

The Museums and the Library of the Wellcome Trust.

Contributors

Wellcome Trust (London, England)
Wellcome Institute of the History of Medicine.
Wellcome Historical Medical Museum and Library.
Wellcome Museum of Medical Science.

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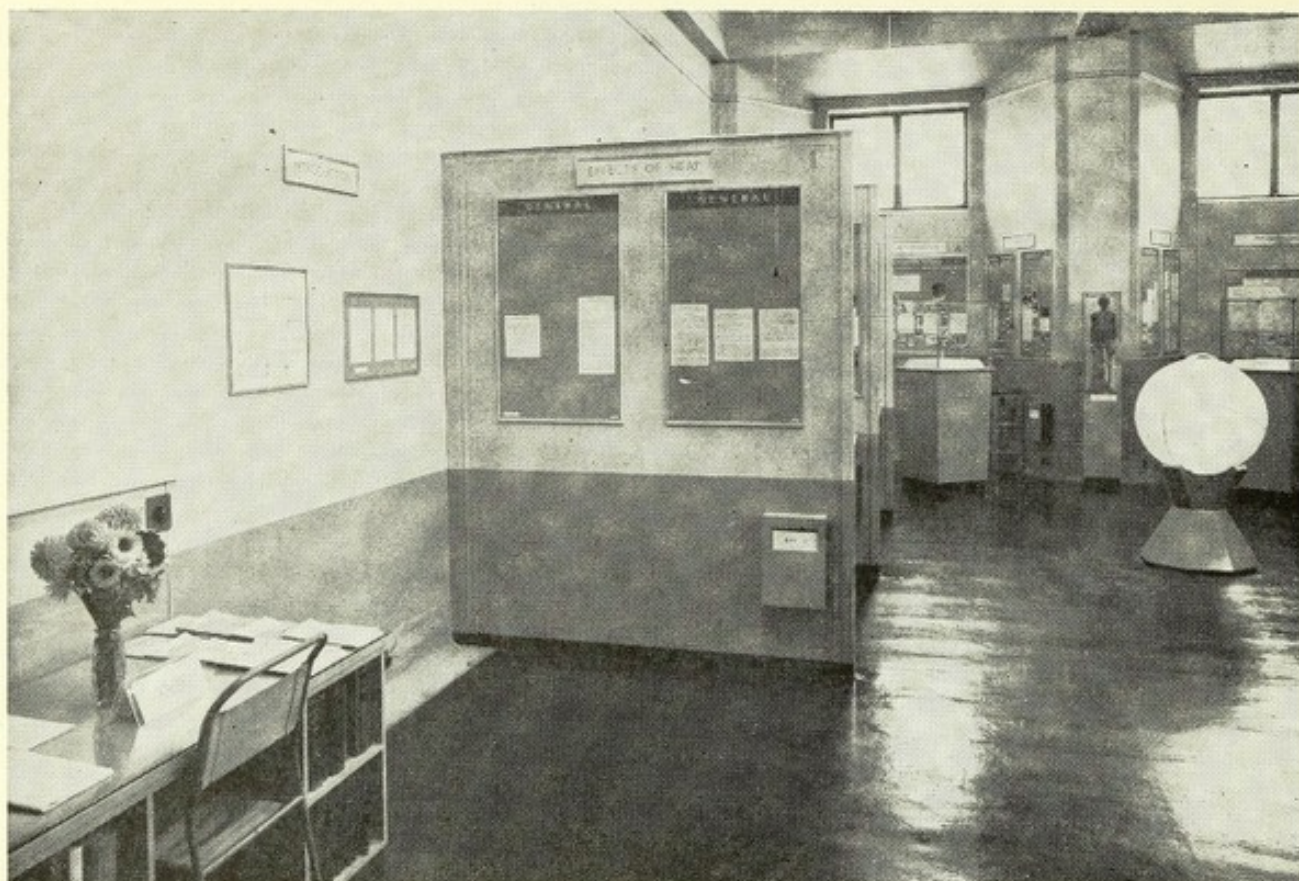
Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

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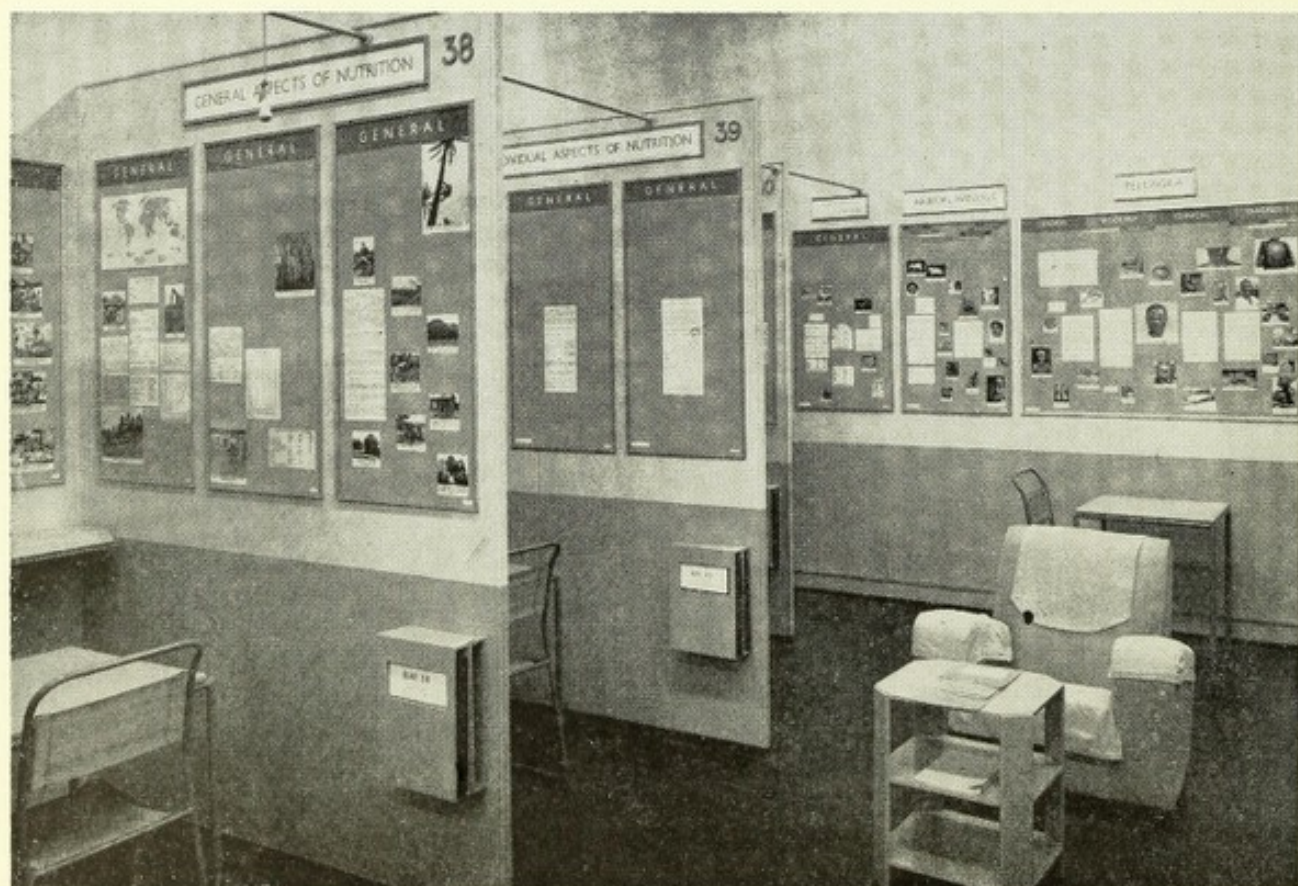


