AMA Deceased Physicians Masterfile Now in the HMD

The History of Medicine Division (HMD) of the National Library of Medicine is now the permanent home of the American Medical Association Deceased Physician Master Biographical Cardfile.

From the founding of the AMA in 1847, it was obvious to its members that there was a need for a reliable medical directory of all the physicians in the United States. Although various attempts were made in the ensuing decades, it was not until the turn of the century that the AMA put this project into action. All physicians, AMA members or not, were to be included. Initially, the AMA began a biographical index of American physicians by consulting state licensing bodies. Later, directories, lists of medical school graduates, and other sources were used to “back-fill” the records into the nineteenth century. After 1901, medical schools and state licensing boards began to file information about its physicians routinely with the AMA. In 1905 and 1906, as the file grew, letters requesting biographical information were sent to approximately 90,000 physicians. Similar biographical forms were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. To obtain additional information and to verify data, 5,000 volunteer physicians were recruited to review the biographical information. Finally, the first American Medical Directory was published in 1906. Revised editions continue to appear every few years.

After the publication of the 1906 directory, the AMA continued its effort to obtain more complete information about the graduates of all medical colleges and lists of licensed physicians prior to 1901. The information on each individual physician was put onto 4”x6” index cards. Alumni record cards were prepared for those physicians who graduated from medical school after 1865. By 1910, the biographical cards contained the full name, place and year of birth, premedical education, medical school and year of graduation, all licenses, internships, special training, and the physician’s place of practice.

The index cards were maintained until 1969 when the AMA began to store the information on computer. Information about physicians living at that time was entered into the database. The cards for physicians who died prior to 1970, approximately 350,000 cards, were retained and placed into the AMA archives as the “AMA Deceased Physicians Masterfile.” An attempt to microfilm the cards was made in the 1970s, but the results were disappointing. Over the years, the AMA staff has used the masterfile cards to respond to inquiries about deceased physicians.

Phil Teigen at the deceased physicians masterfile.
Realizing its unique historic value, in 1987 the AMA began to convert the masterfile to an electronic database with the intention of publishing. To simplify this process, the cards were divided into three sets:

1. Deceased physicians: 1804-1929
2. Deceased physicians: 1930-1950

The AMA published the first set of cards in 1993 as the two-volume Directory of Deceased American Physicians, 1804-1929, edited by Arthur W. Hafner. It provided concise biographical sketches of over 149,000 deceased medical practitioners and has become a “classic” reference work used by the medical profession, historians, students, and genealogists. Although the AMA had originally intended to publish the remaining cards, it changed its mind and in 1994 decided instead to seek a permanent home for the card file. Mr. David Grissom, Director of Data Collection for the AMA, contacted the National Genealogical Society (NGS) in Arlington, Virginia, which agreed to house the collection. The masterfile cards arrived at the NGS in 1997. The NGS continued the practice of the AMA and used the cards to respond to requests concerning deceased physicians. It expanded the program for researching deceased physicians to include other medical, biographical, and genealogical reference sources.

In November 2004, because the NGS was moving its headquarters to a different location, it was decided to place the cards in a repository that would insure their preservation and continued public access. The masterfile cards were donated to the HMD.

The collection is housed in a series of file cabinets that when lined up are 14 feet long, five feet high, and two feet thick, weighing close to two tons. The cards are most complete for physicians who died between 1906 and 1969. This, of course, for the early part of the twentieth century would include physicians who practiced in the second half of the nineteenth century. There are also cards with death notices and biographical details going back to the nineteenth century, but these are incomplete.

The AMA Deceased Physicians Masterfile may be consulted in person by visiting the HMD at NLM, located on the National Institutes of Health campus in Bethesda, Maryland. For further information, call NLM at 301-402-8878 or send an e-mail to <hmdref@nlm.nih.gov>.

Thomas H. Shawker, M.D.
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Collections, Exhibits, and Access

Wonders from Wales

A year ago, on a fine June morning, a catalogue arrived at the ACOG History Library entitled *Midwifery to Obstetrics: An Important Collection of Printed Books of Child Bearing and Childbirth*. Sent not only to the History Library, but many other medical libraries, private collectors, and persons of interest around the world, this collection of nearly 140 items represented an opportunity for the History Library to acquire a large number of major ob/gyn works from the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries. A quick check against the Resource Center’s OPAC revealed only four duplicates. I immediately experienced “heart palpitations.” My first thought was how might the History Library come up with the monies necessary to purchase this collection, as it was being offered as one lot at several times the library’s annual budget.

Then the letters and phone calls began to arrive. One even included a photocopy of the catalogue with the letter urging the History Library to acquire this collection. I knew I had to act quickly and decisively. After discussing the collection with the director of the Resource Center and gaining her approval, it was time for a trip to the executive vice president’s office. Fortunately, he is an avid medical history fan and supporter of the History Library. Catching both the executive vice president and the vice president for administration together, I pitched my best spiel. They both realized the importance of this collection to the College and approved pursuit of its acquisition. The monies would be found.

The next step was to contact the Irish bookshop and art gallery representing the Welsh owner. An e-mail detailing the Library’s intentions was followed by a phone call. The correct international dialing code worked out over an hour’s time and several uncompleted attempts. After some negotiation the collection was ours! Six weeks later the books arrived safe and sound, each individually wrapped in green tissue paper. It truly was Christmas in July.

The collection consists of nearly 140 items, of which no fewer than 54 were published before 1800. Of these, eight were published before 1700, the earliest being the first obstetrical book by a midwife — Louise Bourgeois — published in 1609. There are two other early seventeenth-century works by Bourgeois and an English translation of a work on childbirth entitled *The Happy Delivery of Women* (1635), by Jaques Guillemeau, son-in-law and pupil of the great Ambroise Paré and surgeon to three kings of France. Perhaps the most important figure in France in the field of midwifery in the seventeenth century was François Mauriceau, who is credited with establishing obstetrics as a science and is represented by *The Accomplisht Midwife* ... (1673), an English translation by the equally famous Hugh Chamberlen, grandson of the brothers Peter (Elder and Younger) Chamberlen, developers of the obstetrical forceps.

In France, where midwifery already had a strong reputation, the eighteenth century saw the emergence of two major figures: Jean-Louis Baudelocque and Andre Levret. Baudelocque is represented in the collection by a work of extraordinary rarity, *Principes sur l’art d’accoucher* (1775), and Levret by two works, *L’art des accouchemens* (1766), and *Essai sur l’abus des régles générales et contre les préjugés qui s’opposent aux progres de l’art des accouchemens* (1766).

English works of the seventeenth century are represented by an edition of William Harvey’s *Anatomical
Exercitations, Concerning the Generation of Living Creatures (1653), a work which T.H. Huxley considered should give Harvey “an even greater claim to the veneration of posterity than his better known discovery of the circulation of the blood.”

The eighteenth century saw the emergence and development of modern gynecology. This was undoubtedly determined in large part in Britain. The collection contains a large number of major works from the period, of which perhaps the most important and dramatic is William Hunter’s Anatomy of the Human Gravid Uterus (1774), a large folio work with thirty-four magnificent life-size plates, and described as “one of the great publications of world medical literature” (Heirs of Hippocrates, p. 591). What makes this copy all the more exciting is that also in the collection and by William Hunter is An Anatomical Description of the Human Gravid Uterus (1794), which was discovered as a manuscript twenty years after Hunter’s death by his nephew, Matthew Baillie. It was intended as the text to accompany the great atlas of plates. This work is even rarer than the atlas.

Almost as grand and important as Hunter’s work is William Smellie’s monumental Tabulae Anatomicae (1758) and of enduring importance is the three-volume first edition of Smellie’s A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Midwifery (1752-1764). Smellie, regarded as “The Master of British Midwifery,” had great influence throughout Europe and North America.

One of the least known of English eighteenth-century works, probably because of its rarity, is The Female Physician ... (1724) by John Maubray, the first separate treatise on its topic in English. Maubray was the first to organize regular instruction for midwives. A seminal work is Charles White’s A Treatise on the Management of Pregnant and Lying-in Women (1773). White was a major figure in the evolution of modern obstetrics and in the move toward aseptic midwifery. Included among the assortment of eighteenth-century printed books is an important bound manuscript, dated 1771, of the lectures on midwifery by Thomas Young, professor of midwifery at Edinburgh and the first in Britain to present a course of lectures on that subject.

