraser of Aberdeen who got them from Dr. Henry Jackson a very old doctor when he died circa 1891 and who was our



family doctor in these days. Where Dr  
Jackson got them of course we cannot  
say now



These are the shapes & no 1 is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ins  
long & no 2 about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  ins. Sometime  
when I am in London I shall bring  
them to show you. I have no doubt  
about them. No 1 looks as if it had been  
broken in the attempt to make the window  
& a fresh piece of bone is inserted & very  
neatly too. Please tell me anything you  
may know of them. I shall try to find out  
something here.

Kindest regards

Yours sincerely  
Walker J. Dilling



## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

EIGHTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING AT  
ABERDEEN.*Historical Section.*

The historical section will become one of the most pleasing features of annual exhibitions. In this section Dr. W. J. Dilling had succeeded in illustrating some of the landmarks in the history of medicine. The Egyptian section contained figures of the Egyptian deities connected with medicine as well as several ancient Egyptian surgical instruments and a facsimile of the Papyrus Ebers, one of the oldest medical MSS., with translations into English of the texts shown. The Greek and Roman section was enriched by the beautiful and comprehensive collection of Greek and Roman surgical instruments gathered by the late Dr. J. S. Milne. Specimens were shown also of bronze and alabaster ointment holders and a blown-glass breast exhauster. In the Early and Middle English Medicine section there were shown several very crude old earthenware ointment pots, three of them obtained from London.

Amongst the old medical instruments many examples in pewter were shown, including castor-oil spoons and urinals. The history of the feeding-bottle was illustrated by several specimens, and of special interest was a crude hypodermic syringe made of a piece of brass tubing closed at the end by a Straits Settlement coin, and having for a piston a piece of brass wire wrapped with paper. This article was used by Chinese robbers who injected opium into the house servants previous to burgling the house. Interesting also were two girdles, one from East Africa, the other from North America, which were used by the natives to facilitate birth. Grouped in the surgical section were many obsolete instruments, &c., old cupping glasses, lancets, the moxa, tourniquets, lithotomy instruments, &c. Two original specula made from the shafts of long bones demanded special examination. Several antique spectacles and dental instruments were on exhibition.

The unique feature of the exhibition was the gallery of engraved portraits of eminent medical men of former ages. This exhibit was granted on loan through the kindness of Mr. J. F. Kellas Johnstone, of Aberdeen, and the short biographies attached to the portraits were prepared by Dr. Dilling. There were portraits of some 270 individual medical men, while many of the more famous physicians were represented by several different engravings.

## PATHOLOGICAL MUSEUM.

Another interesting specimen was a foetus affected with small-pox from a woman who died from that disease. There was also a large collection of photographs of cases of pellagra, which were of special interest, seeing that the disease has lately been described in this country.



In speaking of the thyroid gland it has been shown that we must rather speak of the thyroid apparatus and differentiate between the thyroid and parathyroid glands, for though each is able to take on compensatory activity in the case of injury or disease of the other organ, or possibly to act vicariously in its absence, still each has special functions of its own. The parathyroid glands

money by false pretences from any person with an intent to defraud.

(b) Departments of State.

(1) *The Privy Council Office.*—The Privy Council exercises a certain amount of supervisory and regulative influence through their charter or otherwise upon the qualifications and conduct of doctors, dentists, chemists, veterinary surgeons, and midwives. An Order in Council, following upon a recommendation of the Pharmaceutical Society, is necessary to add a drug to the schedules of poisons.

(2) *The Home Office.*—The Home Secretary answers questions in the House of Commons, on behalf of the Lord President of the Council, on the general subject of proprietary medicines, and he has power to direct the Director of Public Prosecutions to take proceedings. Complaints of fraud would properly be made to the Home Office, as the general supervising authority over the police.

(3) *The Local Government Board.*—This department controls the administration of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts by the 234 local authorities of England and Wales.

(4) *The Patent Office.*—The Comptroller-General informed us that 312 patents granted to 1912 for medicines and medicinal preparations are in force. There are very few patents of the remedies to which our inquiry was specially directed, as a patent cannot be secured without (a) proof of usefulness and novelty, and (b) disclosure of formula.