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The Museums and the Library
of
The Wellcome Trust



ENTRANCE TO THE WELLCOME MUSEUM OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.



A TYPICAL STUDY BAY IN THE WELLCOME MUSEUM OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

The Museums and the Library of The Wellcome Trust



ORIGINAL SHOP FRONT of the John Bell pharmacy in Oxford Street, London, acquired by Henry Wellcome when it was dismantled in 1909. The contents show a pharmacy as it might have looked in the 1820's.



TO MANY a physician and medical scientist, whether bent on study or travel, a trip to London would not be complete without a visit to The Wellcome Museum of Medical Science and The Wellcome Historical Medical Museum and Library. These noteworthy collections are attractively housed at The Wellcome Building, 183 Euston Road, in London—a convenient, central location nearby the University of London.

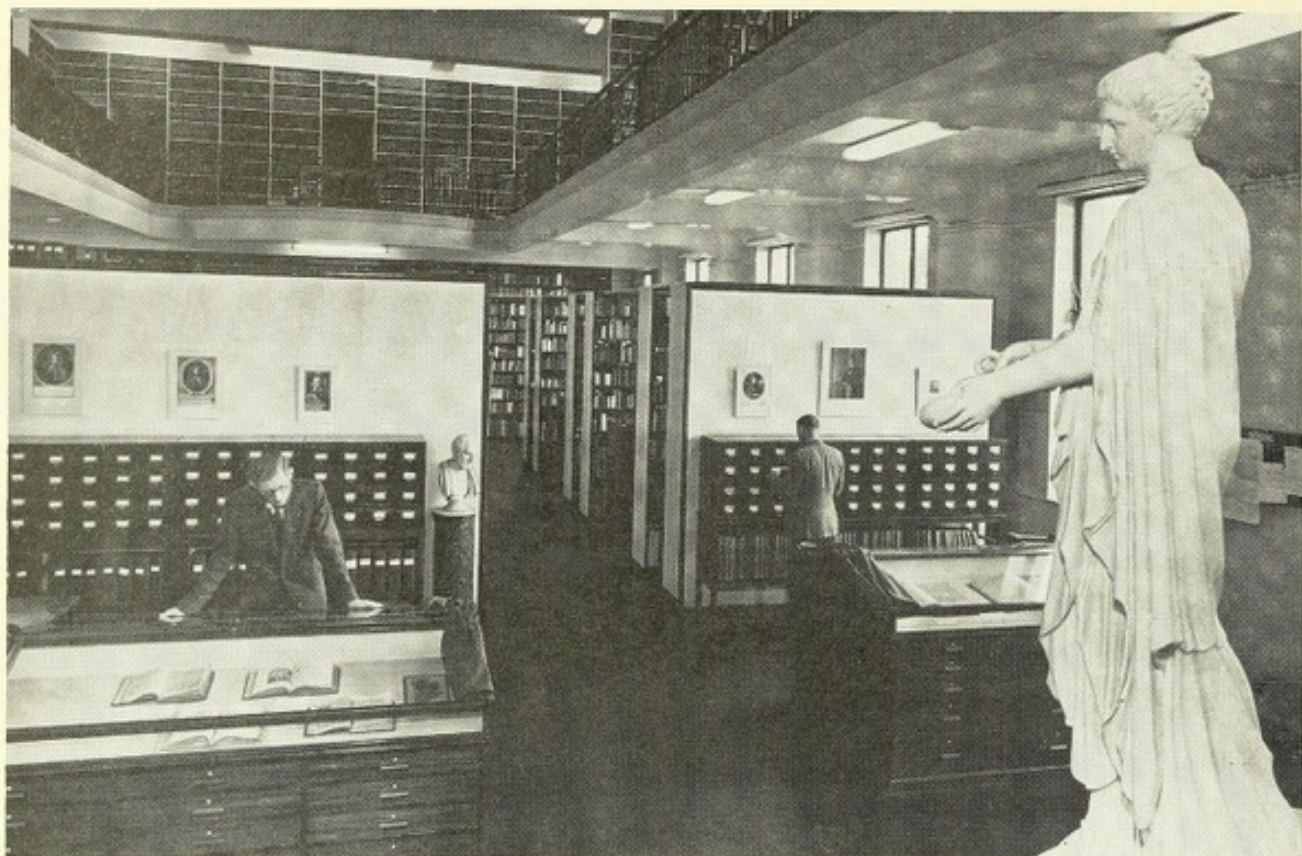
The Wellcome Museum of Medical Science and The Wellcome Historical Medical Museum and Library are special institutions maintained on behalf of The Wellcome Trust, its sole shareholders, by The Wellcome Foundation Limited, of which Burroughs Wellcome & Co. (U.S.A.) Inc., Tuckahoe, New York, is a subsidiary.