The nineteenth century, of course, saw an increasingly technical and scientific approach to gynecology, which is reflected in the style and subject matter of published works such as those of John Clarke, the leading practitioner of midwifery in the early part of the century. He is represented by two works, Practical Essays on the Management of Pregnancy and Labour (1806) and
Commentaries on some of the Most Important Diseases of Children (1815). Probably the scarcest nineteenth-century work is a periodical, The British Record of Obstetric Medicine and Surgery (1848-1849), edited, and contributed to, by Charles Clay, a famous Manchester ovariotomist and surgeon. Few copies of this important work were published.

No collection of works on this subject would be complete without a copy of George Spratt’s Obstetric Tables (1845), which contains nineteen finely colored lithographic figures with ingenious multiple overlay flaps. It was a much used tool in instruction well into the twentieth century, including in America. The illustration on the cover of the catalogue is from this work.

Over the next few months in 2005 the History Library will be cataloguing this unique collection for incorporation into its historical collection. Care will be taken to make its provenance searchable in the OPAC. We are eternally grateful for Dr. Davies’s skill in compiling this collection and his generosity in offering it for sale.

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“Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America’s Women Physicians” NLM/ALA Travelling Exhibit

The American Library Association Public Programs Office and the National Library of Medicine, with support from the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women’s Health and the American Medical Women’s Association, announce a six-year tour of “Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America’s Women Physicians,” the NLM History of Medicine Division’s successful online exhibit at <www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/>.

The exhibit celebrates the lives and achievements of women in medicine since Elizabeth Blackwell became the world’s first woman to earn a regular medical degree by completing the standard course of study at an accredited medical school. She received her M.D. on January 23, 1849, at Geneva Medical College, the forerunner of SUNY Upstate Medical University.

Many libraries were eager to host “Changing the Face of Medicine,” and competition for selection was tough. NLM and ALA chose sixty-one American libraries to present it for about six weeks each from August 31, 2005, to September 17, 2010. Two copies of the exhibit will be on the road simultaneously. The first two libraries to host it are the Charles C. Sherrod Library at East Tennessee State University and the Falk Library of the Health Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, which will each have it from August 31 to October 14, 2005.

The full itinerary, which is available at <www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/changingthefaceofmedicine/ExhibitionItinerary.htm>, is about evenly divided among academic medical libraries, academic libraries, and public libraries. Many libraries whose staffs include ALHHS members are on the list. Elizabeth Blackwell’s alma mater is scheduled for January 11 to February 24, 2006.

The exhibit consists not only of the materials that NLM and ALA provide. Participating libraries are required to present extensive programs, free and open to the public, to accompany and augment the exhibit and to add local flavor, e.g., by honoring local women physicians, giving guided tours to schoolchildren and community organizations, or offering lectures by prominent scholars.

Jonathon Erlen announces the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine program:

Lectures by three renowned women physicians are September 8, 15, and 22 at 7:00 p.m. in Auditorium 6 on the fourth floor of Scaife Hall. For more information, please visit <www.hsls.pitt.edu> or call 412-648-2040.

September 8: Hughes Evans, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine, “The Feminine Touch: Women and the American Medical Profession.” Aspiring female physicians applying to medical school during the 2003-2004 admission process made up the majority of medical school applicants for the first time ever. This talk traces the history of women in medicine during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, examining the obstacles that they encountered and how they eventually overcame them.
September 15: Katherine Maria Detre, M.D., Dr.P.H., Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, “Bypass Surgery Versus Angioplasty: Which Is Right for You?” Coronary artery disease is the leading cause of death among both men and women in the United States. A recent study conducted at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health used epidemiological methods to illuminate the differences between bypass surgery and angioplasty, two procedures used to treat relatively advanced coronary artery disease. The study’s lead investigator will share information that may help you increase your chances of surviving this deadly disease.

September 22: Jeannette E. South-Paul, M.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Family Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, “Addressing Health Disparities Through Women Advocates.” Even though important health indicators like life expectancy and infant mortality have improved for most Americans in the last century, minorities experience a disproportionate burden of preventable disease, death, and disability compared with non-minorities. Learn how women health care professionals are uniquely positioned to help close the health gap among racial, ethnic, and underserved populations across the country.

“Legacy of Heroes”
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Travelling Exhibit

Since March 2003 and continuing at least into 2006, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons has presented “Legacy of Heroes,” a stunning and heartrending exhibit of the experiences of the physicians and surgeons who treated our troops during World War II.

Included is a 50-minute documentary film, Wounded in Action, speeches and presentations by medical veterans of World War II, and a beautiful, indexed, and richly illustrated 96-page souvenir book by Craig Fisher. More information is available at the Web site: <legacyofheroes.aaos.org>.

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Profiles in Science at NLM:
The Albert Szent-Györgyi Papers

His scientific career spanned 73 years, at least four countries, and topics ranging from anatomy to quantum biology. He won a Nobel Prize for isolating vitamin C. His research on biological oxidation provided the basis for understanding the Krebs’ citric acid cycle, by which food is transformed into energy for life pro-
cesses. He unraveled the biochemistry of muscle movement, and was one of the first to explore the connections between free radicals and cancer. Yet Hitler’s Gestapo chased him during World War II and he was often at odds with political authorities.

This remarkable man was Albert Imre Szent-Györgyi, M.D., Ph.D. (1893-1986), one of the twentieth century’s greatest scientists. His papers are now online at the National Library of Medicine, as a new addition to Profiles in Science, at <profiles.nlm.nih.gov/WG/>. This brings to fifteen the number of notable researchers and public health officials whose personal and professional records are featured at this Web site.

“Dr. Szent-Györgyi was an innovative and imaginative researcher — a pioneer in several areas of biochemistry. He was a great humanitarian, a charismatic and eloquent teacher, a great wit, and deeply involved in politics. First and last, he was a great scientist,” says NLM Director Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D.

Szent-Györgyi was born in Budapest. He remembered himself as a poor student, but as a teenager he became fascinated with science and graduated high school with honors. Desiring to become a medical researcher like his uncle, he entered the Budapest Medical School in 1911. His medical education was interrupted by World War I, when he was called to serve as an army medic. His years in the trenches instilled a lifelong conviction that wars were gigantic destructive swindles perpetrated by social and economic elites. Fifty years later, he would vociferously protest the nuclear arms race and the Vietnam War.

He completed medical school in 1917, and spent seven years after the war in different laboratories in Czechoslovakia, Germany, and the Netherlands, learning all he could about biochemistry. He became interested in biological oxidation, e.g., why some fruits turn brown when exposed to the air. He accepted a Rockefeller Fellowship at the University of Cambridge in 1926, where he worked to isolate a then-unknown substance found in citrus fruit, some vegetables, and adrenal glands, which prevented browning. Not sure of its identity, he called it “hexuronic acid.” Cambridge awarded him a Ph.D. for this work in 1927. He returned to Hungary in 1931 to head the Department of Medical Chemistry at the University of Szeged, where he assembled a group of young researchers. He asked one of them, American Joseph Svirbely, to test "hexuronic acid" for anti-scurvy properties. They soon renamed it "vitamin C."

Increasingly interested in the biochemical processes causing muscle movement, Szent-Györgyi also investigated respiration in muscle tissue during this period, clarifying the role of dicarboxylic acids, and identifying the process as a cycle. He correctly defined most of the steps in this process, thus laying the groundwork for Hans Adolf Krebs to demonstrate what came to be known as the "Krebs cycle.” Szent-Györgyi won the 1937 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for “discoveries in connection with the biological combustion processes, with especial reference to vitamin C and the catalysis of fumaric acid.” As the first Hungarian to win that prize while residing on native soil, he became a great celebrity there.

During World War II, he continued as best he could his research into the biochemistry of muscle movement.

Albert Szent-Györgyi at his ninetieth birthday party, August 5, 1983
His activities in Hungary’s anti-Nazi underground during 1943-1945, including a perilous mission to make contact with Allied officials on behalf of Hungary’s government, nearly got him arrested by the Gestapo, but made him a national hero.

Following the post-war Soviet takeover of Hungary, Szent-Györgyi emigrated to the United States and settled in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, where he studied muscle contraction chemistry and the electron microscopy of muscle at the Marine Biological Laboratory. He received a Lasker Award in 1954 for his contributions to understanding cardiovascular diseases through basic muscle research. His later work in submolecular or quantum biology opened new avenues of cancer research, particularly the roles of free radicals in neoplastic cell changes.

The online exhibit features oral histories, published articles, lectures, documentaries, and photographs from the Szent-Györgyi papers. Visitors to the site can view, for example, many of his publications as well as photos of him and his lab staff working and playing. An introductory exhibit section places his achievements in historical context.