(c) Statutory Bodies.

(1) *The General Medical Council.*—This body is charged by the Medical Act, 1858, with publishing from time to time the "British Pharmacopœia," an authoritative standard and guide to the uniformity and purity of drugs employed by medical men. The last edition was published fifteen years ago. A new edition is at last in the press.

(2) *The Pharmaceutical Society.*—This body, created by Royal Charter in 1843, is charged by the Pharmacy Acts with a measure of control over the sale of proprietary articles containing scheduled poisons. It has no powers in relation to other proprietary articles. It moves the Privy Council to add to the schedule of poisons.

11. The foregoing summary, if left without comment, might be thought to indicate an adequate body of law and administrative authority to deal with the subject of our inquiry. This is far from being the case. So far as the prevention of fraud is concerned, the before-mentioned statutes or powers are of little value. To show this in detail in each instance would be to overload our Report with details. We confine ourselves, therefore, to a brief indication of the facts or the authority upon which we base the above opinion.

12. There is no Department of State officially concerned with the sale and advertisement of these articles. The witness from the Home Office said to us: "This is one of many subjects which no Department of State claims as its own." He further said: "The Home Secretary, as regards patent and proprietary medicines as such, has no powers or



8 September 1914.

Dear Dr. Dilling,

In the interesting account of the exhibition held in connection with the Historical Section of the British Medical Association in Aberdeen last month, which I saw in the "British Medical Journal", I noticed mention was made of two original specula made from the shafts of long bones. Could you let me have any particulars of these, and let me know to whom they belong. Are they supposed to be native instruments, and are they authentic? I do not remember having heard before of bones being used for this purpose. If there is authentic evidence of such, it would be very interesting, and I should like to know more.

I am glad to hear the Meeting was so successful.

We have added some very interesting objects to the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum lately, especially in connection with primitive medicine, charms, amulets and pictures, but the war for a time has diverted the thoughts of those generally interested. Let me know any time you are in London, and I shall be pleased to have a call from you, and show you anything I can.

With kind regards,

Faithfully yours,

C. G. S. I.



Dilling

22 April 1914.

Dear Mr. Dilling,

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 20th inst. and for the block, which duly came to hand, and which I have forwarded to Mr. Wellcome's secretary.

It would be interesting to find out the date when your friend took the photograph of the sculptured relief in the birth house at Kom Ombo. Mr. Wellcome believes he was the first to spot it, and I am sure he will be much interested to know of any other reproduction of the tablet.

I am glad to know you have succeeded in obtaining one of the North American girdles; the Highland one will, I feel sure, turn up somewhere.

I have been able to make some additions of great interest to the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum since last year, and we hope to re-open the last week in May. I trust that if you are in London during the summer you will pay us a visit. I shall be very pleased to talk over medical antiquities with you again.

Faithfully yours,



2 Gladstone Place  
Aberdeen

20<sup>th</sup> April 1914

Dear Mr. Thompson.

You may wonder at my silence but I have been excessively busy during the winter.

I am returning you the block which Mr. Wellcome so kindly lent me for the Girdle Article, will you please convey to him in my name my very best thanks for the use of it.

Next regarding Mr. Wellcome's Article p 207 of the History of Medicine Section. I have a copy of a photo of that sculpture, my copy was taken from the picture in the possession of a local doctor and I am to find out whence he got his which is quite a large photograph. If it interests you I shall tell you the result of inquiries.

I have been too busy recently to do much in the way of history. I have now got one of the North American Girdles but no Scotch one so far.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely  
Walter J. Dilling.



1850

Dani

Dear Mr. [Name]  
 I have been thinking of you very much lately  
 and wondering how you are getting on  
 I hope you are well and happy  
 I have not much news to write at present  
 but I am sure you will be glad to hear  
 from me when I write again  
 I am, dear Mr. [Name], your  
 affectionate friend  
 [Name]



Humm

30 October 1913.

Dear Dr. Dilling,

I am very sorry to learn from your letter that a misunderstanding has arisen through our offer to assist Miss Thurstone by lending some objects for the Red Cross and National Service from the Historical Medical Museum. Exhibition. I do not know where Miss Thurstone got her list of objects from; I am enclosing you a copy of the only letter I ever wrote to her.

