



Medical History

Newsletter

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE INC

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A changing of the guard has occurred. The ANZSHM has moved on by electing a new coterie of office bearers at its Annual General Meeting held in Sydney on 2nd July. Brian Reid passed over the presidential baton after an outstanding two years during which he quietly guided the Society, taking it from strength to new strength. Fortunately, however, he has not completely retired, but remains as a member of the incoming Council of the Society. We are most grateful to him for his devotion to our interests, and most especially for persuading the International Society for the History of Medicine to join us at the conjoint meeting in Sydney. This was the first time that the International Society has held a meeting so far removed from Europe, but there can be no doubt that its members who attended were pleasantly surprised by the vigour of research in the Antipodes into medical history and by the friendliness of their reception in Australia. We must only hope that this interaction will spur many of our members to join the International Society and participate in its future programmes.

There can be little doubt that the Sydney meeting was a resounding success. We are still in the process of finalising its affairs, but some data are available that will probably interest members. A total of 204 delegates registered for the conference, with an additional 24 people also attending the Ben Haneman Lecture that was held at the State Library of NSW in conjunction with it. These numbers compare with 150 at the 2008 conference in Perth, 131 at the 2011 conference in Brisbane, and 60 at the 2011 conference in Darwin. Approximately 80% (163 participants) were from Australia, 6% (13 participants) from New Zealand, 4% (8 participants) from the United Kingdom, and with four each from the United States and China, two each from Italy and Mexico, and one each from Argentina, Canada, Chile, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Romania and Turkey. The venue at the Australian Catholic University at North Sydney was clearly a convenient site, with comfortable facilities. We are most grateful indeed to the University for taking on the role as

our Premium Sponsor: without their gracious assistance we could not have had such a successful meeting.

We were also most fortunate in our selection of keynote speakers: Dr Simon Chaplin, Director of Culture and Society at the Wellcome Trust in London, Professor Linda Bryder from the University of Auckland, and Professor Stephen Garton who is Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Sydney. Their contributions provided a solid backbone to the whole meeting. We were additionally honoured in having the pleasure of the company of The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO to address us at the Welcoming Reception. The several invited speakers, furthermore, at the Witness Seminar and at the Saturday excursion to the Q Station at Manly gave fresh perspectives on history of health care that really enhanced the programme. Then, superimposed upon all of this were the 122 presentations made by the attendees in a total of 43 break-out sessions that covered topics ranging from medicine in the ancient world to oral history from living people. The medical history walk through Sydney's streets and the gala dinner further enhanced the proceedings.

So many of the attendees remarked on the exhilarating experience that they enjoyed through participating. Further analysis of the conference will become available shortly, but clearly the challenge from here forward is to maintain the momentum generated.

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ALL ABOUT OURSELVES

Members of the ANZSHM describe their life, work and interests

My introduction to medical history occurred about eight years ago when I was writing my Bachelor of Arts Honours thesis in Australian history. It was on the island incarceration of Indigenous people with infectious diseases. Strangely, and, I admit, very naively, I didn't know that this was a form of medical history. Back then, I thought of medical history as a narrow field, more a narrative record of past epidemics and discoveries in medical science, whereas my work was firmly situated in the social and political dimensions of these kinds of events. The truth dawned at the 2009 ANZSHM conference in Perth where, at the suggestion of my supervisor, I presented my work publicly for the first time. By this time I had begun a PhD, the topic being Catholic women missionary carers of Indigenous Hansen's disease patients.

I was immediately struck by the broad definition of 'medical history' as represented in the conference presentations. It evidently included a very diverse set of history sub-disciplines and also some unusual, and, as I came to realise, quite idiosyncratic methods of history-making. One example that stood out was the kind of paper attempting a retrospective diagnosis of a disease or condition affecting historical subjects (I'm not sure if this has a name). Another was medical history as a lived experience, the author being his/her own primary document, as it were. And then there was the malleability of the term 'medical', an adjective not limited to the work of doctors or medical scientists, but encompassing all healing practices and, in fact, health, generally. Of course, the conference featured several papers that, like my own, sought to understand societies through their responses to ill-health. So it was that I discovered my work fitted well into this eclectic sphere of historical research and, in the process, found many like-minded people among Society members.