**“Born at the Beth”**

**Newark’s Jewish Hospital since 1901**

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center (NBIMC) is one of sixty Jewish hospitals in cities around America. The Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati, founded in 1850, and Jews’ Hospital in New York (later called Mount Sinai Hospital), founded in 1852, were the first two. Newark’s Jewish community was not yet large enough or wealthy enough to support a hospital in the 1850s, but a steady influx of immigrants soon changed that.

“Born at the Beth” pays visual tribute to all the individuals who founded, funded, and grew a Jewish hospital in the city of Newark more than 100 years ago. Through photographs, artifacts, video documentary, and memorabilia, the exhibit attempts to answer such questions as why Jews opened hospitals in the first place, and how Beth Israel grew and survived such crises as the Great Depression and World War II shortages. Among its medical firsts, Beth Israel is credited with the discovery of the Rh factor, the first successful implant of a nuclear battery-operated pacemaker, and New Jersey’s first heart and lung transplants. Now a world-class medical center, Newark Beth Israel merged with Saint Barnabas Health Care System in 1996 and the proceeds from the sale of Beth Israel established The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey.

This, ultimately, is the story of a family business, or what we affectionately term the Beth family. Second, third, and even fourth-generation doctors and dentists have interned, volunteered, or worked at Beth Israel. Husband-and-wife teams have practiced at the Beth. Likewise, two and three generations of many families have volunteered or been employed at Beth Israel.

Thousands of MetroWest residents were born at the Beth and thus also claim to enjoy the benefits of being part of such a remarkable legacy.

This exhibit is brought to you by the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest (JHSMW), a subsidiary agency of the United Jewish Communities of MetroWest and a recipient of a General Operating Support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State. Additional support has been received from Dr. Victor Parsonnet; the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey; the Jerome and Sarah Zellar Foundation; Schering-Plough; the Hirschhorn Con-
The Robley Dunglison Collection at the University of Virginia

Robley Dunglison, M.D. (1798-1869) was the first professor of medicine at the University of Virginia when it opened in March 1825. By virtue of being a salaried professor at UVa, he held the first full-time medical professorship in America. His innovative contract with UVa limited him to consultations only, rather than allow the active practices maintained by all other medical faculty in the United States in that era.

From the time he arrived in Charlottesville in 1825, Dunglison served as Thomas Jefferson’s personal physician until Jefferson’s death in 1826. Even though Jefferson harbored a general distrust of physicians, he and Dunglison established a rapport and friendship, as is shown by their correspondence — *The Jefferson-Dunglison Letters*, edited by John M. Dorsey and published by the University of Virginia Press in 1960 — and by the silver chalice that Jefferson presented to Dunglison, which is in the vault in Historical Collections.

Dunglison wrote many medical texts, including *Human Physiology* (1832), which — notwithstanding partisans of William Beaumont — earned him the sobriquet, “Father of American Physiology.” His *Medical Lexicon: A Dictionary of Medical Science* was the nineteenth-century classic in its field, appearing in twenty-three editions from 1833 to 1904 and gradually evolving into *Stedman’s*. He was among the first American physicians and medical educators to teach and write a book on medical history (*History of Medicine: From the Earliest Ages to the Commencement of the Nineteenth Century*). The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, as might be expected, has many Dunglison volumes in its Historical Collections.

Dunglison created and taught courses on medical jurisprudence at UVa. The library’s Historical Collections recently acquired a copy of a textbook used for one of these courses: *Syllabus of the Lectures on Medical Jurisprudence and on the Treatment of Poisoning & Suspended Animation, Delivered in the University of Virginia, By Professor Dunglison. Printed for the Use of the Students*. The acquisition of this book is particularly exciting because it is so obviously connected to Charlottesville and UVa. It was printed in Charlottesville for the University of Virginia by a local printer, C.P. M’Kennie. A nineteenth-century Charlottesville imprint is a relatively rare find. It was also bound in Char-
lottesville by E. Watts. The book is interleaved with blank pages and many of these pages are annotated with handwritten notes. It was not uncommon to interleave books used for courses with blank pages, which permitted students to write notes about the topics being studied in the relevant sections. We suspect, however, that the notes in the newly acquired volume were not written by a student in the medical jurisprudence course, but by the professor himself, Dunglison, which adds even more intrinsic value to the book.

Two of Dunglison’s descendents, Virginia D. Vania of Menlo Park, California, and Reese P. Davis of Philadelphia, presented the library with some artifacts passed down through the years in their family that Dunglison owned or with which he was associated. The graceful and clever writing pen and the spring lancet are both directly attributed to Dunglison and would have been proper accoutrements for a nineteenth-century physician of his stature. What we believe to be an ivory-handled lancet, which is known to be associated with him but cannot be authenticated as directly attributable, would have been used in vaccinations.

*The Autobiographical Ana of Robley Dunglison,* edited by Samuel X Radbill, a well-known twentieth-century Philadelphia pediatrician, was published in 1963 by the American Philosophical Society. Dr. Robert L. Chevalier, Benjamin Armistead Shepherd Professor of Pediatrics and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at UVa, recently donated Radbill’s Dunglison-related papers to Historical Collections. A guide to these papers is available through the Virginia Heritage Project (VHP) <www.lib.virginia.edu/small/vhp/>, a consolidated database of finding aids to manuscript and archival collections that provides information about historical materials documenting Virginia History and culture from 1607 to the present. Most of Radbill’s papers are at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

Dunglison left UVa in 1833, moving to the University of Maryland for three years, then accepting a position at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, where he stayed for the duration of his career. UVa is grateful that the donors of Dunglison-related materials chose to give them to UVa, the institution that first saw the potential in the young, relatively inexperienced English physician and thus helped to shape the seasoned and eminent American medical educator.

For further information on Dunglison’s life and career, please view the online exhibit at <www.med.virginia.edu/hs-library/historical/dunglison/home.html>. For further information on Dunglison materials available in Historical Collections, please contact either Joan Echtenkamp Klein, Curator of Historical Collections, at 434-924-0052 or <jre@virginia.edu>, or Andrew Sallans, Historical Collections Specialist, at 434-982-0576 or <als9q@virginia.edu>.

**E-News from London**

Julia Sheppard, Head of Special Collections at the Wellcome Library for the History and Understanding of Medicine, invites everyone to look at her library’s e-newsletter at <library.wellcome.ac.uk/node84.html>. It contains notes on recent accessions and articles about goings on at the Wellcome Trust in general.
News from the History of Medicine Division

Global Health Histories Conference

The National Library of Medicine invites scholars to attend “Global Health Histories,” an international symposium bringing together scholars, scientists, administrators, and activists to examine global public health crises in historical and contemporary perspectives, on November 3-4, 2005.


The conference is sponsored by the HMD and the Johns Hopkins University Institute of the History of Medicine, in association with the Global Health Histories Initiative of the World Health Organization.

All sessions will be held at the William H. Natcher Conference Center, National Institutes of Health, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland.

Registration is free at <www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/conferences/pdf/registration.pdf>. For more information please visit <www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/conferences/globalhealthhistories/index.html> or contact NLM by e-mail at <globalhealthhistories@mail.nih.gov>, by phone at 301-496-8949, or by fax at 301-402-7034.

Strong Medicine

The HMD announces a Fall 2005 film series: Strong Medicine: A Festival of Movie Masterpieces and Obscurities. This festival parses the cultural, social, and existential meanings of disease and deformity, scientific medicine, the medical marketplace, treatment and cure, healing and health professionalism, living and dying. The schedule is:

September 22: The Hospital.
September 29: The Elephant Man.
October 6: And the Band Played On.

October 20: Safe.
October 27: Island of Lost Souls.
November 10: E R, Ben Casey, M*A*S*H.

Each evening program begins at 6:00 p.m. and includes introductory remarks by historians, film critics, or National Institutes of Health scientists; the feature presentation; a discussion period; and refreshments. Admission is free and open to all.

The location is the NLM Lister Hill Center Auditorium, Building. 38A, National Institutes of Health, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland. For more information please visit <www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/happening/seminars/filmseries.html#about>.

Frankenstein

The travelling exhibit Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature stopped at fifteen libraries around the country, drawing 273,202 visitors, during the six-month period from September 2004 to March 2005. Host libraries organized 179 related programs, attended by nearly 19,000 people.

Directory of History of Medicine Collections

The 14th edition of NLM’s Directory of History of Medicine Collections was published in May. Edited and compiled by Crystal Smith, the new edition lists twenty-eight additional collections, bringing the total to 147 institutions. The electronic version appears at <www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/directory/directoryhome.html>.

Hard copies are available from: Crystal Smith, History of Medicine, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20895; phone 301-496-9225; e-mail <crystals@mail.nih.gov>.