The matter originated in this way. The Countess of Aberdeen communicated with us to know if we could lend any objects for the Exhibition at Aberdeen, and I replied to her on 27th September stating that Mr. Wellcome would be pleased to do what he could to assist, and that we had two interesting objects which would be available - an old bearer ambulance and a field equipment case - and which we should be pleased to lend for a week or two. I then communicated with Miss Thurstone as per enclosed. Beyond that I have had no communication with anyone on the matter until I received your letter.



2.

I am sure you will understand that both Mr. Wellcome and I would have been very pleased to give you any help possible but the Museum has to be re-arranged within the next few weeks and a complete catalogue made of every object, also various large loans belonging to museums have all to be returned during the month, so it will be impossible to lend anything for the next six months.

I hope you will explain to Dr. Cannon our position in the matter, as it will be perfectly clear to you from the letter I enclose that we only promised the objects we could lend, and this we are very pleased to do.

I shall be delighted to have a copy of the reprint of your article in the "Caledonian Medical Magazine", which you so kindly promise me, and hope that you may yet have the good luck to meet with a Highland girdle. I am sure you have a good field for collecting in Scotland, as many old habits and customs which are



3.

quite obsolete in this district must linger on in the north.

Now about your glass instrument from Rome. It appears to me to be something like the XVIIth century breast exhausters, but you do not say where the two pieces are joined with plaster. It is somewhat unusual in shape, but is more like the glass breast exhausters of that period than anything else I know. I should very much like to see it some time if possible.

I hope your Exhibition will be a great success, and am sure you will understand that it is not for want of will that we are unable to give you more substantial assistance.

I shall always be pleased to hear from you and hope you will have some good finds in your next raid on the old shops in your district.

With kind regards,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C. J. S. T.

Billings



2 Gladstone Place

Aberdeen

29<sup>th</sup> Oct 1913



Dear Mr. Thomson

I was considerably surprised with your letter, and the general secretary more so, and he is so annoyed at having been placed in a false position that he has forwarded your reply to Miss Shurston to ask her for an explanation.

To explain matters. — at the arrangements meeting, Miss Shurston supplied a list of things promised — including many foreign exhibits and as it was understood by us — a large selection from your museum. Now we find from you that you had promised no more than you could give and Dr. Connors — the medical secretary — is — as you may imagine — most anxious to know if all promises of the kind have been likewise exaggerated.

Your name is actually down on the general agenda as having promised exhibits from the "Historical"



help to fill a hole in what I am  
afraid will be a very empty space

Try to think of some odds & ends  
that might be of interest for the four  
days.

I send off a copy of the Caledonian  
Medical Magazine to Mr. Wellcome  
with in it the first half of the "Griddle"  
I did not send one to you 1) as  
you had read it & 2) as I shall rather  
send you some copies of the complete  
reprint when I get it in January.

Mr. Wellcome, however, will be interested  
in seeing the reproduction of the block  
he so kindly consented to send me &  
the acknowledgement thereof in the  
actual magazine

I have not come across any new  
finds recently, in fact I have had no  
time for "cadging" the old shops. but I  
shall now have to tackle a round of this  
pleasure to get material for our exhibit

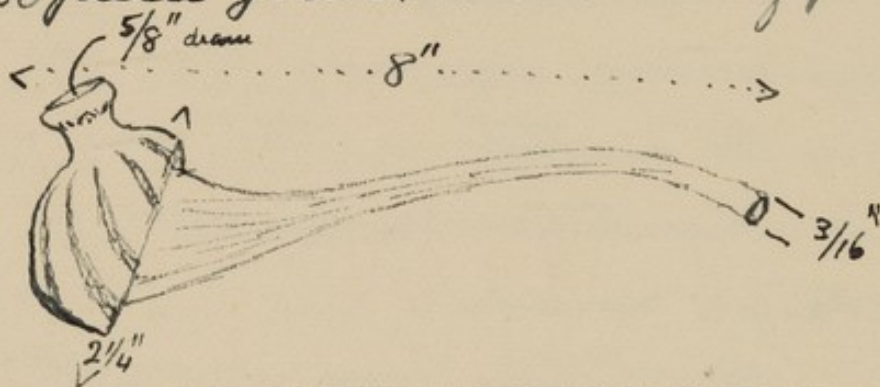
Fortunately, my own collection will take  
up some room.