On further reflection, my attraction to medical history resolves a longstanding conflict between my interests in both science and the arts. After leaving school, the decision of which path to take was painfully difficult. I finally decided on a Bachelor of Pharmacy, fearing that an Arts degree would never get me a job (sound familiar?). The latter was shelved but not forgotten. There followed many enjoyable years in retail pharmacy in inner-suburban Melbourne, marriage to an astrophysicist, and the raising of two daughters. In my spare time, I worked on the family tree, and here I think



the seeds were sown for my later interest in social history.

In the late 1990s, our family transferred to Sydney and I enrolled in an Arts degree part-time at the University of New South Wales. There, I found history and, ultimately, the pleasure and privilege of writing, researching and teaching in that discipline, thanks to the wonderfully inspiring academic staff. Right now I am combining writing a book version of my PhD with sessional university teaching.

The other good things that keep life busy for me are keeping fit, reading, theatre, film, weekends in the country (preferably scouring the shelves of a second-hand bookshop), my family and my cat. I also love listening to music. It would be great to include 'playing a musical instrument' in my list of pastimes but that would be a lie as I never seem to find the time.

Over the past two years, I was a member of the organising committee for the 2015 ANZSHM conference in Sydney. This experience was both rewarding and educational, and it was a little sad when the conference was over. With the winding-up of the committee and the desire to remain active in the Society, I have recently taken up the position of National Secretary. I am aware of the high esteem in which my predecessor, Anthea Hyslop, is held for her proficiency in this role. I can only try to emulate her example, and hope that my contribution will help to keep the Society in its present good shape.

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MEMBERS' NEWS

Welcome!

Jessica Andela (NZ)
Roslyn Berryman (NSW)
Katherine Devonshire-Gill (SA)
Emanuela Handman (VIC)
Barry Kinnaird (NSW)
Mauritz Meerwijk (HK)
Anne Noonan (NSW)
Jessica Parr (NSW)

ANZSHM COUNCIL 2015-7

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Secretary: Dr Charmaine Robson
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Newsletter Editor: Dr Derek Dow
Website Manager: A/Prof Paul Sendziuk
President, NSW Branch: Mr John Sinclair
President, Victorian Branch & Convener,
15th Biennial Conference: Dr Madonna Grehan

CONGRATULATIONS

Professor Warwick Anderson has been elected a fellow of the recently-established Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS) in recognition of his ongoing research into medical history, most notably in tracing ideas around immunological tolerance and surveillance.

The 2015 John Oxley Library Fellowship, supported by the Queensland Library Foundation, has been awarded to Madonna Grehan for her project, 'Something tangible to show our gratitude': a History of Queensland's Centaur Memorial'. Madonna will examine the fundraising campaign initiated in 1948 to commemorate the sinking in 1943 by a Japanese submarine of the Australian hospital ship and the loss of 268 lives, including 11 Australian Army Nursing Service nurses. The Fellowship was inaugurated in 2004 and this is the first time it has gone to a medical historian.

Peter Hobbins has been awarded the 2016 Merewether Scholarship by the State Library of NSW for his project 'Curios and curiosity: James Bray and the sunset of amateur science in colonial Sydney'. Peter will use the scholarship to explore the place of snakes, venoms and vivisection in popularising natural history in late-Victorian Sydney. The Merewether was inaugurated in 2008 and the first recipient was esteemed ANZSHM member, Peter Tyler.

CLARIFICATION

The February 2015 Newsletter mentioned the history of the Crown Street Women's Hospital in Sydney. Judith Godden completed this history some time ago but it is not yet published due to difficulties following the death of Dr Struan Robertson, who commissioned it. As well, the majority (not all) of its facilities were transferred to Westmead Hospital when Crown Street closed.

We also congratulate Judith on her latest commissioned work: *Australian Pain Society: the first 35 years*, published by the Australian Pain Society and launched in March 2015. It is available through <http://www.apsoc.org.au/>.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. The next deadline for copy is 15 November 2015. Copy should be sent to the editor, Derek A Dow at d.dow@auckland.ac.nz.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

President's page	1
All About Ourselves	2
AMPI News	4
An Aussie novelist in NZ	5
Journal Watch	5
NSW Branch News	6
Victoria Branch News	6
2015 Biennial Conference Reports	7-11
A Student Perspective	7-8
Nursing History	8
Health and Medicine Museums	
are Good for You	9
Student Grant Recipients	9
Medicine and War	9
Ben Haneman Memorial Prize	10
ISHM	10
Conference Photographs	11
Blast from the Past	12

AMPI NEWS

Early Australian Medical Novelists

Nineteenth century doctors excelled as amateurs in many fields, particularly in the sciences (most often as botanists) and the arts (most often as writers). In the Australian colonies, their ranks included some notable writers of fiction.