IndexCat

IndexCat <indexcat.nlm.nih.gov/> has been enhanced with the added capacity to save, print, e-mail, or download retrieved and selected citations. HMD also released an official IndexCat home page <www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/indexcat/ichome.html> linked to explanatory pages: What is Index-Catalogue? What is IndexCat? About the IndexCat Project, and FAQs.

Phil Teigen <pteigen@nih.gov>
Book Reviews


Simply stated, there are not enough new books on nursing history, and it is good to see a book that not only discusses the history of nursing but does it from a world view. This excellent compilation of articles examines the history of nursing from around the world, and within a number of different historical eras. Articles include discussions of the history of nursing and midwifery in Japan, South Africa, and Norway, and examinations of nursing under the Nazis and the American Medical Association. Like any edited book, there is unevenness in quality, but even the least of these articles is interesting, and discusses perspectives which are not part of the usual scope of books on nursing history. My argument with some of the studies would be an assumption of knowledge on the part of the readership that (in my case, and I assume in the case of many readers) just was not there. As a result, the cultural mores of South Africa (for example) were totally lost, since the terminology specific to racial issues was not always clearly explained.

From this reviewer’s perspective, several of the articles really proved quite fascinating. Julia Hallam’s discussion of this history of caring focuses on the autobiographies of two Crimean nurses, Mary Seacole and Elizabeth “Betsy Cadwaladyr” Davis. Seacole, a successful Jamaican business woman, educated by her mother to be a “doctress,” volunteered to serve with Florence Nightingale, but was refused. Undaunted, she instead assembled supplies herself, and headed to the Crimea, where she set up an officer’s mess aimed at serving (for payment) the wealthier soldiers. She used the monies she earned from this to care for anyone that needed her assistance. When the war ended, Seacole was bankrupt, and wrote her autobiography to pay off her debts. Elizabeth Davis, on the other hand, was an uneducated Welsh woman who, after years of working as a domestic, volunteered to go to the Crimea with a Miss Stanley. Her “autobiography” comprised a series of oral histories told to Jane Williams. Some of Davis’ discussion focused on her objections to Miss Nightingale’s control of resources. Besides providing some much needed recognition for two individuals who did much the same work as Nightingale (without getting any of the fame), Hallam’s article uses the autobiographies to examine nursing as a “caring profession.” These works stress both the “feminine” nature of caring, as well as the religious nature of it. Davis, in fact, saw caring as something removed from the purview of upper and middle class women, deeming them too delicate both physically and emotionally. For both women, however, caring was also a means to make a living, and to achieve a certain measure of independence and authority in their chosen profession.

Christine E. Hallet’s article on puerperal fever and the battle between the burgeoning field of obstetrics and the declining field of midwifery also held my attention. As “man-midwives” attempted, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, to wrest control of the childbirth process from female midwives, puerperal fever became the battleground, with each camp pointing the finger at the other. The male camp had a distinct advantage in the literary war, however, since these well-educated physicians found it far easier to write and publish their grievances than did their female counterparts. The treatises that survive from the distaff side focus on the physicians’ emphases on “morbid anatomy,” rather than experience. In the long run, neither had the answer, and would not be until the “germ theory” was accepted that puerperal fever could be combated.

My favorite of the articles was Elaine Thomson’s discussion of advertising in nursing periodicals. Given the current plethora of drug companies marketing to the consumer, this is certainly a timely topic. But Thomson’s article does not only look at medical products marketed to nurses within their professional literature. She also reveals that the journals contained ads for mass market products, like deodorants and sanitary supplies, aimed at the nurse as a consumer (rather than as a professional). It was also fascinating to me that one nursing journal, Nursing Illustrated (published from 1939 to 1941) actually had a section called “Off
Duty," which included knitting patterns and advertise-
ments for wool! While some of the patterns noted the
need for the nurse to be involved with "war work," the
dainty bed jacket and angora-trimmed sweater cer-
tainly were meant to be recreational.

On the whole, I believe this book to be an excellent
addition to any history of nursing collection, though I
should mention that it is not inexpensive. At $115.00, it
is, for some, a luxury that cannot be afforded. How-
ever, if budgetary restrictions permit, I can recommend
this book wholeheartedly to any historian of nursing.

Patricia E. Gallagher
New York Academy of Medicine

David V. Herlihy.
Bicycle: The History.
New Haven: Yale
University Press, 2004. 470 pages,
illustrated, 26 cm.
$40.00. ISBN
0300104189.

The history of the bi-
cycle is not exactly
core history of medi-
cine. But it is the his-
tory of science and
technology, and the
bicycle and its prede-
cessors were always touted as healthy exercise for the
urban middle class. Besides, I am the HMD’s resident
bike geek, so ...

In many ways, this is a wonderful book: briskly writ-
ten, profusely illustrated, thoughtfully dealing with the
knotty problems of the bicycle’s technical and social
development. And there are real problems. The modern
bicycle evolved fitfully over a remarkably long period
of time, with distinct epochs and attendant break-
throughs.

Stage 1 was the draisine (named after its inventor,
Karl von Drais, circa 1818), with two tandem wheels
of equal size, but no pedals or chain-drive. The rider
sat on a saddle suspended between the wheels and ran
on tiptoe, coasting from time to time. Uphill sounds
unpleasant, and downhill suicidal; there were no
brakes.

Stage 2 was the velocipede (circa 1865). Pedals and a
crank were added, on an axle through the front wheel,
like a modern tricycle. This had the effect of shifting
the body weight forward, and also encouraged larger
front wheels, until the penny-farthing configuration
(huge front wheel, tiny back wheel) was reached. The
mechanical advantage of enormous front wheels was
offset by the loss of stability (on a draisine, the wheels
had to be small enough so the rider’s feet would reach
the ground. A penny-farthing’s wheels could be twice
as big).

It was also very difficult to make sharp turns. As any
parent knows, that is the easiest way to tip a trike. The
opposite leg is in the way. There was no freehub, which
means that if the wheel was turning, the pedals were
spinning on their cranks, and brakes were either
rudimentary or non-existent. Wheels improved from
bare wooden or metal rims to wire spokes with solid
rubber (later pneumatic) tires, although the common
term “boneshaker” was richly deserved.

Stage 3 arrived in the 1880s with modern-looking
chain drives (although the gearing systems continued
to be complicated and arcane). The two wheels re-
turned to similar sizes, and the center of gravity was
shifted back and lowered. These so-called “safety”
bicycles were the wonder of their age, and are not so
different from modern bicycles.

There were, of course, all sorts of strange and wonder-
ful intermediate devices, and Herlihy is at his best
when describing the not-quite-ready-for-the-road
gadgets that inventors kept tweaking back in the shed.
After all, before the Wright brothers started building
airplanes, they were bicycle mechanics in Dayton,
Ohio, where they invented the modern bicycle pedal.
But many of the contraptions Herlihy documents look
as if they would have great difficulty rounding a corner
while staying upright.

The stamina of the early riders is staggering. Racing
started as soon as draisines appear, notwithstanding the
fact that draisines might weigh seventy-five pounds. In
the 1860s, long tours and 100-mile races were common.
Herlihy notes a race held in 1869 where one rider was
disqualified for riding an illegal machine that weighed
only forty-nine pounds. The legal minimum was fifty.
By way of contrast, modern Tour de France bicycles, with high-tech titanium or carbon fiber frames, average about eighteen pounds, and lighter bikes exist for special competitions.

Such exertion raised health concerns. Heavy, unstable bicycles led to broken bones, and high-wheelers were particularly apt to pitch a rider over the handlebars. Although some modern manufacturers act as though they discovered the problem, there are already articles in The Lancet from the 1880s worrying about the pressure of a bicycle saddle against the nether regions.

There was also the issue of women on bikes. Long skirts and bicycles are a dangerous mix, but rather than submit to women in trousers or knickers, bike inventors built some truly hilarious machines, well-documented by Herlihy, for women, including side-saddle models with both pedals on the same side of the frame. Sensible women chose bloomers and more conventional (and stable!) machines. Herlihy has some wonderful passages and illustrations about the “New Woman” with her bicycle and mannish attire. There are also a number of advertising posters portraying scantily-clad women draped alluringly over new bike models that would not be out of place at a modern sports car show.

The other social issue, of course, is the dual role of the bicycle as exercise for the middle class versus a vehicle for everyone. Early bicycles were touted as a replacement for the horse, but were far too expensive for any but the well-to-do. Bicycles in the United States are largely children’s toys, not a serious transportation option. This is less true in Europe, where bicycling is not only transportation but a serious spectator sport. The Tour de France, in terms of distances covered and numbers of live spectators, is the world’s largest sporting event. It will be interesting to see if the American dalliance with the Tour will survive the promised retirement of Lance Armstrong after the 2005 Tour. Only in places like China (home to half a billion bikes) do bicycles seriously compete with internal combustion engines.