Please explain this. In your letter  
you state that "we shall need all the



specimens for annotation" now are you to make a big catalogue with illustrations? I do hope you are. The present one - many thanks by the way for the extra copy - is for an enthusiast like me too general. What I should dearly love to see is one like the British Museum Cats. with illustrations of all the best things. Even if you charged for it, I feel it would be an article which would sell well as your present collection is unique

Lastly - excuse these lengthy queries but kindred spirits are few in the north - I have an instrument brought from the Catacombs of Rome a long time ago which I think is medical. It is of green iridescent glass in two pieces joined with a sort of plaster



Can you give me any idea what this is? I suggest enema-tube, blow-pipe but cannot find anything like it

with kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Walter J. Dilling.



in a way which implies that we could have the whole bag of tricks if we wanted.

Now I see I shall have to make as good a show as I can with what local exhibits I can find but I shall not lose sight of the two you have kindly offered.

I trust you will not mind Dr. Cannon having forwarded your note to Miss Thurston for her explanation as you will see by the circumstances that he is in doubt as to the arrival of her other promised goods.

I am writing this that you may have previous warning lest she write you on the matter so that you may be aware why the necessity arose in the secretary's mind.

I suppose from your letter that it would be impossible for us to have up any of the duplicate specimens that you have in the down-stairs rooms, eg. Pap-boats - feeding bottles, - and such like. Even if you could give us a small selection of these it would



J. Allen

25 October 1913.

Dear Dr. Dilling,

Many thanks for your letter of the 23rd inst. enclosing the letter from your General Secretary of the Red Cross and National Health Service Exhibition.

With reference to the list of objects in the Historical Medical Museum which you would like to have lent for the Red Cross Exhibition, I regret it is impossible. Many of them are permanent loans and cannot be allowed to leave the Museum as they are deposited permanently on certain provisos laid down that we cannot alter. We close for re-arrangement on the 31st inst. and we shall want every available object for study and classification, so I am very sorry we are unable to comply with your request. However, as I wrote to Miss Thurston some time ago, we have two objects of considerable interest, namely, an old bearer stretcher and an old case of army instruments and dressings used in the Crimean War, that we hope to be able to lend you for your exhibition. If I could help you in any other way, I should be only too pleased as you know.

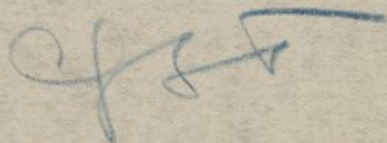
I am returning ~~your~~ together with another copy of the guide book to the Museum in accordance with your request.

I shall be most pleased to see Dr. Gordon when he calls.

With kind regards,

I am,

Faithfully yours,







Red Cross and National Health Service Exhibition,  
Aberdeen.

President: HER EXCELLENCY THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

From the Organising Secretary,

RED CROSS EXHIBITION OFFICE,

281 UNION STREET,

2 Gladstone Place ABERDEEN.

Enclosed - letter from General Secretary

23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 1913.

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I have been asked to arrange the Historical Exhibit for the above Exhibition and am advised you are to help.

I enclose for your perusal a list of the things I thought of as being most useful, and I shall be glad if you will run through the list and make any comments on it you think necessary. e.g. whether we can have them or not, or if you advise others as substitutes. You will see most are pictures as they are the things I think will appeal to the public most but I shall be grateful for any advice you have to offer.

Will you kindly give me full particulars as to conditions of loan, packing, transit, insurance and any other information that you deem essential.

Further, I shall be most grateful if you will send me back the enclosed list with your advice as early as possible as <sup>the Chairman</sup> one of our committee Dr. John Gordon is to be in London early next week and has promised to try to make some arrangements with you.

With kindest regards.

In haste to catch mail

Walker J. Dilling.

P.S. If you can will you also kindly send 1 copy of your Catalogue.





Red Cross and National Health Service Exhibition,  
Aberdeen.

President: HER EXCELLENCY THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

From the Organising Secretary,

RED CROSS EXHIBITION OFFICE.