William H Leigh was probably the first medical author of a novel set in Australia. He came out as surgeon on the ship *South Australian* in 1837, returning the following year to England via Sydney and Calcutta. He produced a book about his travels in 1839, and later drew on his experiences in a novel, *Emigrant: a Tale of Australia*, published in London in 1847.

After the discovery of gold in 1851, the diggings became a favourite setting for colonial fiction. One medical author who followed this trend was Edward Wardley, the humane superintendent of the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum. His *Confessions of Wavering Worthy*, the fictional autobiography of a gold-rush doctor, was published in Sydney in 1864.

A more sophisticated world provided the setting for a novel by the Melbourne physician James Edward Neild, editor of the *Australian Medical Journal*, lecturer in forensic pathology, and drama critic. His story of theatre life, *Bird in a Golden Cage*, was a popular Christmas book in 1867.

The latter part of the nineteenth century saw several more ambitious works of fiction from practising medical men with literary leanings. Such were two novels by William Langford, who emigrated to

Victoria in 1865 and practised at Kyneton for over thirty years. His books *Tifana's Revenge* and *This Deadly Blot* were both published in London in 1893.

Langford adopts a broadly Christian perspective in his stories, emphasising character development, faithfulness in marriage, and the avoidance of vices such as gambling. His professional experience is evident in several scenes,



including one in an operating theatre. A third novel, *Werona: a Romance of Australian Domestic Life*, published in the name of his wife Grace, may also have been his work.

The mainstay of late colonial fiction was the legendary *Sydney Bulletin*. One of its regular contributors in the early 1890s was a general practitioner, Stephen Mannington Caffyn, whose short stories appeared in the journal alongside the work of Henry Lawson and A B 'Banjo' Paterson.

Caffyn came out to Sydney with his wife Kathleen, an Irish nurse, in 1880. Some years later he moved to Melbourne, where he adopted a bohemian life-style, making friends among the artists and writers there. In addition to his *Bulletin* stories, he wrote two novels: *Miss Milne and I*, reflecting his medical experiences; and *A Poppy's Tears*, exploring the psychology of opiate addiction.

After a decade in Melbourne the Caffyns returned to England, where Kathleen published a novel of her own under the pen-name 'Iota'. *The Yellow Aster*, published in 1894, was an instant success, and 'Iota' rapidly eclipsed her husband as an author, going on to write many more novels.

Although he was not strictly a colonial novelist, an honorary mention should also be made of an expatriate Australian who produced three novels during a remarkable career as a writer, soldier, doctor and politician, based mainly in London and Paris. Arthur Lynch was born near Ballarat in 1861. He studied engineering in Melbourne before moving to England, where he worked as a journalist. He later took up a medical career, and also served as an MP for Ireland. A prolific writer in both French and English, he produced books on many subjects, including literary criticism, psychology and ethics. His output included three novels: *Poppy Meadows* (in French); and two stories of political life, *O'Rourke the Great* and *Seraph Wings*.

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Left: Dr S M Caffyn, portrayed as a Bohemian. Hugh McCrae's article on Caffyn first appeared in his 1935 book, My father and my father's friends. The illustration was added when the piece was reprinted in 1948 in McCrae's Story-book only.

An Aussie novelist in NZ

In addition to those listed in Stephen Due's article, one Australian medical novelist had been forced to seek sanctuary in New Zealand prior to publication of his sole offering, though the move ultimately brought neither fame nor fortune.

William Henry Dutton of Geelong qualified MRCS in 1882 and fled to New Zealand in 1894 after a messy and protracted divorce action in Melbourne. Accusations levelled against him included cruelty against his wife, repeated adultery, and habitual drunkenness. While the judge acknowledged there was insufficient evidence on the third charge, he had 'no doubt that there have been occasions when the applicant has been drunk, and so drunk as to disgrace himself.'



Dr Dutton's plate, advertising his services, would have been mounted outside his residence or surgery. It was apparently discovered on Hogan Gully Road near Queenstown many years ago and is now housed in the Lakes District Museum.

When the *Otago Witness* reported that Dutton's wife had petitioned for divorce, it did so in the same issue in which Dutton's appointment as surgeon to Arrowtown Hospital near Queenstown was described as that of a 'medical genius with a string of letters to his name as long as the tail of a kite'. Upon investigation, the Arrowtown Trustees discovered that Dutton had forged a supposed testimonial from an Australian cleric, who subsequently described the forger as a 'medical student of great ability and promise, who, since he began to practise on his own account, has utterly lost himself'.

