Heberden Society

Annual Report 1974

The President, Dr. R. M. Mason, announced that Dr. Oswald Savage and Dr. M. M. Desai had been elected to Honorary Membership of the Society.

Drs. T. N. Fraser, R. Harris, K. A. Latter, and J. Shulman had resigned from the Society.

The President recorded with deep regret the death of Professor C. B. Heald, C.B.E.

At the Annual General Meeting held on November 1 and 2, 1974, the following new members were elected:

Ordinary Members (from Associate Members):
Dr. R. K. Jacoby, Dr. H. A. Valkenburg, Dr. D. N. Glass, Dr. C. J. Goodwill, Dr. B. L. Hazleman, Dr. Anne Nicholls.

Associate Members:
Dr. P. M. Brooks, Dr. P. A. Dieppe, Dr. D. M. Grennan, Dr. A. C. Kennedy, Dr. Mary J. Longstaff, Dr. P. Mangion, Dr. A. M. Nahid, Dr. P. J. Rooney, Dr. D. Barraclough, Mr. A. Benjamin, Dr. T. J. Constable, Dr. E. P. Copp, Mr. R. Q. Crellin, Dr. J. E. Dippy, Wing Com. C. D. Evans, Dr. Ann Hall, Dr. Dianne Bulgen, Dr. J. J. Esselinckx, Dr. R. C. Hilton, Dr. J. A. A. Hunter, Mr. M. Laurence, Dr. P. H. Merry, Dr. G. A. Nasseh, Dr. W. A. Pennman, Dr. R. G. Penn, Dr. J. D. Perry, Lt.-Col. R. Robinson, Dr. W. H. Stephens Jr., Dr. T. J. C. Bell, Dr. M. J. Burke, Dr. Sheelah Doherty, Dr. Margaret Farr, Dr. J. S. Glass, Mr. D. O. Hancock, Dr. Sylvia M. Lachmann, Dr. J. G. Hawkes, Dr. G. D. Johnson, Dr. E. A. Kaufmann, Dr. J. T. Nicholls, Dr. Miriam Stoppard, Dr. C. R. Tribe, Dr. W. R. Williams, Dr. E. Harris, Dr. J. L. Decker, Dr. N. Gerber, Dr. R. Oldham, Dr. D. B. Yates, Dr. R. M. Ellis, Dr. I. D. L. Brewis, Dr. G. M. Cochrane, Dr. R. Lewkonia, Dr. N. A. Pandit, Dr. B. Thalayasingam, Dr. M. G. Wright.

Overseas Members:
Dr. Popovic, Dr. K. J. Fraser, Dr. A. Bjelle, Dr. P. Lee, Dr. Joanne M. Marsh, Dr. A. Kalos, Dr. D. R. F. Henderson, Dr. W. G. McNeill, Lt.-Col. M. Lal, Dr. S. J. Ahola, Lt. Col. N. D. Menon, Dr. A. M. Nahid, Dr. M. S. Sadigh-Mostofi, Dr. B. Rozman.

A combined meeting with the British Association for Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, the Royal Society of Medicine Section on Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, and the Swiss Society for Rheumatology was held on June 28 and 29, 1974, in Bristol (Annals, 34, 195).

A clinical meeting was held on September 12, 1974, in Manchester (Annals, 34, 200).

A symposium on 'Histocompatibility and Rheumatic Disease' was held at the Royal College of Physicians, London, on September 20, 1974 (Annals, 34, Suppl. 1).

The Heberden oration for 1974 was delivered by Professor D. A. Willoughby on November 1, 1974. He took as his subject 'Human Arthritis Applied to Animal Models: Towards Better Therapy'. To be published in the Annals.

The Annual Dinner was held on November 1 at the Royal College of Physicians. Among the guests were Her Royal Highness Duchess of Kent as Guest of Honour, Sir Cyril and Lady Clarke, Lord and Lady Porritt, Sir Henry and Lady Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Fairbank, and Dr. and Mrs. Newton.

Finance

The Society is indebted to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for its continued support and records its grateful appreciation.

Library

Report of the Honorary Librarian, Prof. E. G. L. Bywaters

The Heberden Library has continued to grow in the past year, but rather slowly. We have obtained 5 historical books of the 19th century and have given a number of recent publications, often by their authors, as well as a set of the slides used by Eric Hamilton in his Heberden Round on Sir George Frederick Still. The list appears in the Report as yet another tear out. That makes 8 years of additions to the Catalogue of 1966.