201 UNION STREET,

4 1/2

ABERDEEN.

22. 10. 13.

Dear Sir,

I understand from Miss Thurston that you were so very kind as to provide a stand as exhibits from your Medical Museum. I need not say how very much obliged to you we are for your great kindness. I have asked Dr. Dilling, Lecturer on Pharmacology in the University, who, I understand is known to you in whatever way your exhibits, to communicate with you on the matter. I understand he has drawn out a list of things which he is to submit to you.

The exhibit is from Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec - 20<sup>th</sup> Dec inclusive. Perhaps after hearing from Dr. Dilling you will let me know what arrangements you desire made.

Yours faithfully,

Middleton (ours) M.D.

C. T. S. Thompson Esq.  
Historical Medical Museum  
London.

Ann. Medical Secretary

Heiler

6 August 1913.

Dear Mr. Dilling,

Very many thanks for your kind note enclosing the photograph of the native cupping scene which I have placed on exhibition in the Museum. It is very kind of you to think of it. I trust you received the MS. of your article on the Belts and Girdles safely. I shall look forward with much pleasure to meeting you during the Congress.

Again thanking you,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

cfst



H.M.M.

31 July 1913.

Dear Mr. Dilling,

I desire to thank you very cordially for so kindly sending me your work on 'Girdles' which I have read with very great interest. I am returning it herewith by registered post, and when it is printed, I should much appreciate your kindness if you would send me a proof for the Library.

Again thanking you very cordially,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

Rolling



H. M. M.

17th July 1913.

Dear Dr. Dilling,

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 14th inst., duly to hand, and for the trouble you have taken on our behalf.

On examining the sketch of the stomach pump you have kindly sent me I find we have one exactly like it.

Many thanks also for sending the list of the objects you kindly offer to lend for the Museum, but I regret that since you were here our space is absolutely filled up. Objects have poured in to such an extent that I do not know where to put them. I am, therefore, afraid that yours might be lost or mislaid, and feel sure you will not mind if we do not have them at present.

I am glad to know you enjoyed your visit to London, and trust you got rid of your cold by the time you returned.

I shall hope to hear from you when you come across anything which you think will be interesting for the Museum.

Again thanking you very cordially for your kind offer to lend the objects, and which, I feel sure, you will understand

2.

objects, which I feel sure you will understand my reason for not accepting,

I am,

Faithfully yours,



Dilling

2 Gladstone Place

Aberdeen

14<sup>th</sup> July 1913.



Dear Mr Thomson,

I have now returned to the cold north and first must thank you & Mr Wellcome for so promptly & kindly sending me the four very interesting little historical works which I have duly catalogued and added to my collection.

Since I came back I have gone & examined the Stomach Pump I spoke of I enclose a drawing of it about  $\frac{1}{2}$  size It is made of brass with an ebony? handle and is possessed of a 2 way valve as you will see. The price stated was 2/- although one never knows if that may not have risen by the time I enquire again. Well, if it is of any value to you, just say so and I shall purchase it for you, if, of no value then again don't mind stating it. I remembered after I left the shop that



I omitted to look for the maker's name. I did not go back as I aroused quite enough suspicion by making a drawing of it and since so far I am not known as a collector I must be wary otherwise prices will go up.

During my absence our attendant bagged what I think is a genuine old pulse glass for me 14 secs. but minus the sand.

As you desired, I enclose a list of the things I have that you might care to have on loan for the exhibition. Will you please mark those you wish me to send on and I shall forward them along with a list for insurance which you gave me.

in a true kindest regards &  
best thanks for your guidance through  
the marvellous exhibition

yours very sincerely  
Walter J. Dilling.



2 Gladstone Pl  
Aberdeen  
1<sup>st</sup> August 1913



my dear Mr. Thomson,

Herewith a copy of the photo  
I spoke of which you wished to have  
The Copy, I flatter myself is better  
than the original which is not good.

Will probably be looking in  
again when at the Congress.

no new discoveries for you  
here.

Kindest regards

Yours in haste

Walter J. Dilliey.



2 Gladstone Place

Aberdeen.

25th. July 1913.