In mid-1896 Dutton, who, according to the *Otago Witness*, had continued to create 'considerable stir here by his skill as a medico', published a novel entitled *The Bird of Paradise*. Set during the American Civil War, the title page stated that it bore no relation to the Australasian colonies or anyone therein. Critics now regard the novel as almost entirely autobiographical, a view shared by

contemporary readers, with the *Witness* reviewer commenting that 'The story is a love story, ending in the divorce court, the scene of which, though laid in America, might be anywhere— in any of the Australian colonies, for instance— so true is it to life.'

Sadly, there was no happy ending in print or in life. Disappointed with the cool reception afforded his magnum opus, it was reported on 26 November 1896 that Dutton had again fallen into 'dissolute habits, which ended a strange if brilliant life at the premature age of 38 years', although the coroner's jury magnanimously recorded that he had died of natural causes.

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JOURNAL WATCH

Harry Akers, Brisbane dentist and ANZSHM member is one of four authors (HF Akers MA Foley, PJ Ford, and LP Ryan) of 'Sugar in Mid-Twentieth-Century Australia: A Bittersweet Tale of Behaviour, Economics, Politics and Dental Health', *Historical Records of Australian Science*, vol. 26.1, 2015, 16-35. The last sentence of the article reads: 'On balance, and unsurprisingly, Australians rated the economic benefits of the sugar industry and the pleasures of sweetened foods and drinks more highly than oral health.'

Lisa O'Sullivan and Ross Jones have published 'Two Australian Fetuses: Frederic Wood Jones and the Work of an Anatomical Specimen' in the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Summer 2015 Summer, vol. 89(2), 243-66. The fetus in question, that of an Australian Aboriginal, was first described in a 1933 issue of the *Journal of Anatomy*.

The July 2015 issue of the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, vol. 70.3, 425-61, contains an article by Helen Macdonald from the University of Melbourne entitled, 'Conscripting Organs: "Routine Salvaging" or Bequest? The Historical Debate in Britain, 1961-75'.

Society stalwart Peter Burke, 'Sic transit gloria mundi': Gallipoli, a centenary reflection', in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery*, July-August 2015, vol. 85:7-8, 504-506 includes a brief outline of the role of Neville House VC, assistant director of medical services in the First Australian Division.

Auckland surgeon Jonathan Koea published a vignette in the *ANZJS*, May 2015, vol. 85:5, 324-6 on the contribution to paediatric surgery of Henry Barrett, a general surgeon who worked in New Plymouth, New Zealand from 1939-78.

NSW BRANCH NEWS

The NSW branch has been rather 'quiet' since the highly successful National Conference in July. There has, however, been a feast of available lectures and exhibitions throughout Sydney for members to attend.

At Sydney University, an exhibition was mounted to highlight the contribution of the alumni of the University to the First World War. *Stories of War* will continue for another month and can be visited at Level 2, Fisher Library, University of Sydney during University opening hours.

An interesting exhibition opened recently at the Power House Museum, Ultimo *Recollect: Health and Medicine*. Over 1000 items of medical interest, normally held in storage have been showcased in what is a most spectacular display. Details can be found at <https://maas.museum/event/recollect-health-and-medicine/>.

History week begins on 5 September and runs until 13 September 2015, with the theme *War, Nationalism and Identity*. There are so many talks, walks and displays with a medical interest that they are just too numerous to list. A full programme can be found on the History Council NSW website at http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/HIST-8595_Program_V5-copy.pdf.

Enquiries/RSVP for all events to Catherine Storey, cestorey@bigpond.com.

VICTORIA BRANCH NEWS

At the May meeting of the Society, we were privileged to hear the story of General (later Sir) William Bridges, the commander of the First Australian Imperial Force engaged in the landing at Gallipoli in April 1915. The talk was given by Barry Elliott, retired orthopaedic surgeon and award-winning vigneron.

Bridges had previously insisted that the Australian troops fight as an entity rather than be fragmented among British divisions, and ultimately it was the Australian and New Zealand troops that went ashore on 25 April. At the end of the first day Bridges and Major General Godley, the New Zealand commander, were convinced that disaster would follow the next day and proposed evacuating the force from the beach, but this was overruled by their seniors.