You will be pleased to hear that the work of unifying these with a new catalogue to be published next year, has begun, and that we have the means to do it, with a balance as at November 2, 1974, of £370.00 and a promise of support by the A.R.C., specifically for the catalogue, of £250.

Books, especially old books, especially medical books and especially books on gout and rheumatism, have soared in value faster than most things and have almost disappeared from the market. We have to thank my predecessor, the late Will Copeman, that we already have most of the best.

The advice and vigilance of Mr. L. M. Payne, Librarian of the College, have been of inestimable value, and we...
should thank him also for putting out for us the excellent exhibition on 'Gout and Rheumatism' utilizing books and other material from the Heberden Library and from the College Library itself.

**Additions, 1974**

**BIGG, HENRY ROBERT HEATHER** (1853-1911). Orthopaxy. 3 ed. London. 1877.


**EKSPERIMENTINES IR KLINIKINES MEDICINOS MOSKLINIO TYRIMO INSTITUTAS;** The Research Institute of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, [Vilnius]. Vilnius. 1970.

**EKSPERIMENTINES IR KLINIKINES MEDICINOS MOSKLINIO TYRIMO INSTITUTAS.** Reumatologijos ir teorines medicinos problemas; Problems of rheumatology and theoretical medicine. Vilnius. 1970.


**KAZNACHEYEV, V. P. and SUBBOTIN, M. YA.** Etyudy k teorii obshchei patologii; Etudes to the theory of general pathology. Novosibirsk. 1971.


**PALMER, WILLIAM.** D.m.i. de podagra. Edinburgh. 1830.

**ROTES QUEROL, JAIME and MUNOZ GOMEZ, J. LA GOTA.** Barcelona. 1968.


**MANUSCRIPT MATERIAL.** PLANS CAMPY, David de (1589 . . . ). Trattato della podagra. Tradotto della lingua francese nell'italiana dal P. F. Cherubino Bozomo . . . [Early 18th century?]. MS.

**OFFICERS and COMMITTEE 1975**

President: DR. BARBARA ANSELL, F.R.C.P., Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks.

Immediate Past President: DR. R. M. MASON, F.R.C.P., The London Hospital, Whitechapel, London E1 1BB.

President-Elect: PROFESSOR K. W. WALTON, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.C.Path., Rheumatism Research Wing, Department of Experimental Pathology, The Medical School, Birmingham 15.

Hon. Treasurer: DR. A. G. S. HILL, M.C., F.R.C.P., Rheumatism Research Centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Senior Hon. Secretary: DR. A. G. MOWAT, M.R.C.P.E., Rheumatism Unit, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LD.

Junior Hon. Secretary: DR. W. CARSON DICK, M.D., M.R.C.P., The Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, Baird Street, Glasgow G46 6JW.

Hon. Librarian: PROFESSOR E. G. L. BYWATERS, C.B.E., F.R.C.P., Royal Postgraduate Medical School of London, Hammersmith Hospital, Ducane Road, London W.12.

General Secretary: M. C. G. ANDREWS, A.R.C., 8-10 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0HN,

**Members of executive committee:**

DR. R. GRAHAME, M.R.C.P., Guy's Hospital, London SE1 9RT.

DR. J. D. JESSOP, M.R.C.P., University Hospital of Wales, Heath Park, Cardiff CF4 4XW.

DR. B. VERNON-ROBERTS, M.D., Ph.D., M.R.C.Path., The London Hospital, Whitechapel, London E1 1BB.

DR. P. J. L. HOLT, M.R.C.P., Rheumatism Research Centre, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Oxford Road, Manchester.


DR. D. A. H. YATES, M.D., F.R.C.P., St. Thomas's Hospital, London SE1.

MR. A. R. TAYLOR, F.R.C.S., Rheumatism Research Centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, Bucks.

**PROGRAMME FOR 1975**

January 24: Symposium on 'The Hazards of Clinical Trials', The London Hospital Medical College.

March 14: Heberden Round, Norwich, by invitation of Dr. N. Cardoe.

