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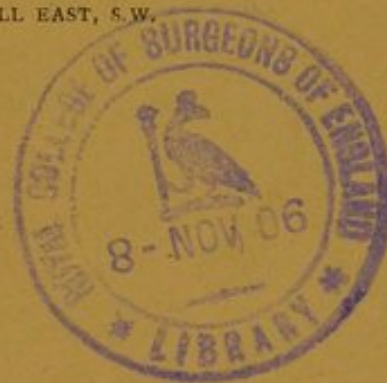
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*The Medical Libraries
of London*

BY

W. R. B. PRIDEAUX, B.A.

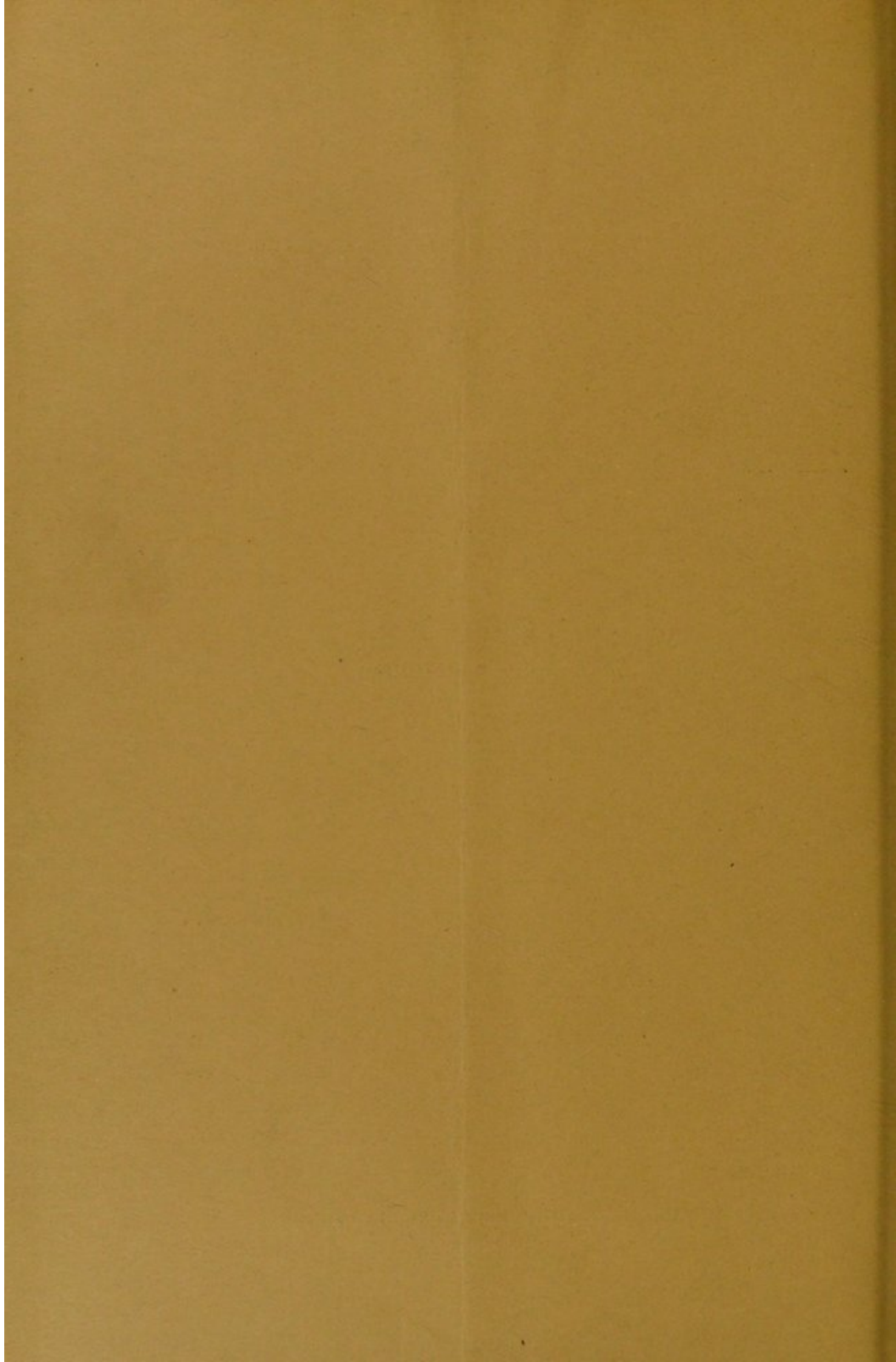
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, PALL MALL EAST, S.W.