28 JUL 1913



Dear Mr. Wellcome,

I am exceedingly grateful to you for your very kind letter of 24th inst. and also for the block of the "Tying Cure" which has arrived safely. I shall not fail to record my indebtedness to you in the printed article and to send you a copy of the reprint.

I am keeping my eyes open for any relics but so far none have turned up.

I have also made inquiries regarding an anthropologist for your next expedition and I find that the men here who would have been of any use are all booked for the winter; if I should hear of anyone else I shall inform you.

With kindest regards,  
yours sincerely,

Walter J. Dilling.

Pulling





University of Aberdeen.

2 Gladstone Pl.  
Aberdeen.

My dear Mr. Thompson.

I have been tied up with work hence I have delayed this. Will you please fill it up with the particulars of your two exhibits, & return it to Miss Frost.

Many thanks for your last note. I have had no time to send more particulars of the "Breast exhaustor" some day I will send you a photo of it. Also thanks for returning Beech box.

In great haste

Yours very sincerely,

Walter J. Dilliey

Pilling



2 Gladstone Place  
Aberdeen  
17<sup>th</sup> June 1913.

Dear Mr. Thomson.

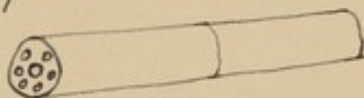
I regret to say I have failed to get that giraffe of which I spoke. The doctor who saw it writes to say that the people who possess it and who seem to be good patients are not inclined to part with it and apparently he does not wish to offend them.

It has occurred to me that some of the things I have at home might be of some interest for the historical museum and if so I shall be glad to lend them. Those that might be interesting are

1) Old pewter feeder marked "Maw Aldersman-bury."

2) Pewter Vaginal Donkey.

3) A box said to have been used for carrying leeches in? ivory somewhat like:-



Do you know if this is correct?

4) Of Veterinary Instruments

I have three "Aeans" "malls" & "Probes"



the last being in our vernacular "Foccar & Cannula"

5) A very crude hypodermic syringe used by Chinese Robbers for injecting opium in the F. M. S.

6) I have an old marble mortar with four legs & 3 4 ft 2" pestles two with Siquinum Vitae heads, as well as 2 bell metal (?) mortars & an iron one but these I expect are of little interest

7) A dental key found in a cellar at Rostock Meckleburg.

8) A Zulu Charm of beads with a piece of snake's skin attached said to ward off & cure diseases

9) of old medical Books I have several but none I think of special importance. They are, however, catalogued and if you wish it I can send you the list for perusal.

I should like to ask you at the same time whether your firm has published any other books or pamphlets on historical medicine than the one distributed to the members of the B.M.A. meeting at Liverpool last year of this, they kindly sent me a copy. If there are any others of a like nature which I have not seen I shall be very much obliged



if you could get me a copy. Further may I ask whether you intend to publish in any more permanent form the, "Astrological" "Surgical" and other series of illustrations which are a feature of your advertisements in the Journals. I have collected them for some time but too recently to have a complete set.

Please let me know if I can assist the Museum in any way.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Walter Dilling

P.S. Can you tell me any book on "Old Pharmacy Jars" with illustrations?

Pilling



- (1) Amulet in Stone Used to be hung above the patient's head in a box bed; from the North of Scotland.
- (2) Candle Mould in Iron. Used in making one tallow candle- Kinellar, Aberdeen.
- (3) Emergency Rations Tin, Used in South African War.
- (4) First Field Dressing, South African War.
- (5) Dental Key in Steel with ebony handle, Rostock, Mecklenburg.
- (6) Reading Glass used for reading Bible in church
- (7) Chinese Hypodermic Syringe used by itinerant robbers for injecting opium
- (8) Wooden Snuff or Pepper Mill
- (9) Mate Cup and Bombilla
- (10) Nutmeg Grater in japanned iron.
- (11) Poison Bottle by H. Gilbertson & Sons. registered 30th Oct. 1861.
- (12) Vaginal Douch in Pewter
- (13) Pewter Feeding Spoon.
- (14) Scales (Wye-back) Used for weighing butter and cheese by farmer's wives.
- (15) Manacle or "Snip" with spring lock in Iron.
- (16) Bronze Dram Glass.