The position of this Company is unique in the pharmaceutical industry. It had its origin in a partnership set up in 1880 by Silas M. Burroughs and Henry S. Wellcome (two American graduates of Pharmacy) under the style

of Burroughs Wellcome & Co. to manufacture and sell pharmaceuticals. Following the early death of Burroughs, Wellcome became sole owner, and he devoted much of his later life to setting up the museums and library, which were maintained from the profits of the business. He eventually consolidated his many interests throughout the world into one organization which was registered under the name of The Wellcome Foundation Limited. On his death all the shares in the organization were vested in a body of trustees known as The Wellcome Trust. As sole shareholders in The Wellcome Foundation Limited, the trustees are directed under Wellcome's will to use the distributed profits, which they receive as dividends from The Wellcome Foundation Limited, for purposes which can be defined broadly as the advancement of research in medical and allied sciences.

THE WELLCOME MUSEUM OF MEDICAL SCIENCE

The Wellcome Museum of Medical Science is unique among centers of medical teaching. Thus the title, Museum, is



VIEW OF THE CATALOGUE AND THE BOOK-STACKS IN THE WELLCOME LIBRARY.



PART OF THE READERS' GALLERY IN THE WELLCOME LIBRARY

slightly misleading, for it is more properly a place where the recognition and treatment of disease—with special reference to diseases of the tropics—is taught by synoptic methods. At present, its displays are primarily designed for medical men intending to go to tropical or sub-tropical areas and physicians from such areas who visit the United Kingdom for purposes of study. The standard is post-graduate, although nurses, laboratory technicians, public health officials and teachers, especially of biology, frequently use the Museum and find much to interest them.

The Museum comprises two long galleries broken up by screens into a number of rectangular sections or bays. Each bay is arranged as a complete study unit provided with a table and chair, where a student may work in comfort and reasonable freedom from distraction. These bays are the primary components of the Museum. Most of their information is contained in concise summaries placed on vertical panels attached to the screens. These summaries are prepared with the advice of experts and are illustrated by photographs, charts, maps and diagrams. The information in each of the bays is supplemented and kept up to date by extracts from medical journals contained in a folder designed for the purpose. Each bay thus presents visual material designed to give a clear and balanced account of modern knowledge relating to one or more specific conditions. Among the subjects dealt with in detail in the Museum bay presentations are protozoal diseases, e.g., malaria; bacterial diseases, including leprosy and tuberculosis; helminthology, with accounts of diseases caused by trematodes, cestodes and nematodes (schistosomiasis being given special prominence); virus diseases, rickettsial diseases, fungi, nutrition and malnutrition.

An interesting and popular feature of the displays is inclusion, in each disease

section, of a folder containing questions that have been set at recent examinations by various United Kingdom medical examining bodies. Students find this phase of the Museum's service exceedingly useful. They and other visitors often spend many weeks in the building working steadily from bay to bay, allowing nothing to pass unchallenged. Many of them are specialists in their own fields of medicine and make valuable suggestions for improving the standards of presentation. In setting up its displays the Museum not only provides an exhibition but collects, sifts and records information for visitors and students from all over the world. It is the Museum's aim that within its walls will be found conformity without tedium, exactitude without restraint and tidiness without rigidity.

The practical use made of the Museum is shown by the fact that in a year it is visited by as many as 10,000 doctors, nurses, health inspectors, health visitors, missionaries and teachers, from practically every country of the world. In addition, staff of the Tropical Diseases Hospital give formal instruction to members of postgraduate courses of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

THE WELLCOME HISTORICAL MEDICAL LIBRARY

The Wellcome Historical Medical Library was founded by Henry Wellcome with the object of providing a comprehensive collection for students of the history of medicine and the allied sciences. As envisaged by Wellcome, the Library was to be developed on a scale comparable to that of the great national collections. Within its own field this aim has been accomplished, and there is hardly a single landmark in the history of medicine and science that is not represented by original texts. The Library has been built up over the past sixty years by pur-

chases at public and private sales throughout the world, supplemented by gifts and bequests.

It is estimated that the Library contains approximately 250,000 printed books, pamphlets and journals; 10,000 manuscripts (of which half are in Oriental languages); 100,000 autograph letters of medical and scientific interest; as well as other documents such as diplomas, certificates and proclamations. The Library also contains a fine collection of medical and scientific periodicals going back to the seventeenth century. Collections of such range and size make The Wellcome Library one of the most comprehensive special libraries anywhere in the world and it has rapidly taken its place as an international center of study and research in the history of medicine and the allied sciences. This subject is now becoming of increasing importance as one which provides a bridge between science and the humanities. In studying the history of his subject the scientist must needs trace back the path of its development to the point where men shared a common knowledge, where the philosopher discussed the problems of the physician, where the Fathers of the Church discoursed as learnedly as any modern psychiatrist on the waywardness of human personality, and where the artist lighted the way for the anatomist.

A reflection of this historical unity of knowledge may be seen in the works listed in the catalog of the Library's incunabula (books printed before 1500) which was published by the Oxford University Press in 1954. This collection of medieval and classical texts (to which additions have been made since 1954) is one of the largest of its kind in any medical library and includes books from many famous private collections of earlier centuries. Many bear the signatures of their former owners, which include Thomas Linacre, who in 1518 secured from Henry VIII the charter for the foundation of the Royal College of Phy-

sicians, and Philip Melanchthon, the celebrated Renaissance humanist.