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THE MEDICAL LIBRARIES OF LONDON.¹

BY W. R. B. PRIDEAUX, B.A., ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, PALL MALL EAST, S.W.

IN 1836 the *Lancet*, in the course of a review of a work on medical bibliography, sketches the state of the principal medical libraries in the Metropolis at that time. "In the article of medical libraries," it says, "this country is singularly deficient. Several of the German towns, where there are universities, have collections of from one to three or four hundred thousand volumes, while in London there is scarcely one medical library to any extent complete."

In the militant spirit then characteristic of it, the *Lancet* proceeds to pass in review the three chief medical libraries of London. Of the Royal College of Physicians it says: "The library contains many old works of great value, bequeathed to the present Fellows by the departed men of science, who unfortunately left them not a shred of their mantles". It has more praise for the Library of the Royal College of Surgeons, which, "when open, was, with the exception, perhaps, of Radcliffe's Library in Oxford, and the

¹ Submitted as a thesis in applying for the Professional Diploma of the Library Association.

Library of the Medical Society of Edinburgh, the best in this country: a circumstance which may be attributed to the accident of possessing an excellent librarian". The Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society is brought to task for not spending a larger part of its income on the library; and in general the complaint is made that there is too little effort to keep the libraries up to date and supplied with foreign medical literature.

No attempt will be made in the following paper to point out the relative defects or merits of the various libraries described, but the facts, as far as ascertainable, will be set down and allowed to speak for themselves. The libraries may be classified as follows:—

(1) Those belonging to the medical corporations and university.

(2) Those belonging to the general medical societies.

(3) Those belonging to the special medical societies.

(4) Those belonging to medical schools and hospitals.

(5) Those belonging to post-graduation places of study.

Schools of dentistry and dental societies will not be included.

The fine Library of the Pharmaceutical Society and the Library of the Royal Sanitary Institute, though dealing with topics closely related to medicine, will not be considered, but a word may be given to the library being formed by the Pharmacopœia Committee of the General Medical Council which is the governing body of the medical profession. This collection consists of the pharmacopœias of various countries, old and new, and of works bearing on the subject. A printed catalogue has been issued, but it has been transferred to cards and is being kept up to date in that manner. Though formed in the first instance for the use of the members of the Medical Council, presumably any practitioner on the register would be allowed to consult it on making proper application.

Turning to the classes enumerated above, we have in class I—

The Royal College of Physicians.

The Royal College of Physicians of London was founded by Thomas Linacre in 1518, at whose house the meetings were held, and whose books, except a few retained for private use, formed the first nucleus of the library. In 1603 William Gilbert (the discoverer of terrestrial magnetism) left to the College his whole library, globes, instruments, and a cabinet of minerals, and in 1609 it was determined that a catalogue should be made. Ampler accommodation was afforded the library when the College moved to its new building at Amen Corner, and donations began to flow in. An important bequest was that of 680 volumes in 1629 by Dr. Holsbosch, a German, who had practised surgery and physic in England for fifty years. It also seems to have been the custom for Fellows and Candidates to present works to the library on their admission. Other bequests about the middle of the seventeenth century were by William Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, Sir Theodore Mayerne, physician to Charles I., Selden, who left by will all the Arabic MSS. relating to physic that he had collected; while Elias Ashmole, the Marquis of Dorchester, and many others made valuable gifts to the library. The first printed catalogue was issued in 1660 by the librarian, Dr. Christopher Merrett. Unhappily the great fire of London destroyed the College and most of its contents, only 140 volumes, mostly in folio, and some MSS. escaping the flames by the exertions of the librarian. Soon after the fire the Marquis of Dorchester, an Honorary Fellow of the College, made known his intention of presenting to it his private library, consisting of 3,200 volumes, and said to have been the finest private collection in England in physics, mathematics, civil law and philology. It would have been handed over at once but there was no place in which to put it, and only in 1688 could the Marquis's widow see the books properly housed and shelved.