Bridges was wounded by a bullet to the thigh on May 15, and suffered severe loss of blood. He was evacuated to the hospital ship *Gascon*, where he underwent surgery by Colonel Charles Ryan. The next day his right foot was blue, and on 17 May he

was invested as Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath by the British Commander of Gallipoli operations, Sir Ian Hamilton. Bridges died the next morning, and there is no official record of the surgical findings.

Barry described how he had studied the diary of Major Archibald Watson, held in the library of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Contrary to usual practice, Bridges' body had not been buried at sea but had been interred in a cemetery in Alexandria, Egypt. Two months later his body was disinterred for return to Australia. It is believed that Watson conducted an autopsy at this time, where he questioned the previous surgical action.

Barry contended that Bridges might have survived if he had consented to amputation. Ultimately, Bridges' body was returned to Australia, and following a procession down Collins Street, Melbourne, attended by a huge crowd, he was buried in a grave overlooking the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in Canberra.



The speaker at the August meeting was Dr Elizabeth Pittman. Elizabeth has a background in nursing and holds a doctorate in the sociology of education from Melbourne University. The social history of medicine is one of Elizabeth's interests including the medical theories that underpinned practices of physicians such as the founding 'fathers of medicine' Hippocrates and Galen.

She presented a talk entitled 'Case Histories from the Hippocratic collection' in which she discussed medicine practiced in Roman clinics around 400 BC. Taking a range of cases, she interpreted the findings and treatments in terms of current understandings of medicine, reflecting on the fact that in Hippocratic times there was little understanding or knowledge of the internal workings of the human body.

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2015 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE REPORTS

Our Society has come a long way from the first biennial conference held in Sydney in 1989, when over 90% of the delegates came from within Australia with another 3% hailing from New Zealand. As Charles George points out in his President's Page, the respective figures for 2015 were around 80% and 7%. With an overall 33% increase in delegates from 1989, this meant the conference organisers were very successful in attracting participants from further afield to the mutual benefit of both groups.

For the first time, to the best of my recollection, the Newsletter contains a series of reports on the conference, affording delegates an opportunity to reflect on some of the themes which were covered. The first of these is an eloquent and thoughtful overview by one of the furthest-travelled student delegates, Susan Gardiner.

A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

In conjunction with the International Society for the History of Medicine (ISHM), the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine (ANZSHM) held its 14th biennial conference at the Australian Catholic University in North Sydney, New South Wales, between 30 June and 4 July 2015. Aided by financial support from the ANZSHM, the Society for the Social History of Medicine and the University of Glasgow, I was fortunate enough to make the long journey to Sydney for five days of talks, lectures and social events.

Over 150 delegates attended the conference, this figure comprising an intellectually stimulating mixture of historians of medicine and science (from students and early career researchers to accomplished scholars), healthcare professionals past and present, and others with an interest in the history of medicine. I was struck by the substantial number of delegates who, like myself, travelled great distances to attend the conference. Such a diverse list of delegates ensured that a range of interesting perspectives were offered on the papers presented, all of which pertained to the overall theme of the conference: 'Missions, Methods and Management'. Approximately 130 papers were presented during the conference, all of which offered fascinating insights into – and facilitated much discussion of – aspects of medical history from the Ancient world to the present day. Despite the very broad range of papers presented, a number of key themes emerged, including: the contributions to medicine made by traditionally marginalised groups, i.e. women and Indigenous populations; the relationship between war and medicine; and the importance of the medical humanities.

Personal highlights included the sessions on contagion, where a number of scholars offered unique insights into the impact and treatment of infectious disease in several countries worldwide, such as the history of dengue fever in Hong Kong (Maurits Meerwijk) and of infectious diseases

wards in Australia (Karen Daws). It was during one of the sessions on contagion that I presented my own research on the control of hospital infection at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary during the 1950s. As a current PhD candidate, I was fascinated by the high quality of the original research presented by my fellow research students not just at the contagion sessions but also at other panel sessions.

I found the significant number of papers on the history of medicine during WWI especially fascinating and particularly fitting, given the recent anniversaries of the outbreak of war and the Gallipoli Campaign. Dave Earl's paper on 'rejected' army recruits was particularly interesting in that it stimulated a great discussion of disability history. Whilst delegates presented findings derived from a range of source materials, there were a considerable number of papers based on findings from original oral history interviews, including Professor Linda Bryder's plenary talk on nurse training in New Zealand during the mid-twentieth century. At this session, I was struck by the parallels between nurse training in New Zealand and Scotland. The academic programme ended with two witness seminars, where delegates discussed very recent changes in the delivery of health services.