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Dilling



H.M.M.

4th March 1913.

Dear Dr. Dilling,

I return herewith your article on Girdles which I have read with much interest. You have included all the details that I have heard of and I think your account is very complete.

Thanking you for the opportunity of reading it,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

G.J.S.T.

POST CARD

ABERDEEN

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

FEB 22 1915 A



C. J. S. Thompson Esq.  
Historical Medical Museum  
54 a Wignmore Street  
London W



2 Gladstone Place  
Aberdeen  
21/II/13.

Dear Mr. Thompson

Many thanks for yours of  
19<sup>th</sup> inst. You will receive the "Givale"  
about the end of next week per my  
brother in London who wishes to go through  
it & will send it on to you. When you  
have finished, please then send it to me.

You may rely on me, if it is at all  
possible, getting that Keith specimen,  
there are difficulties but I am not  
without hope.

Many thanks for the trouble you are  
taking regarding the reference.

Kindest regards

Yours sincerely

Walter J. Dilling



H. M. M.

19 February 1913.

Dr. Dilling,  
Dear Sir,

I desire to thank you for your kind letter of the 11th inst.

I should be very glad to see what you have written about the girdle, if you would be good enough to forward me the MS. as you suggest. I will return it to you as soon as possible.

Do you think there is any chance of obtaining the girdle from the woman in Keith? We have had nothing of the kind sent in for the Historical Medical Museum, though I have been hoping to have some such loan from Scotland.

I saw my friend last week with respect to the reference in the book I mentioned to you, but unfortunately this book has been lent to someone in the country. It is some months since I read it, so it is quite possible that I have made a mistake in the author's name. As soon as I can get possession of the actual book I will send you further particulars, and should I come across any other reference to the use of the girdle, I will let you know.

With kind regards,

I am,

Faithfully yours,



Dilling-

2 Gladstone Place  
Cherwell  
11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1913.



Dear Mr. Howson.

I regret my tardy reply to yours of 15<sup>th</sup> ulto. but I have been excessively busy. I have written up the "Girdle" for Dr. Hastings' "Encycl of Religion and Ethics" a piece of work I did not anticipate but this is only a summary of what I have got. If it would interest you I will be glad to send you the m.s. which will indicate the ground I have opened up.

Many thanks for your reference to Mr. MacRitchie. I shall write him in the near future now that I am less driven!

I heard of a Girdle at Keith in thisshire the other day. It was discovered round a woman's chest, she suffering from Heart Disease & she believed it "helped her". She is a Catholic.

Now to go back to your first letter of 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. you state that "There is



also a reference to the use of those girdles in the Scottish Highlands in a work on Highland Superstitions, I think by J. P. Cameron. This book which is a scarce one, belongs to a friend of mine & I phoned him to-day - etc You say it gives a full account of their use and also the magical words used when they were put on.

I cannot trace this work. I have found a work by J. G. Campbell. Superstitions of the Highlands & Islands of Scotland, Glasgow 1900 but in it nothing of the belt. Another work by J. F. Campbell. Popular Tales of the West Highlands 4 Vols Edinburgh 1862. I find nothing. Could you please give me an exact reference to the work you mentioned and I shall try again to obtain it.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely  
Walker J. Dilling.



H. M. M.

15 January 1913.

Dear Sir,

I desire to thank you for your kind and interesting letter of the 31st inst.

I have been doing my best to get into touch with my friends who had heard of the accouchement belts being employed in the Highlands of Scotland, but I have lost sight of them for so many years they are difficult to trace. Mr. MacRitchie, Edinburgh, who is a well-known antiquary, may help you if you write to him and mention my name.

Should I come across any further reference to or meet with a belt, which I should much like to do for the purpose of the Historical Medical Exhibition, I shall be sure to let you know.

Trusting you are better,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

Walter J. Dilling Esq.



2 Gladstone Place  
Aberdeen  
31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1912.

Dear Sir,

Very many thanks for your kind and interesting reply to my query about the girdles. I know of the "Ceinture de la Vierge" from Ploss-Bastels "Das Weib" I shall try to get the work you mention. Also I shall enquire in our Library for the work by Cameron which I did not know of.