In 1728 the collection was largely augmented by the bequest of Dr. Richard Hale of £500 for buying books to be chosen by his nephew. The amount was judiciously expended, chiefly in large and important reference works. The College obtained in 1751, under the will of Dr. Crow, a fine collection of Greek and Latin classics.

A printed catalogue appeared in 1757 which shows that the library then comprised over 6,650 volumes. Gifts and bequests still continued to come in, and by 1792 it had fallen into such disorder that it had to be rearranged. This was done by Dr. Latham so much to the satisfaction of the College that he received a vote of £100 for his services.

On the opening of the present building in Pall Mall East in 1825, the whole of the books were divided roughly into main classes and arranged in presses round the handsome room prepared for their reception, and also in a smaller room now used by the librarian. Since the above-mentioned date shelves have been fitted in the gallery running round the large room, and quite recently in the basement, for the storage of periodicals. No attempt is now made to classify the books on the shelves.

About 1848 a new catalogue in MS. was prepared by Benjamin Wheatley, afterwards resident librarian of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society and one of the founders of the Library Association. It is bound in two large volumes, and is in use at the present day, being kept up to date by the addition of printed slips from the annual accessions' lists. A subject-index on cards of all books in the library dating from 1880 was prepared in 1900, and is kept up to date. The total number of volumes contained in the library is about 25,000, including a certain number of duplicates. The reading-room is a spacious room on the ground floor looking out on Trafalgar Square. It contains the current magazines and journals, together with some selected reference books, and a show-case in which are displayed some of the interesting works in the library, such as a copy of Caxton's *Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye* and a fourteenth-century paper MS. of Chaucer. There are in the library forty-two books printed before 1500 and over 200 English-

printed books dating before 1640. Round the walls, and upstairs also, there are many fine portraits.

The use of the library is granted to the Fellows and Members of the College, who are entitled also to borrow books, and to the Licentiates. Other medical men may use the reading-room on obtaining a proper introduction. The hours of opening are from noon till six o'clock every week-day, except for the usual holidays and during the month of September, when the College is closed.

Munk (Wm.), *Roll of the Royal College of Physicians*. 2nd edition, 8vo. London, 1878, vol. iii., p. 364.

Royal College of Surgeons.

This body was founded by Royal Charter in 1800; before this time the surgeons had formed, either by themselves or in conjunction with the barbers, one of the City Companies. When the final separation between barbers and surgeons took place in 1745, the former retained the hall, library and plate, but shortly after the incorporation of the College a grant of £50 was made for library purposes, and this was followed in future years by further grants. In 1816 Sir Charles Blicke presented the sum of £300 on condition that the interest be devoted annually to the purchase of books. In 1827 great efforts were made to put the library in a thoroughly good condition; in that and the two subsequent years the sum of £5,269 was spent in the purchase of books, and in 1829 the first librarian was appointed.

The munificent gift of Sir Erasmus Wilson enabled the Council in 1888 very materially to increase the library accommodation, and at the same time to improve and redecorate the existing building. The residence of the Conservator of the Museum at the east end of the College was pulled down, and the building erected on its site was devoted to library purposes. On a level with the old reading-room an extension was built, the two rooms being connected by four archways, two on the ground and two in the gallery. Beneath this a handsome book-room was provided and below that a spacious store-room. The new building

as at present shelved gives accommodation for 26,000 volumes. The librarian's room was considerably improved by throwing into it a loft above the old ceiling and a passage which led into the reading-room.

The whole of the library premises was redecorated, and the electric light was installed throughout. The heating apparatus, which was under the floor at the south side of the library, was all removed, and in its place a coil of hot-water pipes was placed in each window. The gallery railing, being in an unsafe condition, was replaced by one of a stronger pattern.

This extension of the library made it possible to rearrange the books in such a way as to make them more accessible to readers. In the gallery of the extension stand the books on anatomy, physiology, pathology, medicine and surgery; round the reading-room are ranged sets of the periodicals and transactions in greatest demand. There is also a good collection of dictionaries, encyclopædias, systems and general books of reference, conveniently arranged for the use of readers.

The lower room contains books on chemistry and physics, materia medica and therapeutics, forensic medicine, diseases of women and children, history of medicine and surgery, biography and bibliography. The basement is devoted to old sets of journals and transactions, a collection of theses, and to miscellaneous books. The librarian's room contains the books on biology and certain valuable works which are kept in glass cases.