Work has been going on for many years in the preparation of a published catalog of all books in the Library printed before 1851. This will, when completed, be a monumental catalog in many volumes, but the first of them, containing descriptions of 7,000 books printed before 1641, is now being printed by the Oxford University Press and will probably be published in the course of 1961. This section of the Library comprises many works of the highest importance as well as many bibliographical rarities, including some unique items.

Among the great medical landmarks are all the editions of Vesalius; the first, and subsequent editions of Harvey's *De motu cordis* (1628, etc.); and one of the largest collections of the writings of Paracelsus to be found anywhere. The foundations of modern science which were laid in that period are represented by first editions of Bacon, Galileo, Kepler, and Descartes.

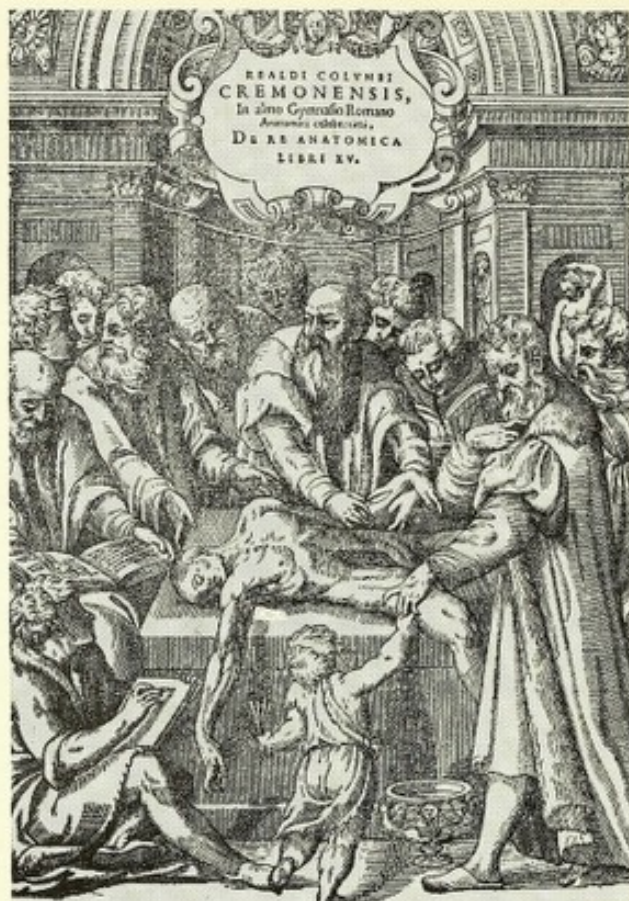
The many hundreds of early English books include many great rarities, including a splendid copy of the first edition of Andrew Boorde's *Breviary of Health* (1547); all three editions of the celebrated anatomical books of Thomas Geminus (1545-59); John Caius on the Sweating Sickness (1552), the first original description of a disease in the English language; Timothy Bright's *Treatise of Melancholy* (1586), which some Shakespearean scholars associated with *Hamlet*; the first (suppressed) issue of the London Pharmacopoeia (1618); and Stephen Bradwell's *Helps for Suddain Accidents* (1633), the earliest book on first aid.

Later volumes of the catalog will provide a guide to the original texts marking important advances in medicine and the sciences from the mid-seventeenth century onwards, including those of Lower, Mayow, Sydenham, Willis, Boyle, Newton, Leeuwenhoek, Linnaeus, Hunter,

and Jenner. Although, for the present, the published catalog is planned to end at the year 1850, this limit was set only to make the compilation of the catalog and its publication a practical possibility. Since Wellcome's death in 1936, the Library's collections have been greatly expanded to complete representation of the revolutionary advances made in the last century, and they range from Lister, Pasteur, Roentgen and Marie Curie to Fleming's first paper on penicillin, Waksman on streptomycin, and Hench on cortisone.

The collection of original manuscripts in the Wellcome Library is also of great interest. It comprises more than 5,000 in western languages, dating from the eleventh century onwards, and about the same number in Oriental languages. The great medieval Arabic period of medicine is well represented by early manuscripts of works by Rhazes and Avicenna; among the Chinese manuscripts is a fine copy of the famous Chinese 'Great Herbal'; among the Japanese is a sixteenth-century manuscript with many fascinating anatomical illustrations in full color; the Persian collection includes many fine illustrated herbals, and among the numerous Sanskrit manuscripts are fine early copies of the famous Indian classics of medicine, the *Charaka Samhita* and the *Susruta Samhita*.

Catalogs of all these are gradually being prepared, but the first to be published will be the *Catalogue of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in The Wellcome Library*, which will shortly be ready for press and will contain detailed descriptions of some 1,350 works, many of which are unpublished and unknown to scholars. Notable among these is one written in Anglo-Saxon in the time of King Canute, before the Norman Conquest; a fragment of an herbal of Dioscorides, with colored illustrations, dating from about A.D. 400; a splendid herbal of Apuleius, written on vellum and with numerous fine colored illustrations



TITLE-PAGE of the very rare anatomical work by Realdo Colombo, Venice, 1559. This is the first medical book to contain an account of the pulmonary circulation of the blood. From the copy in the Wellcome Historical Library.

of medicinal plants and animals, as well as many others in Greek, Latin, French, and Italian.