The book is not without its flaws. A Cruikshank print described by Herlihy as showing collegians riding their velocipedes in London is clearly portraying the Oxford skyline and not London at all. A sidebar discussing the Confederate submarine Hunley (the subject is human-powered vehicles using cranks) is so full of errors that it is clear that Herlihy should stick to bicycles. Finally, an idiosyncratic system of endnotes makes it very difficult to track down a reference.

But these are small points overall. Herlihy has written a comprehensive survey of a complicated field, full of contradictory claims and far-reaching social implications, and put it in a volume handsome enough to grace my coffee table (as soon as I clear off the Gatorade bottles and bike parts catalogues).

Stephen Greenberg
National Library of Medicine

Since the late twentieth century, historians of science have become increasingly intrigued by alchemy’s
role in the Renaissance and early modern scientific scene. Several recent books detail the alchemical exploits of Isaac Newton and Robert Boyle, for instance. Bruce Moran’s *Distilling Knowledge* adds to this literature with a focus on how modern chemistry evolved from alchemy in the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries.

Moran is Professor of History at the University of Nevada at Reno. He has authored a number of other books on the history of alchemy, chemistry, pharmacy, and medicine. *Distilling Knowledge* is part of Harvard’s *New Histories of Science, Technology and Medicine* series.

Modern readers may think of alchemy as mystical pseudoscience with little relevance to the Scientific Revolution. However, Moran argues that people today have little knowledge of what alchemy entailed, due to a historical tradition that gave alchemy short shrift. He enlightens the reader about the rational, scientific methods that alchemists followed, and the diverse goals of their endeavors — beyond the stereotypical transmutation of base metals into gold.

The book is organized around themes in the alchemy/chemistry spectrum, rather than proceeding chronologically. He considers the alchemical, chemical, and transitional texts of the time, and includes notes on their authors and the wider intellectual context. The chapters are as follows:

**Introduction**

1. Doing Alchemy
3. Paracelsus and the “Paracelsians”: Natural Relationships and Separation as Creation
4. Sites of Learning and the Language of Chemistry
5. Alchemy, Chemistry, and the Technology of Knowing
6. The Reality of Relationship

Conclusion: Varieties of Experience in Reading the Book of Nature

Chapter 1 opens with a discussion of Andreas Libavius’s text, *Alchemia*, which historians would later “revere as the first real textbook in the history of chemistry” (p. 8). Libavius described the “fifth essence,” and distillation as a means of isolating it. Moran reviews Libavius’ predecessors. Chapter 2 portrays the love/hate relationship that Renaissance figures like Leonardo da Vinci had with alchemy. They embraced the practical applications, such as changing the color of metals or creating pharmaceutical products, and disapproved of the more fanciful claims like creating gold. Chapter 2 also highlights the involvement of women in alchemy, mentioning a variety of books for this audience including *The Accomplished Ladies’ Delight in Preserving, Physick, Beautifying and Cookery; The Queen’s Closet Opened; and Benevolent and Easy Chemistry, in Behalf of Women.*

Chapter 3 discusses Paracelsus’s focus on spiritual, philosophical facets of alchemy, in particular the concept of segregation of elements. Johannes Guinther of Andernach, Peter Severinus, Joseph Duchesne (Quercetanus), and Jean Baptiste von Helmont are also featured here. Chapter 4 turns to what Libavius called “chymiatry” — the making of chemical medicines. Universities began offering courses in chymiatry, which gradually led to the teaching of chemistry proper. Chapters 3 and 4 contain the most sustained discussion of medicine in the book, although it comes up briefly in other chapters. Another recent book on alchemy, *Promethean Ambitions* by William R. Newman, offers a different perspective on the connections between medicine and alchemy. Newman emphasizes...
the homunculus and its supposed healing powers, which Moran does not mention.

Chapter 5 describes the mechanical philosophy sparked by René Descartes, and the contrasting philosophy of vitalism. Moran shows how the experimental advances of Boyle, Georg Ernst Stahl, and contemporaries related to alchemy and emerging chemistry. In Chapter 6, Moran takes an interdisciplinary look at the Scientific Revolution, embracing alchemy’s part in it. Physi-
cian Friedrich Hoffmann is profiled, as is Newton. The book’s conclusion reiterates that alchemy is a worthy subject of historical study in its own right, and an appreciation of it is critical for a full understanding of the Scientific Revolution.

Distilling Knowledge is not easy to read despite a conversational writing style and some clever turns of phrase (such as “Matter, it seemed, liked to commit to relationships, but only until something better came along” — p. 177). Clearer chapter titles and the addition of subheadings in chapters would make the book more accessible to the novice. Additionally, a chronological bibliography of the primary sources discussed throughout the book would be very useful for quick reference. There are no footnotes or endnotes in the text; citations are in parenthetical form, and the bibliography mixes numerous secondary sources in with the books covered in the text. The black and white plates and the index are assets.

Ursula Ellis
Robert M. Bird Library
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Good Listening

The Science, Technology and Health Care Roundtable in New Orleans

On August 18, 2005, in New Orleans at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), Joe Anderson of the American Institute of Physics and Joan Echtenkamp Klein of the University of Virginia Health Sciences Library, co-chairs of the Science, Technology and Health Care (STHC) Roundtable, hosted a session that featured talks by Barbara Paulsen of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Melissa Gottwald of Iowa State University Special Collections, and Paul Theerman of NLM. The full program can be seen at <www.archivists.org/saagroups/sthc/MeetingAgenda2005.doc>.

The New York Academy of Medicine
Section on the History of Medicine and Public Health
Public Lecture Series, 2005-2006

The New York Academy of Medicine hosts a special fall mini-series to complement the exhibit of the Edwin Smith Surgical Papyrus in The Art of Medicine in Ancient Egypt, which is on view at the Metropolitan Museum of Art from September 13, 2005, through January 15, 2006.

Medicine Before Modernity

We live in a time of such accelerating medical know-
ledge that our perspective on developments in medicine
a mere century ago can seem to flatten what was itself a dynamic and swiftly changing period into some undifferentiated “past,” as remote and unrecognizable as a familiar landscape viewed from the wrong end of a telescope. This four-part lecture series turns the lens around, viewing the history of medicine from the vantage point of one of its foundational documents, the Edwin Smith Surgical Papyrus, a transcription from ca. 1600 B.C.E. of a much older document. The series starts with two lectures on medicine in the ancient world that explore both the changes and continuities that mark the history of medicine. The focus then shifts to how this ancient knowledge was rediscovered and embraced by scholars over six hundred years ago, in the early years of “modernity.” Together, the lectures in this series offer instruction on how we frame questions about the past — both distant and recent.

On Tuesday, September 27, 2005, New York physician and historian David T. Mininberg, M.D., discussed in “The Art of Medicine in the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean” how ancient artifacts and documents reveal medical practices and beliefs about life, health, and death. This lecture accompanied the opening of the Academy Library’s fall book exhibit, Holes in the Head: Mending Head Injuries from Pericles to Bonaparte.

On Thursday, October 27, 2005, James P. Allen, Ph.D., Curator of Egyptian Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, spoke on “The World of Ancient Egyptian Medicine.” Despite all its cultural advances, the world of ancient Egypt was a perilous and uncertain environment, and medicine was one attempt to understand and deal with life in that world. In this illustrated lecture, Allen looked at ancient Egyptian medicine as it is preserved in art and writing.

On Tuesday, November 29, 2005, Michael McVaugh, Ph.D., one of the leading scholars of medicine in the early modern period, presented “An Ailment Not to be Treated: The Rationality of Pre-Modern Surgery.” He discussed the development of medieval surgery and the reception of ancient knowledge such as that found in the Smith Papyrus by medical practitioners and theorists in the thirteenth century.

On Tuesday, December 6, 2005, Monica Green, Ph.D., will speak on “Gynecology and Surgery: Alliances of Knowledge and Practice in the Premodern Period.” She will discuss how two ancient branches of medicine, surgery and gynecology, which had been practiced in isolation as highly specialized disciplines, began to merge in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries as increased knowledge of Arabic surgical texts emboldened surgeons in Europe to begin to incorporate more gynecological procedures into the surgical repertoire. This process, she argues, began the transfer of gynecological treatment from the hands of women to those of men.

