

BRITISH CARDIAC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

9 Fitzroy Square

With the help of English Heritage we have been investigating the history of Fitzroy Square. Fitzroy Square takes its name from the family name of the Dukes of Grafton, the ground landlords of this part of London. Number 9 was designed by the Adam brothers, James and Robert, in 1798 and the first lessee, Crauford Bruer, took up residence in 1800. By 1824 the property had passed to Sir John Forbes (1787–1861) who joined the Navy in 1807 as a 20-year-old assistant surgeon and practised in Penzance and Chichester before establishing a lucrative practice in Fitzroy Square. In 1840 he was appointed physician to the Household of the young Queen Victoria. Between 1832 and 1835 Forbes was the joint editor of a *Cyclopaedia of Practical Medicine* and was chief founder of the *British and Foreign Medical Review*. He was given an honorary doctorate by Oxford University in 1852 and knighted in 1853. He had, however, left Number 9 in 1849. Between 1849 and 1863 Number 9 was occupied by a marine artist, William Joy, and then by William Oliver, barrister-at-law who specialised in cases before the Court of Chancery. From 1863 to 1868 it was occupied by the German chemist, August Wilhelm von Hofmann (1818–1892), who studied the extraction and exploitation of coal tar derivatives. After a series of less eminent occupants, in 1937 the chief tenant was the British Drama League, which shared the premises with the committee appointed to look into the creation of a National Theatre. The league (later known as the British Theatre Association) was the main occupier until the British Cardiac Society acquired the building three years ago.

Plans are now being developed to refurbish part of Fitzroy Square with the aim of producing two high quality lecture theatres and a main Council Room.

Society archivist

Arthur Hollman writes: "I would like to thank the Society very warmly for the privilege of being appointed as its archivist.

In addition to looking after the Society's records, I thought it would be a good idea if we established a small museum of cardiology and also a historical library. These would be intended to afford interest and

pleasure to everyone using the Society's house, and their availability would give visitors, who may not see the big reference collections in London, an insight into the rich heritage of cardiology. But we should not neglect our own history: I would also propose that we collect artefacts associated with our members, such as photographs, major scientific articles, and personal papers. Council has kindly approved these proposals.

It is a pleasure to report that we have had two most generous donations. Mr Ben Milstein has given us his copy of *Resurrection du Coeur. La vie du coeur isolé. Le massage du coeur* by Maurice D'Halluin, Paris 1904. This rare book is the first complete study of cardiac resuscitation. D'Halluin was the first to show that cardiac massage produces a circulation of the blood, and the book also contains his experimental work on defibrillation using potassium chloride, and a section on revival of human beings. Dr Richard Emmanuel has donated a Mackenzie-Lewis polygraph that is of particular value to us because it belonged to his father, Professor J G Emanuel, a founder member in 1922 of the Cardiac Club which became our Society in 1937. James Mackenzie invented the ink writing polygraph in 1906 and it was redesigned by Thomas Lewis in 1914. It was widely used in arrhythmia analysis, especially before the introduction of the electrocardiogram, but was still in use in the 1940s.

I would be very glad to receive any suggestions and comments that members may have on these projects and to learn of possible donations of books and instruments. Finally, we would be most grateful if any member would be prepared to give or sell us the first three volumes of *Cardiovascular Research* which are now unobtainable."

British Paediatric Cardiac Association
Babul Sethia writes: "The British Paediatric Cardiac Association membership has continued to increase steadily and there was an excellent attendance at the Torquay meeting held in association with the British Cardiac Society. There was particular interest in both sessions dealing with the long-term outcome in the management of congenital heart disease and the problem of pregnancy in congenital heart disease, the latter session in particular attracted a large number of adult cardiologists. The BPCA continues to be active in the debates about training programmes in paediatric cardiology and the issue of continuing medical education.

The next meeting, to be held in Birmingham on 25 and 26 November 1994, will discuss the management of traditionally inoperable defects in congenital heart disease. The topic for the meeting in Harrogate in May 1995 will be 'The myocardium in congenital heart disease'."

News from Europe

Philip Poole-Wilson writes: "The Congress in Berlin is now over. At the time of writing the final figures are not available, but more than 22 176 people registered, of whom 16 420 were medically qualified. This was by far the largest medical meeting that has ever taken place in Europe. There were several reasons for such a high attendance. The meeting was a joint meeting between the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the International Society and Federation of Cardiology (ISFC). When the meeting was planned in Berlin almost a decade ago, the instigators of the proposition may have been far-sighted, but probably did not anticipate that there would be such changes in Europe. Berlin, as the new capital of Germany, was a particularly attractive venue. Many people from Eastern Europe came to the meeting. The symposia and main sessions were extremely popular and I am sorry that some people could not get into the meetings because the doors had to be closed on account of the overcrowding. It is always difficult to arrange hotel accommodation for such a large number in a capital city. Some of you, particularly those whose names begin with S, will know that there were delays with registration on the first day. Attendance from Britain was considerable. We do need to ensure that most of the best work emanating from the United Kingdom is presented to our friends and colleagues in Europe."

Forthcoming meeting

The XVth Nordic Congress of Cardiology is to be held in Malmö, Sweden from 7 to 9 June 1995. The Congress will focus on the state of the art in cardiology in the Nordic countries, and there will be workshops on Nordic guidelines for treatment of heart disease and diagnostic procedures. For further information, please contact: Malmö Congress Bureau, Centralstationen, Skeppsbron, S-211 20 Malmö, Sweden.

D JOHN PARKER
President, British Cardiac Society
9 Fitzroy Square,
London W1P 5AH

NOTICE

The 1995 Annual Meeting of the **British Cardiac Society** will take place at the Conference Centre, Harrogate, West Yorkshire from 23 to 25 May.

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