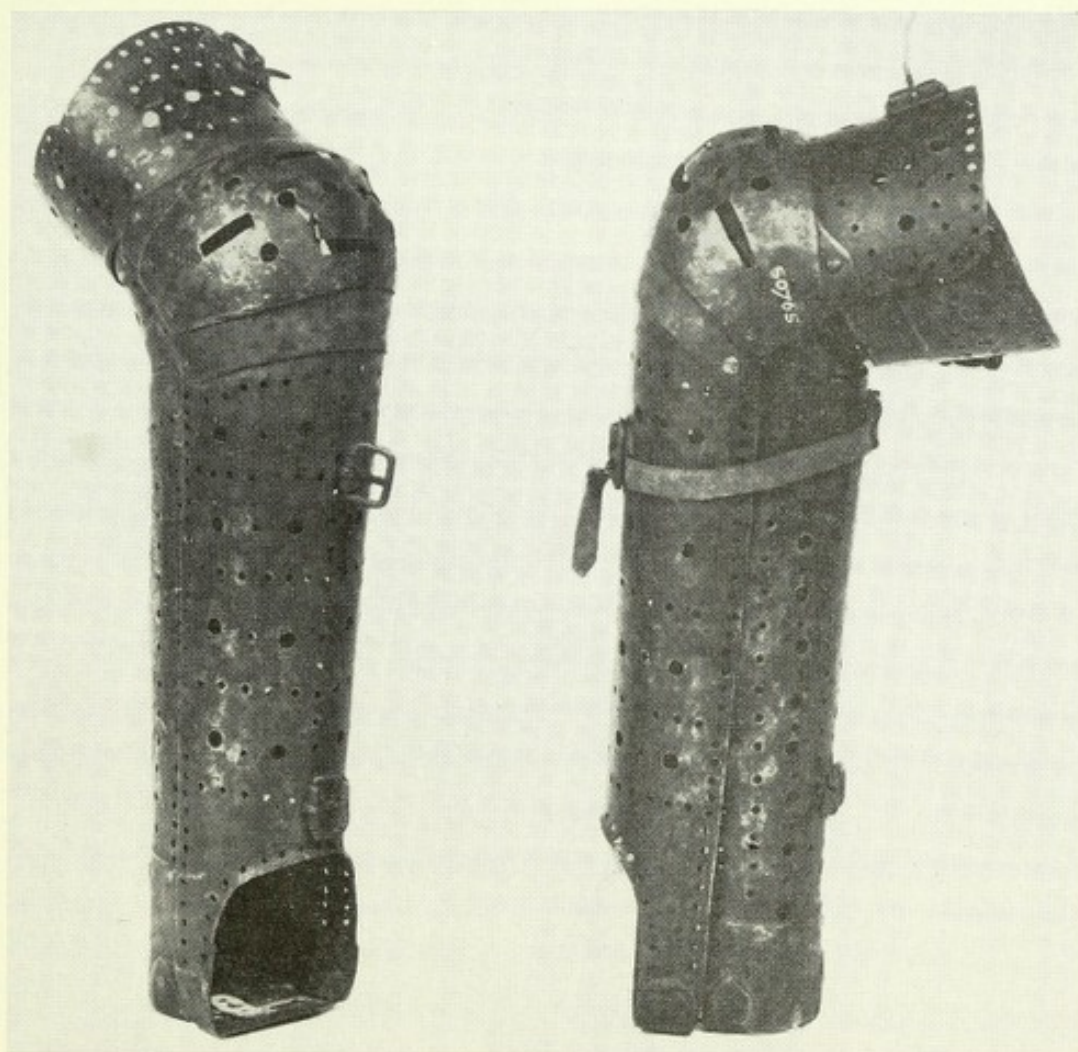
The very large collections of original letters from famous doctors and scientists is of remarkable range. There are over 500 letters from Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing; over 100 by Louis Pasteur, in one of which he writes about the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 in Churchillian terms; there is also one of his original laboratory notebooks, as there is of Marie Curie; letters from Hunter, Jenner and Lister are of the greatest scientific importance, but there are others by great historic figures such as George Washington (a long list of drugs written and signed by him from Mount Vernon just after his marriage), and Lord Nelson (letters to Emma Hamilton in which he

discusses his health after the amputation of his arm).

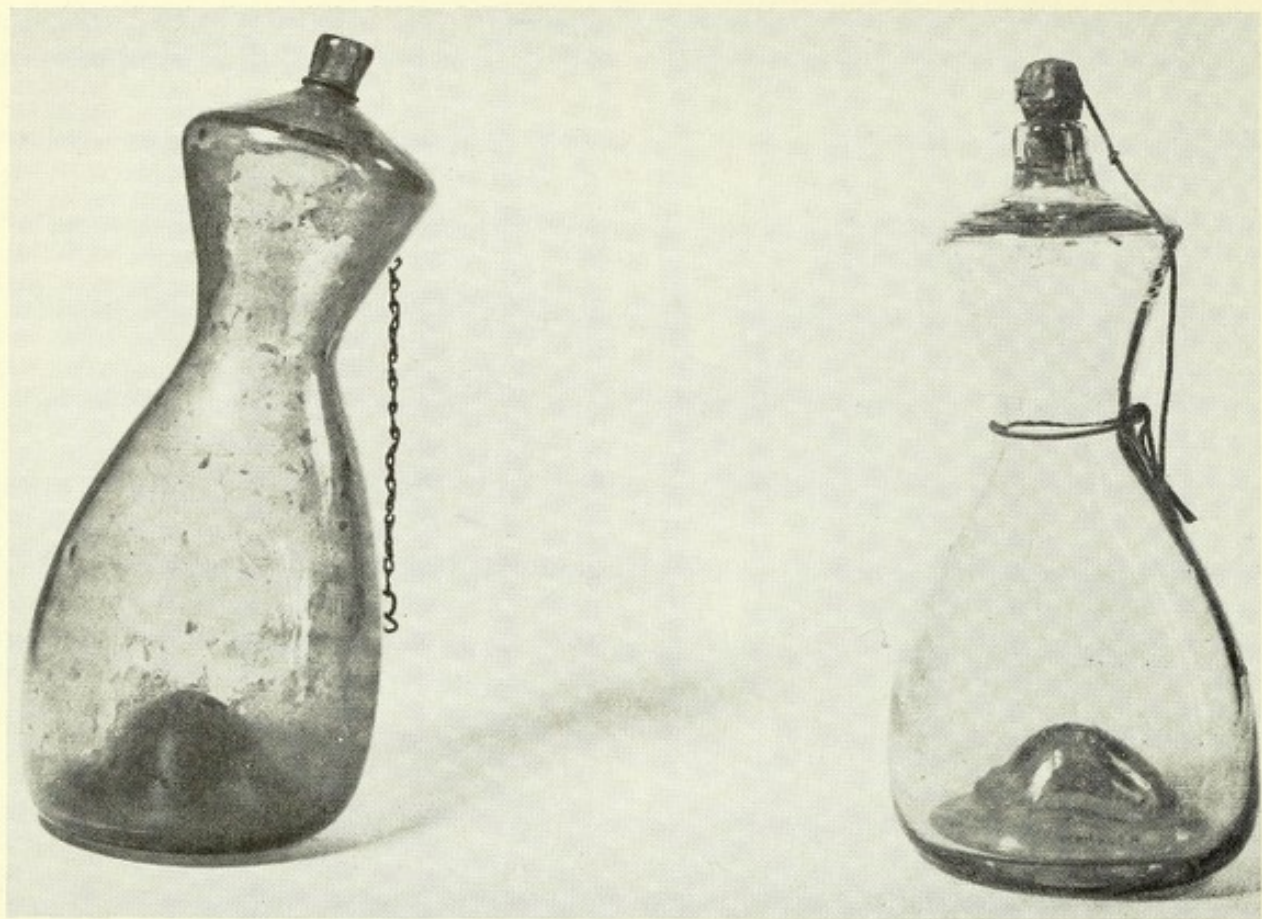
Although the Library is primarily intended for the use of students and research workers in the history of medicine and the sciences, it is open to any serious inquirer. The resources of the Library are also admirably suited to postgraduate study in historical topics that are not specifically medical, and valuable information may be found touching on social history and the social sciences, religion, and philosophy, literature and the arts, technology, anthropology and archaeology. There is ample accommodation for readers, and a photocopy service can supply photographs for illustrations or microfilms of text on request.