To honor Victoria A. Harden, Ph.D., Director of the Office of NIH History, on her retirement, the Office sponsored a major two-day conference on “Biomedicine in the Twentieth Century: Practices, Policies, and Politics” in the Lister Hill Auditorium on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland, on December 5-6, 2005. Caroline Hannaway, Ph.D., organized the conference.

The keynote speaker was evolutionary geneticist and social critic Richard C. Lewontin, Alexander Agassiz Research Professor at Harvard University, who will discuss “The Effects of the Socialization of Biomedical Research.” Other speakers, in alphabetical order, were:
Warwick Anderson, “The Global Reach of United States Biomedical Research.”
David Cantor, “Radium, Cancer Research and the End of the New Deal.”
Bernardino Fantini, “From Genetic Diseases to the Genetics of Disease: The Evolution of Theories of Genetic Determinism and the Implications for Health Strategies.”
J. Rogers Hollingsworth, “The Path Dependency of Institutional and Organizational Factors that Shape Major Scientific Discoveries.”
Daniel Kevles, “Genes, Disease, and Patents: Cash and Community in Biomedicine.”
Susan Lederer, “Transplant-Nation: Organ Transplantation in the United States.”
Leo Slater, “Chemotherapy and Immunology: Infectious Disease Research in Twentieth-Century Biomedical Science.”
Darwin Stapleton, “The Critical Role of Laboratory Instruments at the Rockefeller: Biomedicine as Biotechnology.”
Carsten Timmermann, “Cancer Research and Therapy in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century: The Role of the British Medical Research Council.”


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**History of Medicine Seminars at Cambridge**

The Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge offers an ongoing series of seminars on topics in the history of medicine. One of these seminars, “Early Medicine and Natural Philosophy,” was organized Lauren Kassell and featured the following presentations:

Laurence Totelin (Wellcome Centre for the History of Medicine, University College London), “Sex and Vegetables in the Hippocratic Gynaecological Treatises and Attic Comedies (Fifth and Fourth Centuries B.C.),” November 1, 2005.

The “History of Modern Medicine and Biology” seminar, organized by Tatjana Buklijas and Soraya de Chadarevian, included these talks:


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**Talks at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia**

Samuel K. Roberts, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Columbia University, and of Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University, presented “Between Geography and Heredity (Especially Among African-Americans): Interpreting House Infection Theory in the Early U.S. Anti-Tuberculosis Movement” on September 22, 2005. He examined the emergence and application of house infection theory (the discovery, around 1890, that closed spaces posed the greatest risk for the spread of tuberculosis) to argue that its proponents only selectively applied the theory’s principles in conformity to political exigencies. Health professionals’ cartographical representations of house infection revealed in the early twentieth century an unwarranted focus on heredity and social pathology otherwise unsupported by the initial meaning of house infection theory. His talk was co-sponsored by the Section on Medical History, the Section on Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and the African-American Museum in Philadelphia.

Margaret Humphreys, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Duke University, presented the Annual Samuel X Radbill Lecture on October 20, 2005. Her topic was “Immensely Human: The Health of Black Soldiers in the American Civil War.” The fate of the black slaves occupied center stage among northern thinkers as the Civil War entered its third year. Could the black man become a productive citizen? Would black people be able to care for themselves, and remain healthy? Would the black man make a good soldier? In 1863 and 1864 some 180,000 black men entered the Union army, and many hoped the experience would train them in citizenship skills. An alarming number died of disease, which led some to claim that the black body was inherently weak, unable to survive the rigors of the army and the modern world. Humphreys explored the disease experience of the black soldier and the factors which caused such high morbidity and mortality during the Civil War. Her talk was co-sponsored by the Section on Medical History, the African-American Museum in Philadelphia, the Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum, and the Third Regiment, Infantry, U.S. Colored Troops (Civil War re-enactors).

The Section on Medical History also offered two talks on November 9, 2005, collectively titled “Exploration of the Origins of Modern Thought and Therapies in Nephrology.” Steven Peitzman, M.D., FACP, of the Drexel University College of Medicine, spoke on “Finally Showing How the Kidney Works: A.N. Richards and Micropuncture in Philadelphia, 1921-1924.” Sandra Moss, M.D., M.A., of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, presented “Everything but the Kitchen Sink: Inventing the Artificial Kidney.” These talks were accompanied by a selection of landmark books in nephrology from the Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia on exhibit in the lobby of the College building.
Talks at NLM and NIH

The National Library of Medicine History of Medicine Division sponsored four seminars in the Fall of 2005.

On September 29, Ellis Tinios, Ph.D., spoke on “The Human Body in Japanese Illustrated Books of the Edo Period (1615-1868).” Life drawing did not form part of the training of traditional Japanese artists, but in the eighteenth century, partly in response to exposure to European prints and illustrated anatomy books brought into the country by Dutch traders, some artists sought to achieve a new realism in their art through direct observation of nature. Tinios examined the extent to which these efforts influenced the depiction of the human body in woodblock printed drawing manuals, erotica, medical texts, and popular picture books published in the Edo period. Tinios taught East Asian History in the School of History at the University of Leeds from 1978 to 2002. He is now an Honorary Lecturer at Leeds, a Fellow of the Japan Research Centre, School of African and Asian Studies, London University, and a Special Assistant at the British Museum.

Kathleen Stuart, Ph.D., spoke about “Malice or Melancholy? Forensic Psychiatry in Eighteenth-Century Germany” on October 26. A new type of crime emerged in late seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Germany: indirect suicide or suicide by proxy. Suicidal individuals committed a capital crime in order to bring about their own death by execution and thus avoid the eternal damnation that befell direct suicides. Condemned criminals were allowed to confess their sins, were granted absolution, and received the Eucharist. Clergymen taught that criminals expiated their sins as they underwent the torment of execution. The criminal entered eternity cleansed of sin, unlike regular Christians who had to fear untimely death. She discussed when, how, and to what extent the insanity defense was applied to perpetrators of suicide by proxy. Stuart is Associate Professor of History at the University of California, Davis. Her most recent book is Defiled Trades and Social Outcasts: Honor and Ritual Pollution in Early Modern Germany (Cambridge University Press, 2000), which was awarded the Hans Rosenberg Biennial Book Prize in 2001.

On November 2, as part of the Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Marcos Cueto, Ph.D., spoke on “Interamerican Solidarity: A History of the Pan-American Health Organization.” He described the long and little-known story of international health in the Americas, especially the role of the Pan-American Health Organization, formed in 1902 and still active. He also highlighted the roles of prominent medical leaders in international health, established a framework to understand this history, examined the main health challenges facing the countries of the western hemisphere, and provided a panoramic view of the main international public health trends in the Americas of the twentieth century, from tropical medicine to global health. Cueto is Professor in the Faculty of Public Health and Administration, Universidad Peruana “Cayetano Heredia,” Lima, Peru, a well-known historian of medicine, and author of numerous articles and books, including a history of the Pan-American Health Organization published in 2004.

On December 1, Terry Belanger, Ph.D., presented “Money and Speed and Time: Nineteenth-Century Book Illustration Processes: A Really Illustrated Lecture.” The ability to reproduce accurate and affordable book illustrations has always been of paramount importance to the publishers and readers of medical books. This presentation entailed a discussion and examination primarily of English and American illustrated books before — and just after — the coming of photographic process halftones. Belanger was educated at Haverford College and Columbia University, where he received his Ph.D. in eighteenth-century English literature. In 1971, he established the Book Arts Press at Columbia University as a bibliographical laboratory for the training of rare book and special collections librarians and antiquarian booksellers. He moved both the Book Arts Press and the Rare Book School to the University of Virginia in 1992, where he is now University Professor and Honorary Curator of Special Collections. Among his many other activities and awards, he is a 2005 MacArthur Fellow.

The next NLM History of Medicine Seminar will be on Tuesday, January 17, 2006, from 2:00 to 3:15 p.m., in the Lister Hill Visitor’s Center; Building 38A on the NLM campus in Bethesda, Maryland. Carol Benedict of Georgetown University will speak on “Chinese Medical Uses of Tobacco, 1600-1800.” For more information about future presentations in this series, visit the History of Medicine Division’s “Seminars, Lectures, Films” Web site at: <www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/happening/seminars/seminars_2006.html>.

On November 8, 2005, Leo B. Slater, Ph.D., DeWitt Stetten, Jr., Memorial Fellow in the History of Bio-
medical Sciences and Technology of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, presented “A History of Service: Malaria Research at NIAID” in Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. This talk was sponsored by the NIH Biomedical Research History Interest Group (BRHIG). For information about the BRHIG and upcoming events, please visit the BRHIG Web site: <www.nih.gov/sigs/brhig>.

