

Report to the Radcliffe Trustees for 1873 / by Henry W. Acland.

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P. C. 8 /

REPORT

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TO

THE RADCLIFFE TRUSTEES

FOR

1873.

BY

HENRY W. ACLAND, M.D., D.C.L.,

RADCLIFFE LIBRARIAN, AND REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE.



Oxford:

PRINTED FOR THE RADCLIFFE TRUSTEES.

1873.

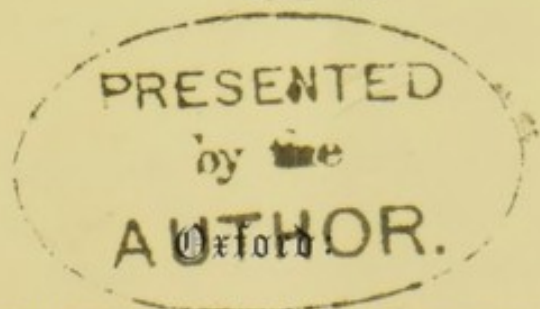


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OXFORD:

BY E. B. GARDNER, E. PICKARD HALL, AND J. H. STACY.

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

REPORT TO THE RADCLIFFE TRUSTEES.

Oxford, July 16, 1873.

MY LORD DUKE AND GENTLEMEN,

1. It gives me pleasure to inform you, in the words of Mr. Coxe, 'that the Eastern MSS. held in custody by the Librarian of Bodley for you are in the hands of the gentleman now engaged in cataloguing the Oriental Collection of Bodley.' Eastern MSS.

'The Hebrew MSS. have been already described by the best Hebrew Philologist of the day, Dr. Neubauer. The Persian and Arabic will (if they have not already been arranged and described) be included in the Catalogue now being drawn up by Professor Ethé of Berlin.'

In both Catalogues it will be distinctly marked that the MSS. in question are the property of the Radcliffe Trustees.

2. I am unable to report much progress in the matter of the Junction of the Radcliffe Dome and the Bodleian. The Reading Room of this great Institution remains separated from the main Library by a wide space and a public Junction of Bodleian and Radcliffe Dome.

way, across which books are still carried to and fro. But the whole of the arrangements of the Bodleian are occupying the careful attention of the Curators, and the necessity of the Junction is becoming more and more apparent.

Radcliffe
Scholars.

3. The grant which you made for three Radcliffe Scholars has this year been extended to four. Mr. Philpot was selected from King's College, London; Mr. Harding from University College, London; Mr. Garton from St. Thomas' Hospital; Mr. Jordan from Manchester. The selection was made by Sir W. Jenner, Dr. Johnson, and Mr. Simon, with the assistance of the experienced Oxford Examiner, Dr. Chambers, in the case of the London Candidates. The Manchester Candidate was selected by Dr. Morgan, a distinguished Medical Graduate of Oxford.

I believe that to all these gentlemen the residence for a Term in Oxford was fruitful in many ways. The Warden of Keble College gave to them the same opportunities as last year to share in College life. The Professors of the Museum afforded the same facilities for study as each Scholar desired and selected them. Especially was this the case in Professor Rolleston's and Professor Odling's Departments. The grants to the four Scholars amounted to £120, with £7 for the cost of materials used in the Department of Practical Chemistry.

Grant for
Advance-
ment of
Medical
Science.

4. You gave me leave to expend a sum not exceeding £100 in any way likely to promote the progress of higher Medical Science in connection with the University.

Researches
on Bio-
Genesis.

5. Finding two able Graduates, Mr. Charles Coleridge Pode, M.B., and Mr. Edwin Ray Lankester, M.A., working together in the Laboratory of the Medical Department, upon a difficult investigation as to the Origin of Life, and one

just now much agitated in connection with questions of Infection, I considered it would be in direct continuance of your general policy, and of your previous gift of a Microscope of the highest powers, to aid them in their work. This was an instance, moreover, of advanced students voluntarily bringing combined skill to bear on a common work—a principle often fruitful in the history of Science, and of much consequence, since the extension of Science makes mastering of the whole by one person impossible.

I accordingly addressed to them the following letter :—

February 5, 1873.

GENTLEMEN,

The Radcliffe Trustees having enabled me this year to offer some aid to the prosecution in Oxford of researches bearing on scientific Medicine, I have much pleasure in asking your acceptance of twenty-five guineas, to aid you in researches into the processes of Fermentation and Putrefaction, in which you were engaged last Term in the Laboratory of the Department of Medicine.

Though I am to ask you to keep in view the relations of the subject to Sanitary and Preventive Medicine, yet the Trustees impose no condition on the use of this small grant, except that the result of your enquiries be either forwarded during the present year to some principal Society, or be published in one of the chief Scientific Journals at home or abroad.

Mr. Drummond, the Radcliffe Artist, has instruction to prepare for you, in a manner suitable for engraving, any drawings or diagrams you may require.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant,

HENRY W. ACLAND.

C. C. PODE, Esq. M.B., M.A.

E. RAY LANKESTER, Esq. M.A.

EXETER COLLEGE, February 7th.

DEAR DR. ACLAND,

Thank you much for your kind encouragement; of which Pode had already given me intimation. We propose to carry on our experiments with the object in view of ascertaining more fully the mode of occurrence of the various forms, loosely spoken of as 'Bacteria;' the results (in the way of putrefaction, evolution of gas, production of colouring matters or other chemical products) of the life of Bacteria; and the causes which are sufficient to kill Bacteria on the one hand, or to modify their activities.

Believe me, dear Dr. Acland,

Yours very truly,

E. RAY LANKESTER.

Dr. Pode's
Death.