In addition to the academic programme, the conference organised a number of social events which allowed delegates to mingle and further discuss their experiences of the conference. On the first day, I attended the medical history walk. This began in the Rocks area of Sydney's city centre, where we explored the Nurses' Walk before proceeding across Circular Quay and into the Botanic Gardens. Delegates were then taken to the Sydney Hospital precinct, a short distance away from the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. It was here that the walk concluded, and from thereon delegates made their way to the Peter Cosgrove Centre in North Sydney for the official conference welcome reception. The State Library of New South Wales – another stop for the medical history walkers – was the venue for the Ben Haneman Memorial Lecture, whilst a large number of

delegates also attended the Gala dinner at the Kirribilli Club, a short distance away from the university campus. The dinner was a huge success, and attendees were given the pleasure of listening to speeches and being wined and dined in a stunning venue overlooking Sydney Harbour. The conference ended with an excursion to the quarantine station in Manly (also known as the 'Q-station'), where attendees were treated to a walking tour of its old facilities and to papers on the history of quarantine.

Overall, attendees were kept busy with a large number of very stimulating papers and lectures, whilst the social calendar offered delegates from far afield an insight into Sydney's medical history and its culture. The conference was a huge success, inspiring many to consider attending the upcoming ISHM conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina in September 2016 as well as the next ANZSHM conference in Melbourne, Victoria in 2017.

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NURSING HISTORY

Organisers of the Australian College of Nursing's (ACN) 2nd History Conference had been searching for a suitable date and location for some time and, thanks to Judith Godden's inspired suggestion, this one-day conference was staged as a satellite meeting of the ANZSHM's conference. A roll-up of more than forty enthusiastic attendees from Australia and New Zealand confirmed that nursing and related health care history attracts researchers from a wide range of disciplines, as well a keen audience.

Under the theme, *Disrupting Discourses: New Views of Nursing History*, the day opened with two mental health papers, the first considering the complexities of undertaking oral histories of mental health settings. A second reflected on mental health policy in NSW since 1945 and the outcomes for the profession of nursing when policies, such as deinstitutionalisation, were implemented without adequate workforce considerations.

Military nursing was in the spotlight in an analysis of World War I nurses who worked on the ferry service at the Gallipoli coast. At least some of these nurses thrilled to war, savouring the 'blood and guts' of the work, rather than experiencing war negatively. A comparison of Russian-Soviet nursing during World Wars I and II offered a rare perspective on the development of nursing professionalism over that time period. Intriguingly, the audience heard that Russian nursing history disputes the Western tradition that celebrates Florence Nightingale as the bellwether of modern nursing. As the Russians see it, Nightingale merely

copied what they had been practising for some time!

Locating and identifying midwives of colonial Sydney and a baby farming case that was judged a war crime committed in Nazi Germany were the subjects of the afternoon program. The day rounded off with two papers: one which used the oral histories of four nurses who trained in the 1920s and 1930s to highlight that working women, who were not famous through war service or professional activities, nevertheless led interesting lives. Not only that, they reflected the status of the vast majority of nurses at the time. A final paper considered what nurses' professional journals can offer the historian. With snippets of marriages, births and deaths, as well as social activities, the minutiae contained in nursing journals from the early twentieth century make it possible to apply a prosopographical approach to nurses' working lives in this period.



A postcard view of the Coast Hospital.

The conference was followed by an optional tour to the Prince Henry's Hospital Museum at Little Bay. Formerly the 'Coast' Hospital for infectious diseases, this museum is housed in a former ward amid modern apartments, many of them in what were hospital buildings. A group of twenty tourists was hosted by Lyn Smith, the Honorary Curator. Lyn explained that the hospital catered for smallpox, tuberculosis and polio, and conducted the first kidney transplant in Australia. The site is spectacular and the collection extensive, with a working iron lung. It is well worth a visit. For details of the Prince Henry's Hospital Nursing and Medical Museum, please see: <http://www.nursingandmedicalmuseum.com.au> Three other museums were also open on the day for attendees were: the EM Lane Nursing Museum at Concord Hospital, the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Nursing Museum, and the Lucy Osburn Nightingale Museum at Sydney Hospital. Interest in this one-day conference augurs well for nursing history.