It will interest you to know that I have traced the reference I sent you to Ossian's Poems. It is to be found in "The Poems of Ossian etc." edited by Malcolm Laing Edinburgh 1805 Vol I page 283. It is in the form of a footnote evidently by Macpherson himself and Laing doubts his statement.

You remark that friends of yours in the north of Scotland believe they are still employed. I wonder if I am asking too much of you when I request you to put me into communication with some of them. I have utterly failed to find a medical man there who has ever heard of them. Like you, I should wish to get one but I would be quite content with a photograph of the belt. I stumbled across one in Dublin when a student and not being then specially interested I let slip what was, I see now, a unique opportunity. I have traced these belts through many lands and I am inclined to think their origin is Indian. One interesting specimen from Portuguese East Africa used by the Shanganu women is in Aberdeen University. I am trying to get details of its manner of application.

Please excuse this rambling letter as I am down with "Influenza"  
With renewed thanks & best wishes for 1913.

C. J. L. Thomson Esq.

Yours sincerely  
Walker J. Dilling.



2. 1870

1870

Faint, illegible handwriting at the top of the page, possibly a header or address.

*William*

Main body of faint, illegible handwriting, likely the body of a letter or document.



30th December 1912.

Dear Sir,

In reply to yours of the 25th inst. duly to hand inquiring if we can give you any references beyond those you mention as to the use of accouchement belts or girdles, have you come across the account of the famous *de la Vierge* which is given in 'La Histoire des Accouchements' by *Witkowski* page 125. There is also a reference to the use of these girdles in the Scottish Highlands in a work on Highland superstitions, I think by J.C. Cameron. This book which is a scarce one belongs to a friend of mine, and I 'phoned him to-day to know if he would give me the reference to the chapter on the girdles, but he has unfortunately lent the book to a friend and has not yet got it back. If you do not know of this work as far as I can recollect, it gives a very full account of their use and also the magical words that were used when they were put on. I understand from friends in the north of Scotland that in country places to the north of Inverness these belts are still employed, but are guarded and kept with great mystery and care. I have been trying for some time to obtain a specimen for our Historical Medical Museum, but up to the present have been unsuccessful. I am sorry I have no further information on the subject at present but should I come across any I shall not fail to let you know.

I desire to thank you on Mr. Wellcome's and on my own behalf for your kind interest in the historical medical work, and I trust you may be able to come south to see the Museum when it is opened next summer.

Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

Dr. Walter J. Dilling,

2 Gladstone Place,

Aberdeen.



University of Aberdeen.

2 Gladstone Place  
Aberdeen  
25<sup>th</sup> Dec 1912.

Dear Sir,

I write to ask whether you or Mr. Wellcome can be of any assistance  
due in a medico-historical matter.

I enclose an excerpt from Braud's "Antiquities" which will explain  
itself. Have you ever come across any such belts either in this country  
or abroad or have you any references to the literature on such apart  
from Engelmann's "Labor in primitive peoples" & Plass Bartels "Das Weib".  
Any information you can give me about them will be most  
gratefully received. I am extremely interested in the subject of medical  
History and must applaud the valuable work that you are doing on this  
matter. Meantime I doubt if I have anything which is of much  
use for the coming exhibition which I hope to see



I trust meantime I am not putting you to much trouble  
I am

Yours faithfully

Walter J. Dilling M.B. Ch.B.

Lecturer in Pharmacology.

C. J. S. Thomson Esq.

Historical Medical Museum

54 A Wigmore Street

London W.1.

" According to Henry, the ancient Britons, in the event  
" of a birth being attended with any difficulty, put a  
" girdle made for the purpose about the woman in  
" labour, which they imagined gave immediate and  
" effectual relief. Girdles of this kind were, till  
" lately, carefully preserved in many families in the  
" Highlands of Scotland. They were impressed with  
" numerous mystical figures, and the ceremony of  
" binding them about the waist was accompanied  
" with words and gestures indicating the great  
" antiquity of the practice and its original derivation  
" from the Druids "

Excerpt from "Brand's - Observations on Popular Antiquities"

New Edition London Chatto & Windus 1900 p 331

Do such girdles exist in these days ?



Dilling