The UCLA Programs in Medical Classics is a series of presentations designed to enhance an appreciation of the links among famous medical writings, clinical practice, basic research, and humanistic scholarship. Six times a year these meetings bring together a convivial group of individuals of scholarly tastes — both from the community and from UCLA faculty, students, and staff — for a lecture and an opportunity to discuss and examine texts and topics that embody the history of advances in medicine, as well as the relations of medicine to broader cultural settings. An abridged form of a classic text related to each evening’s lecture is distributed to those who request it in advance.

On October 25, 2005, at the UCLA Faculty Center, Stephen Leeder, M.D., Professor of Public Policy and Community Medicine; and Director, The Australian Health Policy Institute, University of Sydney, spoke on “A Plague on All Our Houses: Once and Future Epidemics of Chronic Diseases.” The December 6 talk was “The Arts of Healing and the Arts of War: the UCLA Medical School’s Atomic Energy Project, 1949-1959” by Janet Farrell Brodie, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of History, Claremont Graduate University.

On October 13, 2005, James R. Fleming, Ph.D., Professor of Science, Technology, and Society at Colby College and, in 2005-2006, the Charles A. Lindbergh Chair in Aerospace History at the Smithsonian Institution National Air and Space Museum, spoke on “Climate Change, Human Agency, and Health in Early America.” He looked at the writings of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Rush, and Noah Webster that reflected their thoughts on the relationship of climate and health, and the lasting implications of these ideas for the Lewis and Clark Expedition and a subsequent generation of American climatologists and physicians.

On November 1, 2005, Matthew Bowen, Ph.D., a neuropsychologist in Charlottesville, Virginia, and a former Clinical Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at the Stanford University School of Medicine, spoke on “Uncle Phil and the Iron Lung.” He discussed the life and work of Philip Drinker (1894-1972), inventor of the iron lung or “Drinker Respirator,” from a personal point of view. Bowen is Drinker’s great-nephew and met him as a boy. Drinker’s personality, professional development, and relationship with his elder brother, renowned Harvard environmental physiologist Cecil Drinker, were a focus of the presentation.
On November 30, 2005, James M. Edmonson, Ph.D., Chief Curator, Dittrick Medical History Center and Museum, Case Western Reserve University, presented “Haunting Images: Dissection, Photography, and American Medical Students.” Medical students dissecting human cadavers in gross anatomy class became the subject of photography barely five years after the advent of the daguerreotype. Photography provided a way for students to preserve this central event of their medical education. The images became an underground genre because of the association of dissection with grave robbing, a psychological linkage that lingered even after grave robbing subsided. Victorian social taboos against intimate knowledge of the human body drove these images even further underground. This presentation showed a variety of such photos.

On February 9, 2006, Margaret Humphreys, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of History at Duke University, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at the Duke University School of Medicine, and Editor of the Journal of the History of Medicine, will speak on “Intensely Human: The Health of Black Soldiers in the American Civil War.” As the Civil War entered its third year the fate of the black slaves occupied center stage among northern thinkers. Could the black man become a productive citizen? Would black people be able to care for themselves, and remain healthy? Would the black man make a good soldier? In 1863 and 1864 some 180,000 black men entered the Union army, and many hoped the experience would train them in citizenship skills. An alarming number died of disease, which led some to claim that the black body was inherently weak, unable to survive the rigors of the army and the modern world. Humphreys explores the disease experience of the black soldier and the factors which caused such high morbidity and mortality during the Civil War.

On March 22, 2006, Steven A. Newman, M.D., Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, will present “Aviation Medicine in Ophthalmology.” Just over a hundred years ago the Wright brothers ushered in the era of powered human flight. As more accidents and deaths resulted from increased air travel and combat, attempts were made to develop criteria for screening and selecting pilots. Newman will trace the development of the importance of vision in aviation and provide insight into how theories are formulated and how bureaucracies often have a difficult time in changing standards and requirements.

On April 3, 2006, Judith W. Leavitt, Ph.D., Rupple Bascom and Ruth Bleier Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation Professor of Medical History, History of Science, and Women’s Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, will give the Tenth Annual Kenneth R. Crispell Memorial History Lecture, “What’s in a Name? Histories of Mary Mallon and Typhoid Mary.” A childhood doggerel claims that “sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me.” Leavitt suggests, rather, that names can hurt, and they also can change the course of a life, of history, of how historians tell history, and, most specifically, of how stigmatizing names can affect efforts to protect the public’s health. A 2004 Nova film, The Most Dangerous Woman in the World, based on Leavitt’s recent book, Typhoid Mary: Captive to the Public’s Health, has been nominated for an Emmy in the historical documentary category.

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**Miscellanea**

**New Online Index to Personal Narratives**

At the June 2005 annual meeting of the American Library Association (ALA) in Chicago, Alexander Street Press introduced its new online index: “In the First Person: Index to Letters, Diaries, Oral Histories, and Other Personal Narratives”: <www.inthefirstperson.com>. No password or registration is required and it is completely free.

“In the First Person” lets users perform in-depth field and keyword searches across all letters, diaries, oral
histories, memoirs, and autobiographies in scholarly materials that are freely available on the Web and in Alexander Street databases. With a single search, users can access thousands of personal narratives in English from archives and repositories everywhere. The search returns citation information and links to full text, audio, and video whenever available.

Every imaginable topic, historical event, and person is covered, from World Wars I and II to popular culture, music to medicine, Hitler to John Wayne, gay rights to September 11th. It is a comprehensive archive of social memory, updated quarterly, and a good starting point for historians, sociologists, genealogists, linguists, psychologists, etc. Its first release indexes over 2,500 collections of oral history from around the world. Future releases will broaden the index to cover other formats (e.g., letters, diaries, autobiographies, etc.) as well as Alexander Street proprietary content.

More information about “In the First Person” is at <alexanderstreet.com/products/firp.htm>.

Francis A. Countway Library Fellowship in the History of Medicine, 2006-2007

The Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine is pleased to offer an annual fellowship to support research in the history of medicine. Established in 1960 as a result of an alliance between the Boston Medical Library and the Harvard Medical Library, Countway is the largest academic medical library in the United States, maintaining a collection of approximately 700,000 volumes. Its Center for the History of Medicine holds 250,000 books and journals published before 1920, including 802 incunabula. The department’s printed holdings include one of the most complete medical periodical collections, an extensive collection of European medical texts issued between the fifteenth and twentieth centuries, and excellent holdings of pre-1800 English and pre-1900 American imprints. The book collection is strong in virtually every medical discipline and is particularly rich in popular medicine, medical education, public health, Judaica, and travel accounts written by physicians. Countway’s collection of archives and manuscripts, approximately 20 million items, is the largest of its kind in the United States. The manuscript collection includes the personal and professional papers of many prominent American physicians, especially those who practiced and conducted research in the New England region, and who were associated with Harvard Medical School. Countway serves as the institutional archives for the Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and the Harvard School of Public Health. The printed, manuscript, and archives holdings are complemented by an extensive print and photograph collection and the collections of the Warren Anatomical Museum. Established in 1847, the museum houses an exceptional collection of medical artifacts, pathological specimens, anatomical models, and instruments.

The Francis A. Countway Library Fellowship in the History of Medicine provides a stipend of up to $5,000 to support travel, lodging, and incidental expenses for a flexible period between June 1, 2006 and May 31, 2007. Besides conducting research, the fellow will submit a report on the results of his/her residency and may be asked to present a seminar or lecture at Countway. The fellowship proposal should demonstrate that Countway has resources central to the research topic. Preference will be given to applicants who live beyond commuting distance of Countway. The application, outlining the proposed project (proposal should not exceed five pages), length of residence, materials to be consulted, and a budget with specific information on travel, lodging, and research expenses, should be submitted, along with a curriculum vitae and two letters of recommendation, by January 31, 2006. Applications should be sent to: Countway Fellowships, Center for the History of Medicine, Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, 10 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115. The appointment will be announced by March 31, 2006.

The Boston Medical Library’s Abel Lawrence Peirson Fund provides support for this program.

Research Awards Available at Cambridge

The Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge invites applications from candidates with interests in any areas of history of medicine who would like to be nominated for the Wellcome Trust’s annual master’s award and doctoral studentship competitions.
The Department also invites applications for two doctoral studentships funded by a Wellcome enhancement award in history of medicine. We seek outstanding candidates whose research would fall in the field “From Generation to Reproduction,” i.e., who would investigate some aspect of how, since 1500, our world of reproductive practice and controversy was created. Special interest attaches to the constitution of “reproduction” as a new object of medical intervention and scientific research, and the increasing modern detachment of sex and reproduction.