Madonna Grehan
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HEALTH AND MEDICINE MUSEUMS ARE GOOD FOR YOU

Dotted across New Zealand and every state of Australia there are museums and collections dedicated to some aspect of medicine and healthcare, but often the custodians of these collections have little contact with like-minded people. So to enable exchange of information and ideas, an independently organised seminar was held on 5 July 2015 as a satellite event of the 14th Biennial Conference of the ANZSHM. 'Health and medicine museums are good for you' attracted over thirty participants.

The venue was the Australian Society of Anaesthetists in North Sydney, where curator Anna Gebels unveiled the newly completed Harry Daly Museum with its fascinating array of objects illustrating the history of pain relief since ancient times.

The focus of the seminar was on the use of collections to engage audiences. Twelve speakers gave short presentations, eliciting anticipation for forthcoming medical displays at the Powerhouse Museum (Tilly Boleyn), sympathy for the tribulations of the volunteer-managed Brislington Museum at Parramatta (Doreen Hennessy), and wonder that anyone would attempt to start up a new medical museum (Cate Storey and the Sydney University Medical School Museum).



Curator Rebecca Anderson describes the exhibits and public programs at the Quarantine Station, Manly. Photograph: Peter Stanbury.

Others' talks were equally varied and provided plenty of food for conversation as attendees shared sandwiches and swapped email addresses at the end of the morning's proceedings. As one participant said, 'Many of us are not part of academic circles and sometimes it feels like there are limited opportunities for us to connect. I was able to reconnect with some people I'd met several years ago which was so helpful. Cheered me up no end!'

Megan Hicks
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STUDENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

In 2015 the ANZSHM awarded 12 grants to assist postgraduate students with the cost of attending our biennial conference. The recipients were Caitlin Mahar, Irene Rogers, Kate Young, Eden Tariq Smith, Alexia Moncrieff (Australia), Ella Arbury, Julia Wells (New Zealand), Leah Astbury, Maelle Duchemi, Susan Gardiner, Markus Wahl (UK), and Meerwijk Maurits Bastiaan (Hong Kong). It was encouraging to be able to help fund so many young scholars, continuing a trend which has developed over recent conferences.



Students receive their grant cheques from ANZSHM President Charles George (left) and Judith Godden, who once again oversaw the process.

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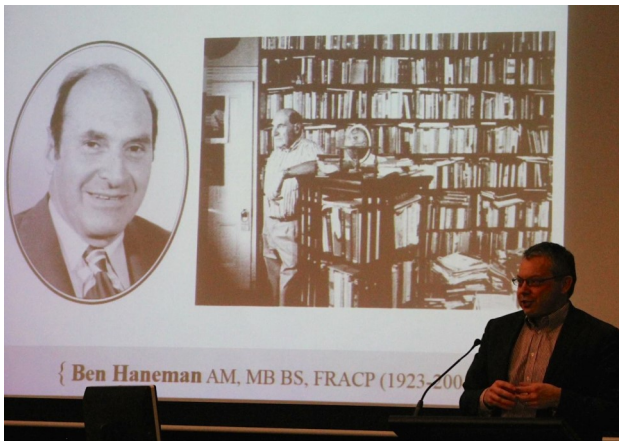
MEDICINE & WAR

Not surprisingly, papers on WW1 medicine comprised the largest single topic group at the conference. Subjects covered included women doctors (three in all), nursing, military surgery, public health and venereal diseases, internment in Australia, 'rejected volunteers', and a challenge to the official figures on Australian casualties.

This emphasis is part of a trend which may well continue until 2018. The September 2015 meeting of the British Society for the History of Medicine has a similar focus, with things kicking off on Day 1 with a paper on Elsie Inglis and the Scottish Women's Hospitals, something which will strike a chord with those of us who attended the ANZSHM session on women doctors. Other subjects covered include the mental health of First World War soldiers, infection control, gas warfare, casualty clearing stations and electro-diagnosis.

BEN HANEMAN MEMORIAL STUDENT PRIZE

From a competitive and excitingly rich field of 20 submissions, the winner of the 2015 Ben Haneman Memorial Student Prize is Caitlin Maher from the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne. The judges concurred that Caitlin's paper, 'The Good Death: the Development of Medical Management of the Dying in Nineteenth-Century Britain', was well written, cogently argued and eminently publishable. Competition for finalist status was so close that the judges considered the runners-up spot a three-way tie between Leah Astbury (University of Cambridge), Mark Neuen-dorf (University of Adelaide) and Markus Wahl (University of Kent). Two further entrants were also tied for highly commended status: Maelle Duchemin-Pelletier (University of Glasgow), and Irene Rogers (Central Queensland University). Established to honour the memory and passionate support of postgraduate students championed by a former President of our Society, the late Dr Ben Haneman, the prize includes a \$200 book voucher and a year's membership in the Society. Many thanks to all of the entrants, whose work we look forward to seeing in print over the coming years.