The current numbers of the journals are displayed on tables down the middle of the reading-room; four of these are fitted with sliding trays, in which books too large for the wall-cases, and illustrated works still in progress, are kept. The new books are placed on a stand in the centre of the room; these are catalogued directly they are received, and are at once available for readers. A list of the additions is posted in the library.

The first catalogue of the library was issued in 1831. A classed catalogue was prepared by Dr. Willis, and was in use in MS. for some years; in 1838 a synopsis of it was

printed, and the work itself was published in 1843. In 1853 an index of subjects was issued, and four supplements to the author catalogue were published between the years 1840 and 1860. In 1890 a list of transactions, periodicals and memoirs in the library was published. A new catalogue of authors and subjects is now being prepared on cards; these are kept in two cabinets at the west end of the reading-room, and are available for use by the readers. When the work is finished the cards can be used as copy for the printers.

The library is particularly rich in the transactions of societies, and in periodicals relating not only to medicine and surgery, but also to the accessory sciences. The large illustrated works on zoology, anatomy, etc., are also well represented. There is a good collection of portraits of members of the medical profession.

The library is used for reference purposes only and contains now over 50,000 volumes, including journals and transactions, and about forty works printed before 1500. It is open every week-day from 11 A.M. till 7 P.M., except Saturdays, when it closes at 1 P.M. In August the closing hour is 6 P.M., and it is shut altogether during the month of September. The use of the library is restricted to Fellows and Members of the College, but others may obtain readers' tickets on being properly introduced.

Centenary Souvenir of the R.C.S., 1900. Calendar.

Society of Apothecaries.

At first sight this Society might seem to have more to do with the pharmaceutical chemist than with the medical man, but the apothecary of early days developed into the general practitioner, and those possessing the licence of the Society are fully qualified to practice medicine in all its branches.

The Society was founded in 1617, but the first mention of a library occurs in the minutes for 1633. On 28th November of that year Thomas Johnson of Snow Hill presented "as a guifte a booke called Gerrard's herbal," and so greatly was it appreciated that the donor was made free

of the Livery, and presented with a gown and hood. It may be observed as of bibliographical interest that this was a new edition of Gerard brought out by Johnson himself, "very much enlarged and amended," but with all the woodcuts recut in England and consequently not to be compared for artistic merit to the first edition.

In 1681 it was determined to "contrive a library," and a "repositorie" was ordered to be made at the end of the gallery. This repository still exists in the shape of some exceedingly deep cupboards on either side of the fireplace. In 1744 a committee was appointed to examine into what alterations would be needful to convert the gallery into a library, as hitherto the books had been merely stored there. It was handsomely panelled in oak, and one entire side of the room was fitted with bookcases, the shelves of which are now full so that new accessions have to overflow into the parlour. Some of the botanical works in the library are rare and valuable.

Barrett (C. R. B.), *History of the Society of Apothecaries. Illustrated.* 4to. London, 1905.

University of London.

The University has no separate medical library, but the general library contains a fair number of medical works. The reading-room is open every week-day from ten to four, except on Saturday, when it closes at one. On Tuesdays and Thursdays it is also open in the evening from seven till nine. It is closed during vacations.

Books may be borrowed by members of the Senate, members of Convocation, examiners and the three registrars. Others are entitled to the privilege on producing a recommendation signed by a member of the Senate or three members of Convocation. A printed catalogue was issued in 1876, and supplements in 1886 and 1895. The collections of books under the immediate control of the University will be greater when the amalgamation of University College is complete.

Calendar.

Class 2, libraries belonging to general medical societies, comprises the following:—

Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society.

From its very foundation in 1805 the Society placed amongst its primary objects "the collection of an extensive and select professional library," and a Library Committee was appointed in 1807, with power to spend £100 in the purchase of books. In 1808 the library contained between 400 and 500 volumes, but it was not until 1816 that the first catalogue was printed. A supplement was prepared in 1826, and new catalogues appeared in 1838 and 1844. The catalogue of 1856 contained mention of about 17,000 volumes, and in 1872 it was found necessary to fit up additional accommodation for 27,000 volumes. The principal printed catalogue appeared in 1879, and supplements have been issued every five years. For want of book room and other reasons the Society moved to its present premises in 1889.