It is realized that, as with any inter-

national center of this kind, only a few of all those interested in the subject can make a personal visit to The Wellcome Library, and in 1954, in order to extend its facilities, the Library initiated its quarterly publication, *Current Work in the History of Medicine: An International Bibliography*. This arranges under subject headings all the articles on the history of medicine which appear in each quarter anywhere in the world, as well as all new books on the subject as they are published. As a complete guide to the literature, this index is greatly appreciated and is now distributed in 55 countries. It is supplied free, on request only, to institutions or interested individuals. The fact that it lists the addresses of authors has helped to link



EARLY 18TH CENTURY "LEGGINGS" for the treatment of rickets in a child. Design based on the armor of the period. In the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum.



17TH CENTURY DUTCH FEEDING BOTTLES for use after weaning. Said to be designed so child could feed self while lying down. In the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum.

workers in many different countries who share a similar interest.

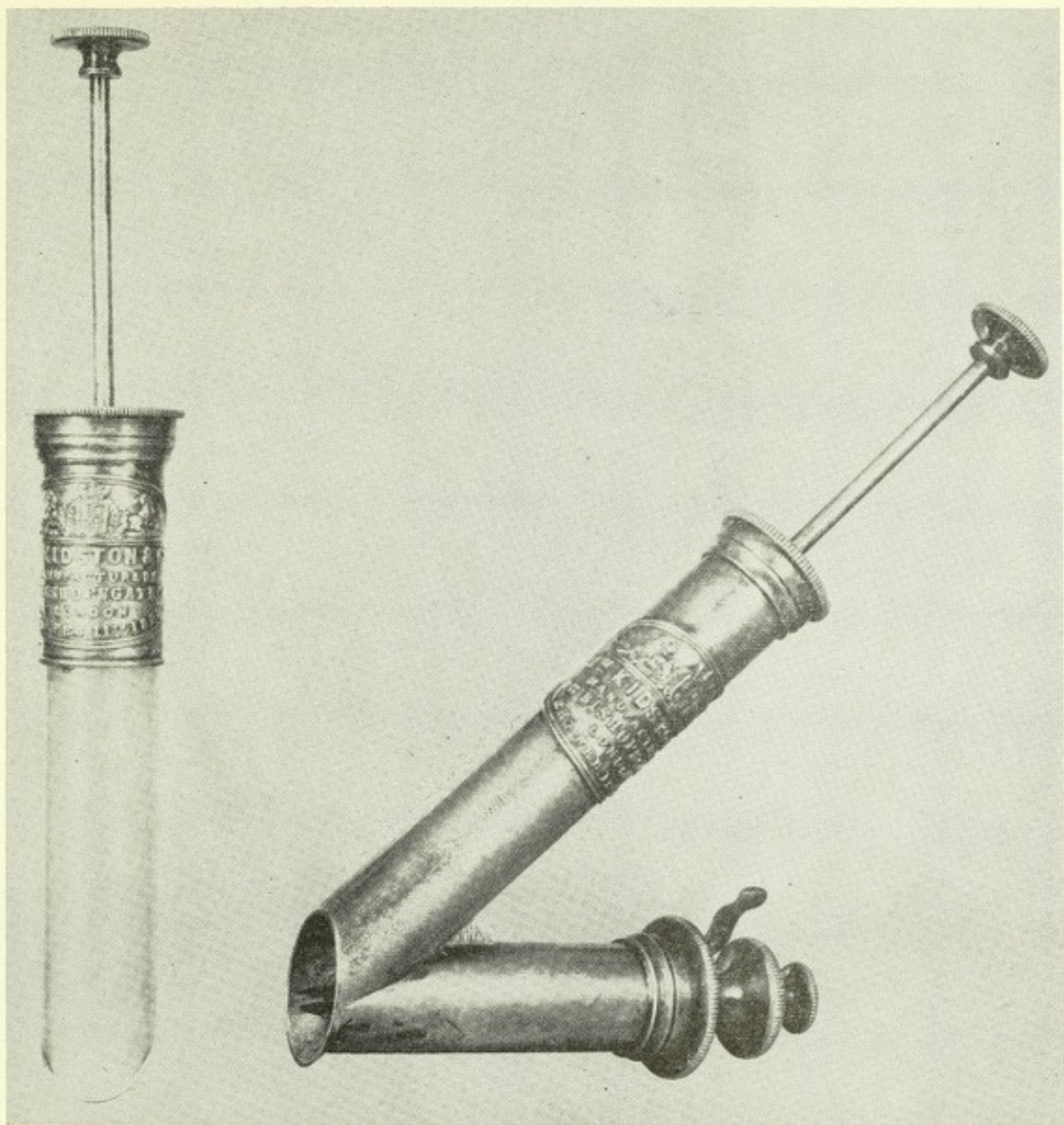
THE WELLCOME HISTORICAL MEDICAL MUSEUM

In The Wellcome Historical Medical Museum there is presented an extensive collection of original material illustrating the practice of surgery, medicine and allied sciences throughout the ages. Some exhibits are permanently on view, while special displays dealing with particular individuals of historic note, or subjects of topical interest, are arranged from time to time. The inception of the collection dates back to 1905 when Henry Wellcome began to collect archaeological and anthropological material connected with the history of medicine. Over the ensuing years, he painstakingly searched out and acquired priceless examples of the world's historic medical