Simon Chaplin delivering the 2015 Ben Haneman Lecture.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

2015 was a year between full conference years (known as Congresses) when only an annual meeting of delegates (General Assembly or International Conference) is held. This year, at our invitation, the 8th such conference was held in Sydney in conjunction with our own biennial conference. Executive and delegates who did attend participated fully in our conference and were very welcome.

There were several matters considered by delegates that may be of interest to members. The ISHM flagship journal, *Vesalius*, will from this year come out in electronic form. The printed version of the journal has been a major cost item for the ISHM and the change means a reduction in the membership fee to 25 Euros pa. The ISHM has also launched an electronic newsletter, very like our own.

The next ISHM Congress will be in Argentina from 5-10 September 2016. The convenor of that Congress, Professor Ana Maria Rosso, presented an exciting outline to those attending our conference at the conclusion of the Society AGM. The next General Assembly will be held in conjunction with the History of Medicine Society of China in Peking in September 2017. The Chinese delegate, Professor Zhang Daqing, presented a fascinating introduction to Chinese Society meetings which combine the histories of traditional and Western medicine. He also presented a brief but dazzling overview of modern Peking.

Delegates were also advised of the formation of a new international organisation, The Pan-American Association for the History of Medicine. Its inaugural meeting was held in Costa Rica, at about the same time as our own conference. There would seem to be a growing interest in relating medical history to broader international trends.

One last thing; you may have noticed the International Society is *for* the history of medicine. Our own Society is *of* the history of medicine. Our late foundation member, Harold Attwood, felt strongly on this point.

Brian Reid, ISHM Delegate
bandlreid@bigpond.com

ISHM delegates in Sydney.





CONFERENCE PHOTOGRAPHS
(right to left from top right):
Opening reception, outgoing and incoming
presidents, keynote speaker Steven Garton,
nursing historians, conference dinner, quaran-
tine station, keynote speaker Linda Bryder,
keynote speaker Simon Chaplin.

BLAST FROM THE PAST *Medical History Australia 25 years ago*

The August 1990 Newsletter noted in passing a report on the first biennial conference, penned by then Secretary Richard Gillespie and published in *Social History of Medicine* in August 1989, just six months after the conference took place.

Gillespie joined Museum Victoria in 1990 and now manages the Humanities Department, conducting research on the history of Australian science, and on the Melbourne Observatory in particular, which housed one of the world's largest 19th century telescopes.

Gillespie's comments still resonate with the Australasian medical history community. Keynote talks by local speakers Bryan Gandevia and Randall Albury in 1989 highlighted the need for dialogue between those trained in medicine and history, a concern which remains germane to our deliberations. As Richard pointed out, 'What matters is that we can identify ways to use and improve each other's work.'

He also wrote about the Society's desire to engage

with the wider medical history community. Two of the four overseas speakers in Sydney 1989 were the editors of *Medical History* (Bill Bynum) and of the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (Caroline Hannaway). The third outsider was the Swiss historical demographer Arthur Imhof – and who can forget his infectious enthusiasm for the new number-crunching history made possible by the advent of the personal computer. The last member of the quartet was your current newsletter editor, whose planned three-month visit to Australia and New Zealand has now been extended to 26 years and counting!

Gillespie regretted the absence of papers on nursing and other health professions; these are now firmly integrated into the Society to the mutual benefit of all. He also saw opportunities to explore under-researched areas such as tropical medicine and Aboriginal health; both have expanded greatly (along with Maori health history), thanks in no small measure to the efforts of Society members. These initiatives have been aided by the establishment in 1998 of the Society's journal, *Health & History*, which fulfilled another strand of Gillespie's wish-list and which has published special issues focusing on the sorts of local themes identified by him.

45TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA 5 - 9 SEPTEMBER 2016

SOCIETAS INTERNATIONALIS

HISTORIAE MEDICINAE

45th CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE
ARGENTINA
Bicentennial Anniversary of Independence

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For the latest information, visit the ANZSHM Internet Website: www.anzshm.org.au

LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTICLES ARE WELCOME, PREFERABLY IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE 15 NOVEMBER 2015.