A new card catalogue has just been completed, the books have lately been re-numbered and re-arranged and a new book-store has been fitted up to hold 10,000 volumes. The hours of opening are from 11 A.M. to 6.30 P.M. every week-day, except for the usual holidays and during the month of August. Fellows of the Society have the privilege of borrowing books. The total number of volumes in the library is now about 60,000.

Centenary Volume, 1905.

Medical Society.

This Society was instituted in 1773, and in its first published volume of memoirs, dated 1792, it is stated that a medical library has been founded for the use of its members. A collection very rich in fifteenth and sixteenth century works was got together, and numbered about 12,000 at the time of the appearance of the first catalogue in 1829. A supplementary catalogue was issued in 1856, and a card catalogue of the earlier works has lately been completed. Mention must be made of an interesting collection of Greek medical MSS. of the Byzantine school which came from the

fine classical library collected by Dr. Askew. A special fund entitled the Fothergillian is partly expended in the purchase of books.

The Fellows of the Society are entitled to borrow books as well as to consult them in the reading-room, which is open each week-day from 9 A.M. till 6 P.M., Saturdays 9 A.M. till 2 P.M. The library is closed during the month of September.

Medical Transactions containing the Hon. Librarian's Reports. *Catalogues*, 1829-56.

British Medical Association.

Though founded in 1832, the Association made no serious effort to form a library until 1887, when Mr. Hart, the editor of the Association's Journal, proposed that the reading and writing-rooms of the central office should be fitted up as a library. He himself presented over 100 books, including several important early works on anatomy, and the Council voted a sum of £100 towards the expenses of equipment. The library soon increased in size by numerous gifts from members and others, and by the various periodicals and magazines obtained in exchange for the *British Medical Journal*. Application was made to the Speaker of the House of Commons, who, after due inquiry as to the character and status of the library, authorised the presentation of the series of Public Health Reports from their commencement. In 1891 it was reported that the number of readers was considerably on the increase, and that the library and reading-room were largely used.

In 1893 it was found necessary to increase the shelving and to appoint a whole-time librarian to be in attendance between 10 A.M. and 5 P.M. The number of attendances for the year was 3,400. By 1895 this figure had risen to 4,500, and the amount expended on books and binding for that period was £182, the total number of volumes being 8,000, in addition to a considerable number of papers and theses.

The library is especially rich in the possession of finely illustrated works on medicine and the allied sciences, and has many interesting old books besides the principal modern

text-books and monographs. Arrangements have also been made for obtaining the important series of the Thèses de Paris. Another department of the work of the library is the distribution of duplicate volumes to smaller medical libraries and institutions. 2,400 books were thus presented in 1893. The work of the library has been so much appreciated that there is now an agitation on foot to have it kept open till 11 P.M., for the benefit of evening workers.

British Medical Journal, 1887, ii.; 1891, ii.; 1893, i., ii.; 1896, i.

Hunterian Society.

This Society was instituted in 1819, and is housed in the London Institution. It early began to acquire a library, and has some interesting old books, but the collection has never been large. A printed catalogue appeared in 1869 and this was revised in 1892, while in 1900 a new catalogue was drawn up. In 1902 it was found that the space available for books was entirely filled up, though there were many surplus and duplicate volumes, as well as many incomplete series of periodicals. This being the case, at a special meeting held in 1904 it was resolved that "it is desirable to dispose of the library, with certain reservations". No scheme, however, for carrying out this resolution has yet been decided on.

Transactions of the Hunterian Society, containing the Reports of the Library Committee.

West London Medico-Chirurgical Society.

Established in 1882 some steps towards the formation of a library were taken by the Society early in its career, but it was not until 1896 that the collection thus formed became really accessible. In 1897 the number of volumes rose from 500 to 700, and want of space again became felt, necessitating a move to more commodious quarters in the following year. In 1899 a subscription was opened among the members to obtain money for fitting up the library properly. A card catalogue was prepared in 1901 and the books on the shelves classified in correspondence with it, the year's increase being 1,200 volumes.

The library is supported entirely by donations of books and money, and is open for reference and borrowing purposes to all members of the Society, and to students of the West London Post-Graduate College on payment of a small subscription.