The sequel is soon told. They prosecuted their work with vigour, and drew up a preliminary report for the Royal Society* ; but Dr. Pode, who had long suffered from a fatal though dormant malady, has been suddenly cut off.

I cannot forbear from telling you how great is the loss to me. Mr. Pode had been long known to me. I knew his danger some years ago, when he was working hard in London, and about to be House Physician to St. George's Hospital. This would have been in a few months certain death to him.

It was then as now a cherished object with me to establish in Oxford a Laboratory devoted to Medical research. It was clear that before long the progress of Science would demand, in various parts of the country, Sanitary Laboratories where researches bearing on National and Public Health could be pursued. But the time was not come when there was a hope that a grant of public money would be obtained in Oxford for this purpose.

* Proceedings of the Royal Society, Vol. xxi. p. 349.

I offered to Mr. Pode that he should join in this public but unpaid work, and bring his great Medical knowledge, his pure scientific temper, and his accurate chemical skill to bear on this subject. I could but offer what my private means might enable me ; but I hoped also to prolong the work of a rare and precious mind.

It was otherwise ordered. He had entirely mastered the requisite and as yet uncommon knowledge—had the Sanitary and Medical Laboratory in the Museum in order—helped me to fit up a second Laboratory in the Radcliffe Infirmary, for special clinical and pathological work—had begun to teach students the use of fine instruments of diagnosis, which were being slowly collected—had given some courses of demonstrations, on the mode of detecting adulterations of food and on sanitary analyses, to members of the University—and has been taken from us, just as he was accepted as the County Analyst—the County obtaining, just when the Adulteration of Food Act required it, the fruit of these years of preparation.

His ill health had made a coadjutor necessary, since rest was frequently needed by him. That coadjutor was found in the person of Mr. William Donkin, eldest son of the widely-lamented Mathematician and Professor of Astronomy. I hope that Mr. Donkin will be able, with the aid of Mr. Robinson, who has now joined him, so to arrange as not to close our Sanitary Laboratory. But as the County gives but £1 for each analysis, and requires that a person of unimpeachable character and skill shall be always at hand, and as it sent last quarter only three analyses, it is clear that the Laboratory can only be maintained by private resources, which may fail any day, unless the University see it right to come to the rescue or the County will alter its terms. Mr. Lankester and Mr. Donkin will now

together work with your grant on the Researches on Bio-Genesis.

How interesting it would be could Radcliffe see the progress from the Physic of his day to that of the present century, which engages within its grasp the varied and extensive health problems which have, however briefly, been thus hinted at.

Grant to
Mr. Carey
for joint
editing Van
der Kolk's
MSS.

6. Another application of your grant has been made by the engagement of Mr. Carey, to aid me in editing the MS. Catalogues of Pathology by the eminent Dutch Physician Professor Schroeder van der Kolk: the volume is in the press. When it is complete further particulars will be laid before you. I will only add that Mr. Carey, now Resident Physician in Guy's Hospital, is doing work on a collection in which he voluntarily took great interest while one of the Radcliffe Scholars in 1872.

Catalogue
of Com-
parative
National
Health.

7. The Catalogue of the portion of the Library devoted to 'Comparative National Health,' of which I spoke last year, is hardly yet in a condition which would justify its being put in type. Numerous as are the books and pamphlets on the subject in the Library, the collection is too incomplete to serve as a guide for enquirers. In this department there are now about 700 volumes. But, as is the case usually in any attempt to systematize a complex subject, it is almost impossible to distinguish between the work which belongs to merely Curative, or to merely Preventive Medicine, many treatises, such as those on causes of fever, belonging to both. It may be some time also before foreign works of value can be collected.

Library
Catalogue.

8. I have this year commenced the printing of the Catalogue of the Library; and specimens are presented to you

(1) of the Catalogue in quarto, from A to Cazin; (2) the first volume of the Working Catalogue, A to Cam. It follows the plan of the Athenæum Catalogue—a simple alphabetical Catalogue, which will be complete up to the end of 1872. By printing annually the additions of the year, the printed Catalogue will henceforward be complete to the end of the past year. The slip Catalogue is complete in MS. up to the day of placing every volume. When the printing is complete, a MS. Catalogue of daily additions will be kept for public use.

9. A question may arise whether with increasing modern requirements the existing staff will be able to carry on the work of the Library. This I reserve, however, for further consideration ^a. Meanwhile I must give my special thanks to the staff of the Library, and especially to Mr. Bailey, for their attention and care in this work.

10. If the history of the Radcliffe Scholarships and the Radcliffe grants commend themselves to you, I trust both may be continued ^b.

Radcliffe
Grants and
Radcliffe
Scholars.

11. I beg to lay before you a request from the Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary for your aid in the Development of that important Institution, by granting to them a slip of land to the north of the Infirmary, whereby they may make more convenient, and indeed necessary, communications between newly-erected additions to the Hospital ^c.

Radcliffe
Infirmary.

^a The Trustees have made a special grant for this year in aid of the Catalogue.

^b The Trustees have continued this grant for Scholars, and grants for special work.

^c The Trustees were pleased to make this grant: the extent of ground to be agreed on by the Observer and the Librarian conjointly.

A Committee of the Governors is engaged in a careful enquiry into the relations of a Voluntary Hospital to the needs and usages of modern society and to recent legislation in connection with the various Public Health Acts. The result is not unlikely to impose on the Governors new duties, and the necessity of increased effort.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Duke and Gentlemen,

Your obliged and faithful Servant,

HENRY W. ACLAND,

Librarian.

To

THE RT. HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P., First Lord of the Treasury.

THE RT. HON. T. SOTHERON-ESTCOURT.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, K.G.

THE RT. HON. SIR W. HEATHCOTE, BART.

A. W. PEEL, ESQUIRE, M.P.