knowledge and paraphernalia of practice.

The collection of medical equipment, some 200,000 pieces in all, include apparatus used in alchemy and pharmacy; amulets, charms and objects associated with healing from ancient Greece and Rome; examples of the development of the microscope from crude idea to practical actuality; early drug jars and specimens of the drugs used long ago; surgical instruments and appliances from all eras; even the ritualistic instruments and materials of aboriginal medicine. There are also some 80,000 prints and 800 pictures, many of them of great artistic interest.

Surgical instruments, diagnostic aids and equipment used in treatment illustrate the inventive turns and practices of the ages. Some early stethoscopes bear a marked resemblance to the trumpet-style



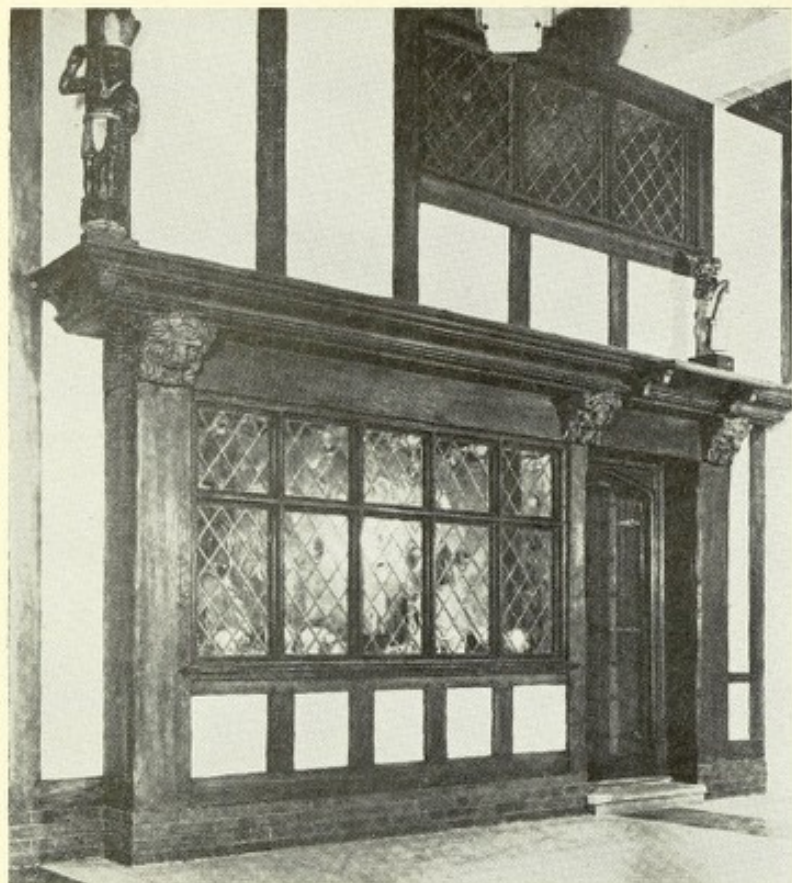
"MECHANICAL LEECH" INVENTED BY MESSRS. KIDSTON & CO., 1850. *Blades of lancet designed to give puncture resembling that of natural leech. After puncture, blood drawn off by means of glass cylinder and piston. In the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum.*

hearing aids of long ago and, indeed, may have evolved therefrom as an applied experiment.

A pair of metal "leggings" with knee joints that were used for treating rickets look curiously like child-size armor. Displays relating to pediatric practice go back into antiquity. Forerunner of the modern nursing bottle is an infant feeding horn of 1,000 B.C., its shape not unlike the gunpowder horns of frontiers-

men. A later development, as pottery came into general usage, was an earthenware pot with a small spout for infant feeding. Glass nursing bottles developed in Holland in the 17th Century were a step in the direction of modern self-feeding; they were shaped somewhat like an hourglass so as to enable the infant to grasp the bottle around its narrow waist.