May 23: Clinical Meeting, Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow, Berks.
June 1–6: VIII European Rheumatology Congress, Helsinki.
October 3–4: Joint Meeting with Spanish Society of Rheumatology, Madrid.

Submission of Abstracts

All abstracts will be considered anonymously, that is without knowledge of the name(s) of the author(s) or the institution of origin, by the Executive Committee.

Members wishing to present original communications to the Society are therefore asked to prepare abstracts which provide sufficient information for assessing the paper on merit—an assessment which amounts to competitive selection between the various abstracts submitted.

In the preparation and submission of abstracts, the following points should be observed:

1. Abstracts should not exceed 300 words. Each must be headed by a title, authors' names, institution and address.
2. An actual summary of the communication is required. This will usually involve:
   (i) A brief introduction to the work.
   (ii) An outline of the methods used.
   (iii) A summary of the results.
   (iv) A statement of the main conclusions.
3. Full references to previous work quoted must be given.
4. Simple tables may be included. This is an excellent method of summarizing data.
5. Accepted abstracts will be published as such with the proceedings of the Society in the Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases, so must be received in a form suitable for publication. In particular, statements such as "The data will be discussed" are entirely unacceptable. Abstracts may be revised for publication after the meeting.
6. Abstracts should be sent to the Senior Honorary Secretary, The Heberden Society, c/o Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, Faraday House, 8–10 Charing Cross Road, London WC2. Abstracts received at least two weeks before each Executive Meeting (normally held on the same day as scientific meetings of the Society) will be assessed at that meeting.
7. When submitting abstracts, authors must state whether the communication has been or is about to be read at another meeting; or has been or is about to be published.
8. The normal length of time for presentation of papers is 10 minutes. However, if authors would prefer a longer (15 minutes) or shorter (5 minutes) time, this should be stated when submitting abstracts. The final allocation of time will however rest with the Executive Committee.
9. Authors will be notified (i) when an abstract is received, (ii) when it is either accepted or rejected, (iii) when it is placed on a programme for a particular meeting.
10. It is the author's responsibility to keep the Senior Hon. Secretary informed of the date of publication of any paper submitted to the Society.

Clinical meeting

The following papers were presented at the Annual General Meeting on November 1 and 2, 1974.

Interpreting the Biological Significance of Rheumatoid Factor. E. M. Badley, J. Ball, and P. H. N. Wood (A.R.C. Epidemiology Research Unit and Rheumatism Research Laboratories, University of Manchester)

Serological results are usually expressed as positive or negative. The simplicity of the resulting analysis is normally regarded as far outweighing the loss of information inevitably involved in dichotomizing the data. It is usually assumed that comparison of different results will be valid, whatever cut-off level is used. This can be justified statistically only if the cumulative titre distributions run in parallel. A hitherto unnoted exception to this generality can arise if the distributions intersect. This is the case when the rheumatoid factor (RF) titre distribution in the Rhondda is compared with those of Leigh and Wensleydale. Depending on the cut-off level chosen, Rhondda can have the most, the least, or an intermediate proportion of seropositive results.

Against this background the biological significance of RF can be assessed. Biologically the simplest test would be a link between RF positivity and death. The only fatal condition associated with seropositivity in the Rhondda was lung cancer; this observation has now been examined in Wensleydale as well, where no association was found. Thus the finding in the Rhondda could well be a chance finding, though we will need the results of a mortality follow-up in Leigh to confirm this.

Associations with various diseases and characteristics not leading to death are more difficult to interpret. Titres show some tendency to increase with age, but the pattern was not sufficiently consistent to warrant correction for age. Sex and occupation were without discernible effect. Comparison of the tests obtained 10 years apart on balance showed a reduction in titre, though tests unreactive on both occasions accounted for the majority of the results. Most persons in the community with a 'positive' test did not in fact have RA, nor were they likely to develop the disease. SCAT titres did not appear to be linked with smoking histories, bronchitis, respiratory tuberculosis (TB), blood pressure levels, or other risk factors for IHD such as cholesterol, although some relation with ECG abnormalities was found.

Rheumatoid Arthritis in the South African Negro. L. Solomon, P. Beighton, H. A. Valkenburg, and G. Robin (Epidemiological Research Unit, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg)

Rheumatoid arthritis, once thought to be rare in tropical and subtropical climes, has now been described in several African populations. However, its precise incidence and