West London Medical Journal, containing the Librarian's Reports.

Besides those described above, small collections of books for the use of their members have been formed by the following societies: The Association of Registered Medical Women, the North-East London Clinical Society, the North London Medical and Chirurgical Society, the West Kent Medico-Chirurgical Society, the Willesden and District Medical Society.

The third class consists of libraries belonging to societies cultivating a special branch of medicine. These are:—

Obstetrical Society.

The Society was instituted in 1858, and has almost from the beginning turned its energies to the building up of a library. The total number of volumes in the collection, including bound volumes of periodicals, is now 6,145. Fellows have the privilege of borrowing four books at a time, and the current numbers of the periodicals of the speciality may be consulted in the reading-room. A printed catalogue was issued about twenty-five years ago, and it has lately been decided that a new author and subject catalogue shall be published.

Transactions of the Society.

Ophthalmological Society.

This Society was established in 1880, and its library is housed in the Medical Society's premises, and is open during the same hours. The library is open to the members of the Society, and they have the privilege of borrowing books. An author catalogue was printed in 1887 and a second edition was issued in 1892, while supplementary lists of accessions are issued with the annual volumes of transactions. A sub-

ject catalogue was prepared in 1891 for use in the library, but it has not been printed.

Transactions of the Society.

Laryngological Society.

The Society was formed in 1893 and soon began to get together a library in its speciality. In 1902 an arrangement was entered into with the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society whereby in return for according to the members of the latter Society the use of the library for consulting and borrowing purposes, the books, marked with distinguishing labels, are placed on the shelves of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society's library. The chief periodicals on the subject are included in the collection. In 1903 a complete type-written card catalogue was prepared.

Proceedings of the Society, containing the Hon. Librarian's Report in the January number of each year.

Otological Society, established 1899.

The collection on diseases of the ear which is being got together by this Society is housed in the Medical Society's premises. Members are entitled to borrow the books and periodicals. There is a card catalogue kept up to date.

Transactions of the Society.

British Balneological and Climatological Society.

The Society was founded in 1895 and in 1898 the first steps were taken towards forming a library of books on balneology, climatology and allied subjects. Considerable progress was made, and by 1900 a special room was hired for its reception and a catalogue drawn up; in this year also a bequest of about 100 volumes was received under the will of Dr. Samuel Hyde.

Journal of Balneology and Climatology, containing the Hon. Librarian's Reports.

The fourth class, libraries belonging to Colleges and Schools of Medicine, includes :—

University College.

The medical library contains over 16,000 works on medical and biological subjects, including all the current text-books and works of reference required for study or research. It is made up in part of several separate collections given or bequeathed to the College. The largest of these is the Sharpey Physiological and Anatomical Library, consisting of several thousand old and modern works selected during a period of many years by the late Dr. Sharpey and presented by him to the College. The late Dr. Grant, Professor of Comparative Anatomy in the College from its opening until 1874, bequeathed his library containing a collection on zoology and comparative anatomy, additions to which are made periodically by means of property also bequeathed by him. The surgical library of the late Professor Beck was, in accordance with his wishes, presented to the College by his brother, and the late Sir J. Eric Erichsen presented the whole of his medical library, consisting of 880 books and 72 volumes of pamphlets.

The library is open daily from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., except on Saturdays, when it is closed at 1 P.M.; during vacation it is open from 10 to 4, Saturdays 10 to 1, except when closed for cleaning. Books may be borrowed by members of the Council, members of the Senate, and the teaching staff of the College. Students, though admitted to the reading-room, may only borrow books on the deposit of two guineas, £2 of which are returnable.

Calendar.

King's College. Faculty of Medicine.

The medical library contains a large number of standard medical and biological works, including all the current text-books and works of reference required for either study or research. Students are allowed to take out certain books for home use. The library is open on week-days from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., except on Saturdays, when it closes at 1 P.M.

Calendar.

St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School.

The library, which is available for the use of students, has been recently completely re-arranged and re-catalogued. It contains a valuable collection of standard works, both old and new. A supply of current text-books is kept and various medical and scientific periodicals are taken in.

Calendar.

London Hospital and Medical College.