Areas in which suitable historical projects could be proposed include (but are not limited to):

- Early-modern investigations into generation.
- Generation and childbirth in early-modern medical cases and case-books.
- The reorganization of knowledge of generation/reproduction, especially in the age of revolutions.
- Such sciences as embryology, obstetrics, gynaecology, evolutionary biology, reproductive physiology, sexual science, genetics and developmental biology.
- The visual cultures of these sciences.
- Movements for sex reform around birth control and sexology.
- Networks linking experimental biology to reproductive medicine and public health, agriculture, especially animal breeding, and pharmaceutical industry.
- New techniques for monitoring and manipulating pregnancy, genes, gametes and embryos, e.g., pregnancy testing, genetic screening, in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer.
- New social and psychological practices for making babies and families.

For information about the department, see <www.hps.cam.ac.uk>, and for details of the studentships, <www.hps.cam.ac.uk/studying/funding.html> (under Wellcome Trust Awards). Informal inquiries may be made to the teaching officer with the most relevant interests. The deadline for applications is February 15, 2006.

**Quiz Question**

When and where was the world’s first interactive online bibliographic retrieval service? (Answer below on page 91.)

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**Bakken Fellowships and Grants**

Each year, the Bakken Library and Museum of Electricity in Life offers Visiting Research Fellowships and Research Travel Grants to facilitate research in its collection of books, journals, manuscripts, and instruments.

**Visiting Research Fellowships** up to a maximum of $1,500 are to help defray the expenses of travel, subsistence, and other direct costs of conducting research at The Bakken. The minimum period of residence is two weeks. Preference is given to researchers who are interested in collaborating with The Bakken on exhibits or other programs. The deadline for visiting research applications is 20 February 2006.

**Research Travel Grants** up to a maximum of $500 (domestic) and $750 (foreign) are to help defray the expenses of travel, subsistence, and other direct costs of conducting research at The Bakken. The minimum period of residence is one week. Application may be made at any time during the calendar year; there are no deadlines.

For information about the focus and extent of the Bakken collections, go to <www.thebakken.org> and click on “Library” or “Research” on the home page. For application guidelines or further information, please contact:

Elizabeth Ihrig, Librarian
The Bakken Library and Museum
3537 Zenith Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55416
phone 612-926-3878 ext. 227
fax 612-927-7265
Ihrig@thebakken.org

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**A Few Words from the Editor**

Now that I have edited an entire volume of *The Watermark*, it is time to recognize and thank all the wonderful people, laboring behind the scenes, without whom this year’s *Watermark* would not have been possible. Beyond the newsletter’s obvious co-creators, i.e., the President (Lilla Vekerdy), the Secretary-Treasurer (Micaela Sullivan-Fowler), the Book Review Editor (Steve Greenberg), the members of the Publications Committee (Steve, Pat Gallagher, Kathy Donahue,
John Erlen, and Heidi Butler), all the contributors (both those with and those without bylines), and the Editor, we could not have done as well without:

Suzanne Porter, whose help with printing and mailing was invaluable during the rough transition at the end of 2004 and the beginning of 2005.

Lucretia McClure, who gives good advice. Need I say more?

My bosses, present and former, who have all encouraged me to give professional time to ALHHS and other national, international, or regional organizations — and who have provided financial support for me to attend annual meetings.

The Printing Center, 3049 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13224, which produces a fine physical product at a very reasonable price.

My daughter Grace, who can occasionally be persuaded to stuff an envelope or two.

My wife Diane, The Watermark’s designated proofreader, whose eagle-eye catches many more typographical errors, infelicitous expressions, and other howlers than I do. “Cute shoes!”

Thank you ALL so much!!!

The Francis C. Wood Institute for the History of Medicine Announces Winners of 2005-2006 Resident Research Fellowships

Foundation Fellowships (Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine)

Kimberly Jensen, Department of History, Western Oregon University: “Esther Pohl Lovejoy, M.D.: Activist for Public Health, International Medical Relief, and Advocate for Women in Medicine.”

Susan K. Rishworth, Archivist and Librarian, American College of Surgeons: “Verina Morton Jones.”

Women’s Committee Fellowships (Women’s Committee of the College of Physicians)

Paul Berman, physician in private practice, Amherst, Massachusetts: “History of the American Association for the History of Medicine.”


Nancy Berca w, Department of History, University of Mississippi: “Disrupting Categories: A Cultural History of ‘Black Womanhood’ in the Age of Emancipation.”

Stephanie Patterson Gilbert, Department of American Studies, Pennsylvania State University - Harrisburg: “Childbearing Cycles and Family Limitation in an Eighteenth-Century Affluent Household: The Fertility Transition of Elizabeth Sandwith Drinker and her Daughters.”

Wood Fellowships

Sally Carraher, Department of Anthropology, Louisiana State University: “No Thirteenth Rib: Investigating Changes in Medical Attitudes towards the Differences between Male and Female Physiology from 1750-1850.”

John Carson, Department of History, University of Michigan: “Mental Ability and Medical Jurisprudence in Nineteenth-Century England and America.”

Annemarie E. Hamlin, Department of English, La Sierra University: “Practicing Medicine with or without a License: Women, Medicine and Literature in the Nineteenth Century.”

Meegan Kennedy, Department of English, Florida State University: “Case Fictions: Medical Narrative and the British Novel.”

Marni Kessler, Department of Art History, University of Kansas: “Sick Women in Degas’ Paintings.”

Sarah Knott, Department of History, Indiana University: “Listening to the Female Lecture: Benjamin Rush, Medical Students, and Women.”

Christopher Lawrence, Department of History of Medicine, University College London: “Edward Bell Krumbhaar.”

Peter Mitchell, Department of English, University of Wales Lampeter: “Robley Dunglison’s Dictionary of Medical Science: The Standardization of Anatomical Nomenclature and the Modern Elision of Etymology and Figurality.”

Carroll Ferguson Nardone, Department of English, Sam Houston State University: “Shaping a Scientific Culture: The Rhetoric of Benjamin Smith Barton.”

Patricia Olynyk, Department of Art, University of Michigan: “Original Flap Anatomy: Lithography project based in Mütter Museum.”

Helena Pycior, Department of History, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee: “Bridging Medicine and Physics: Marie Curie, Robert Abbe, and the Celebr-
tion of Early Radiation Oncology.”
Emmanuel Raymundo, Department of American Studies, Yale University: “Bacterial Archipelago: The Culion Leper Colony and Nation Building in the Philippines.”
Nina Reid-Maroney, Department of History, University of Windsor: “Benjamin Rush and the American Enlightenment.”
Ronald Suarez, psychiatry resident, Albert Einstein Hospital, Philadelphia: [essays on the history of psychiatry].
Holly Tucker, Department of French and Italian, Vanderbilt University: “Graftings: Early Modern Sex and Masculinity.”

Answer to Quiz Question: In the fall of 1968, Irwin H. Pizer (left), Director of the Health Sciences Library at what was then called the SUNY Upstate Medical Center, unveiled the world’s first interactive online bibliographic retrieval service, the SUNY Biomedical Communication Network (SUNY BCN). Read all about it in:

Hopkins Medical Archives Relocates

The Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions relocated this fall to the Mount Washington campus of the Johns Hopkins University, in northwest Baltimore. The Medical Archives closed its Monument Street site on September 16, 2005, and resumed operations at Mount Washington on November 28.


The theme of the program will be “sharing what we’re up to”: a chance to discuss local problems, solutions, and initiatives at our members’ institutions for the edification of the entire organization; a “what’s new at our place” session, to give people a chance to make a quick report on/demo of something new they want to brag about; and “space” (the final frontier?) and what to do when you run out of it.
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The Watermark encourages submissions of news and stories about events, collections, catalogues, people, awards, grants, publications, and anything else of professional interest to the members of ALHHS. Please submit your contributions in a timely way to Eric Luft, preferably as e-mail attachments.

Information about membership in ALHHS is available from the Secretary/Treasurer: Patricia E. Gallagher, Special Projects Coordinator, New York Academy of Medicine Library, 1216 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10029-5293. <pgallagher@nyam.org>. Phone: 212-822-7324. Fax: 212-423-0266.

Submissions for the ALHHS Web site <www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/biomed/alhhs/> should be sent to the Chair of the Web Site Committee: Katharine E.S. Donahue, Head, History and Special Collections, Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, UCLA, 12-077 CHS, Box 951798, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1798. <kdonahue@library.ucla.edu>. Phone: 310-825-6940. Fax: 310-825-0465.