A therapeutic curiosity of the 19th Century is the mechanical "leech." This

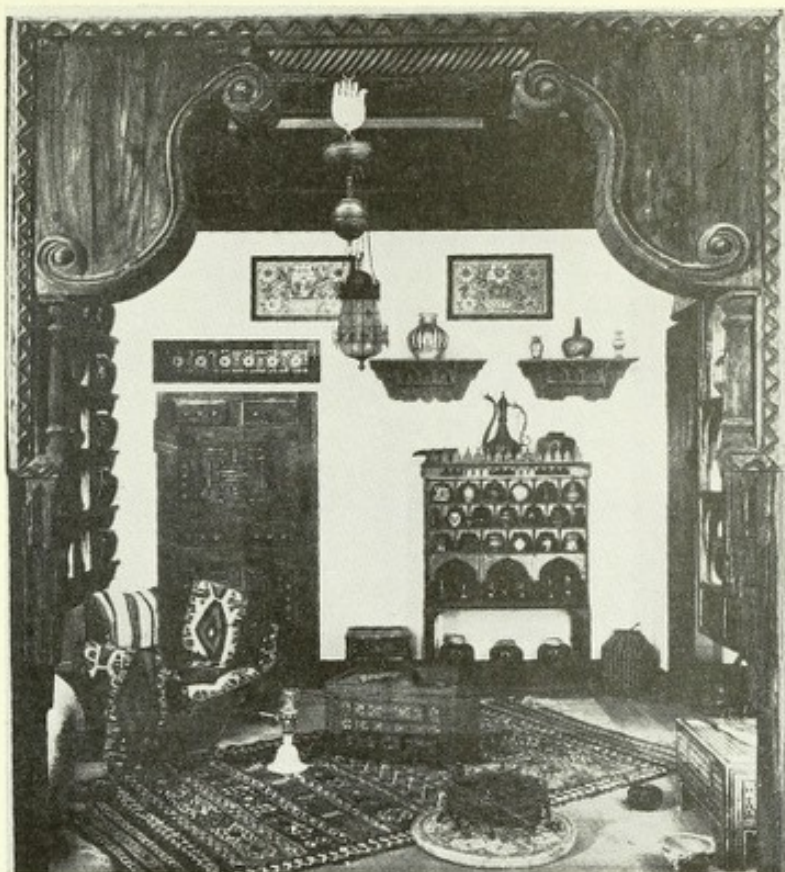


EXTERIOR of an *English pharmacy* as it would have appeared in the late 17th century.

GENUINE HISPANO-MAUR-
ESQUE pharmacy of late 18th
Century. All woodwork and most
contents came from the Pontes
Pharmacy in Granada.



RECONSTRUCTION, using authentic materials, of an Arabic pharmacy as it might have existed some centuries ago.



RECONSTRUCTION of a 17th Century Italian pharmacy, utilizing authentic furniture and materials of Italian origin, mostly dating back to the 17th century or earlier.

odd device consists of a metal tube containing a lancet with plunger attached, to initiate the bloodlettings, and a cylinder with a spring-activated piston, to draw the patient's blood.

Prehistoric disease is shown in fossils. Examples from the Carboniferous period of earth's evolution show the work of prehistoric parasites. More recent in geologic time, fossils from the Cretaceous age bear unmistakable evidence of bone tumors and necrotic sinuses.

SOME NOTABLE COLLECTIONS IN THE MUSEUM

There are individual collections relating to famous men and their work, such as Pasteur, Lister, Ehrlich and others. The Edward Jenner collection, largest of its kind in the world, depicts the life and work of the man known as the "father of vaccination." On display are his lancets and other instruments and equipment, as well as numerous contemporary illustrative prints. One of the latter shows how young Jenner performed his first vaccination, using pus drawn from cowpox eruptions on a patient's hands. Contrasted with this is an interesting sidelight on the history of immunotherapy, delineated in a bronze reproduction of a group of Nigerians being vaccinated for smallpox by methods known to them long before Jenner's time.

In the field of X-ray therapy, there is the crude zinc box used by Roentgen in his early experiments. It is interesting to note that these early machines were often shielded with lead, simply to enable the operator to obtain a more sharply defined X-ray beam. That the lead shield also protected the operator from X-ray injury was then an unknown factor. Also displayed here is the apparatus used by Frederic Joliot-Curie in his first chemical demonstration of artificial radioactivity.

The history of the microscope is shown in a special exhibit displaying all

types, from crudely experimental models to later perfection of the instrument. Included is the one used by Louis Pasteur in his bacteriological investigations and an achromatic microscope invented by the father of Joseph Lister.

Currently on display in The Wellcome Building are five complete early pharmacies, full-scale in size. Each is complete in every detail of furnishing and content and rich in color and beauty.

The oldest is probably the 17th Century Italian exhibit, which is based on the layout and furnishing of the pharmacy of the famous Hospital of the Santo Spirito at Rome, still in use. In addition to the handsome inlaid counter, it contains a collection of contemporary drug jars of rare colors and design. In the background is a beautiful figure representing either the Madonna or St. Catherine of Alexandria, which is the work of an Italian woodcarver of the 16th Century.

The Arab pharmacy is some centuries old and holds examples of the exceptional Arab workmanship of the time in its mosaic windows, carved ceiling and decorated cupboards.

The genuine Spanish (Hispano-Mauresque) pharmacy is of the late 18th Century, its furnishing, fittings and almost all the woodwork in its reconstruction came from the Pontes Pharmacy in Granada, which was said to have been continuously in use since 1492 and practically unaltered since the close of the 18th Century. Highlights are contemporary paintings of Adam, Solomon, Theophrastus, the Greek father of botany, and Dioscorides, the father of materia medica, and of 17th and 18th Century scientists.

Two English pharmacies complete the display, the older being of the late 17th Century complete with drug jars of the period, and the other being the original front of John Bell's pharmacy in Oxford Street, London.

INVITATION TO THE MEDICAL
AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS

Members of the medical, dental, pharmaceutical and nursing professions are invited to visit the Library and the Museums whenever they are in London. Apart from the professional reasons which bring students to the Wellcome Museum of Medical Science, the Wellcome Historical Medical Library and the Museum, anyone will find in them an endless and fascinating array of the medical curiosities of other days. Bequeathed by the late Henry Wellcome, the Museums and Library constitute not just a personal memorial, but a richly creative medium of communication between his

own vigorous, questing mind and the minds of all to come who share such interests. They are one phase of the varied, munificent benefactions bequeathed by Wellcome who, in his will charged his trustees, The Wellcome Trust, to use the distributable surpluses of his commercial enterprises, Burroughs Wellcome & Co. throughout the world, for:

"... the advancement of research work bearing upon medicine, surgery, chemistry, physiology, bacteriology, therapeutics, materia medica, pharmacy and allied subjects . . ." And for the establishment of research museums or libraries and for the collection of information connected with the history of medicine and its allied sciences.

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