The library is free to students of the College and contains the standard works in medicine and the allied sciences. It is for reference only, and is open daily from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. The chief home and foreign medical periodicals are taken in, including the "Thompson-Yates Library," the gift of the late Rev. S. A. Thompson-Yates, which consists of the leading foreign periodicals dealing with anatomy, physiology and pathology.

Calendar.

Guy's Hospital Medical School.

A new building fitted up as a library by Sir Frederick Wills was opened in 1903, and the books moved there from the old library which had grown up gradually in connection with the medical school. The Wills Library is fitted throughout with fine carved oak bookcases, containing accommodation for about 10,000 volumes, comprising standard text-books, books of reference, and the more important medical journals. Between each two bookcases is a window, the cases themselves standing out at right angles to the walls so as to form bays, in each of which is placed an oak reading-table.

It is open to students from 9.30 A.M. till 5.30 P.M., except on Saturdays, when it is closed at two o'clock. It is closed for the usual holidays and for three weeks during the summer vacation. Application forms must be filled up for books consulted in the library, while books may be borrowed for home reading on the deposit of one guinea, returnable when the student leaves the hospital.

Calendar.

St. George's Hospital Medical School.

The library, which contains all the standard works of reference in medicine, surgery and allied subjects and many of an earlier date which are of interest for the history of medicine, is open daily during the sessions from 9 A.M. to 5.15 P.M., except on Saturdays, when it is closed at 4 P.M. Books may be borrowed by the students and staff of the hospital. A new system of classification is now being introduced.

Calendar. St. George's Hospital Gazette, 1906.

Westminster Hospital Medical School.

The library is open to all students of the school daily, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. (Saturdays 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.) for purposes of reference. An entrance fee of one guinea is payable, which is reduced to half a guinea for those entering for only one or two sessions.

Calendar.

Charing Cross Hospital Medical School.

The library contains nearly 5,000 volumes, including a large number of works of reference, the latest editions of all text-books in common use, and the chief medical periodicals.

Calendar.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital and College.

A library existed at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in the time of John Wakeryng, otherwise Blakberd, who was elected Master in 1422, and presided over the hospital till 16th November, 1466. Only two books of this library are known to be in existence, both of which are in the British Museum. The next notice of a library is in 1667, when a library was formed "for the use of the Governors and young University scholars". No volume of this library is now known. In 1793 the Medical and Philosophical Society, which afterwards became the Abernethian Society, had a library which was ultimately transferred to the hospital, and became the basis of the present collection. A catalogue

was printed in December, 1826, and in 1865 appeared the first catalogue of the "Library of St. Bartholomew's Hospital". A new catalogue was prepared and issued in 1893.

The library is free to all students and is used for reference only. It is open every day from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., except for one week of the Christmas vacation, and for one month during the long vacation. It contains all the standard works in medicine and the allied sciences, with duplicate copies of books in most general use, and a valuable collection of works on religion, history and general literature.

Calendar. Catalogue, 1893.

St. Mary's Hospital Medical School.

The library contains about 3,000 volumes, including works of reference, the latest editions of all text-books in common use, the chief medical periodicals, and the transactions of the leading medical and scientific societies. New books are constantly added, and by arrangement with a medical circulating library all the latest works and newest editions are available for reference. It is open to the students of the school, the hours being from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., on Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Calendar.

Middlesex Hospital Medical School.

The library and reading-room are open to all general students of the school. It contains an extensive collection of medical works and periodicals. Library hours: 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., on Saturdays, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Calendar.

The following places of study for qualified men have formed libraries for the use of their students: the Polyclinic, the North-East London Post-Graduate College, the London School of Tropical Medicine, and the London School of Clinical Medicine. The West London Post-Graduate College works in connection with the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society, *q.v.*

The above survey of thirty-four medical libraries will be found to include most of those of any importance in the Metropolis, though a few of the smaller collections may have escaped notice. It is based almost entirely on printed information, and it will be observed in how few cases it has been possible to give even approximately the number of volumes in the various collections.

The order of size, as far as ascertainable, is as follows:—

Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society	about 60,000 vols.
Royal College of Surgeons	over 50,000 „
Royal College of Physicians	about 25,000 „
University College	over 16,000 „

Apparently in two cases only is there any attempt at classification, namely, in the Library of the Royal College of Surgeons (main classes) and in that of the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society.



