



BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

September 2018

Number 6

A Note from the Editor

We hope that those of you who live in the UK have coped with the very hot weather over the Summer and now you can settle down with our quarterly news update. This issue provides information about our next evening meeting on Monday October 15th, early details of next year's conference, some dates for your diary and many other items which we hope you will find of interest.

Annual Conference : 2019

We will be based at the Best Western Royal Hotel, Southsea, Portsmouth from Friday 29th – Sunday 31st March with a theme of pharmacy and the sea - maritime history, medicines and trade, and overseas influences on British pharmacy. More details will follow with our December Gazette - but our programme will include the usual mix of short members' papers, the annual Burnby Bursary lecture, talks on local pharmacy history, a guided visit to the historic Mary Rose and of course good food and company!

Once again we'd love to hear from anyone who wants to present a short members' paper (20 minutes) or who has ideas for speakers or posters. These do not have to link with the conference theme. Please email Briony using conference@bshp.org.

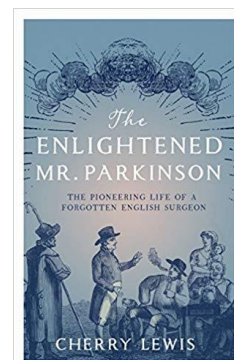
Evening meeting at UCL on Monday 15th October, 5.30pm

The poster advertising this is on page 4. James Parkinson (1755-1824) was an apothecary surgeon who lived and worked all his life in Hoxton, then a village on the outskirts of London. In 1817 he published his seminal *Essay on the Shaking Palsy*, which for the first time defined the condition known to us as Parkinson's disease, although the disease would not be named after him for another 50 years.

Throughout his life Parkinson championed the poor and underprivileged, writing medical works to help people assess whether or not to afford a physician, and advice on what to do when they were ill. During the 1790s – the age of revolution – he became politically active and wrote dangerously seditious pamphlets that harangued an incompetent and corrupt government, and which demanded votes for all. Caught up in an alleged plot to kill King George III, he put his own life on the line while trying to save his friends.

However, it was for his favourite science – the study of fossils – that he became internationally famous during his lifetime. His exquisitely illustrated *Organic Remains of a Former World* revealed a world hitherto unknown; a planet littered with 'wrecks of an early Creation - entombed in the bowels of the earth', that was populated with 'hyenas the size of bears' and the 'relics of a tribe of enormous marine animals', all of which both enthralled and terrified his readers.

The talk will examine the many and varied achievements of this most remarkable man, as detailed in Cherry Lewis's recent biography of Parkinson (book cover illustrated on the right). Signed copies of her book will be available to purchase on the night after the talk.



Summer visit to Blythe House - 8th June 2018

Nine BSHP members (see photo top left) took advantage of a specially arranged visit to Blythe House which is near Olympia in West London. This holds a number of London museums' collections including 170,000 objects from the Science Museum which was our main focus of interest.

At the heart was the Wellcome Collection. Henry Wellcome, of Burroughs Wellcome and Co., amassed a fortune from introducing tableted medicines into Britain which he then ploughed into his passions - anthropology, history and the history of medicine. About 70% of the Science Museum's collection of medicines came from Henry Wellcome.

We saw many of the types of pharmacy items stored there including glassware and equipment from the early 19th century onwards, an entire room of mortars and pestles as well as some fabulous ceramic ware collected from pharmacies across the globe.

We were shown around by Selina Hurley and Natasha McEnroe and as part of the tour we learnt the history of the building which was once the headquarters of the Post Office Savings Bank. It has extensive strong rooms used during the Second World War and now housing the museum collections.

Of particular interest was an original x-ray pedoscope (see photo, centre bottom row) as part of their radiomedicine collection used for shoe fitting without due concern in the 1950s about the health effects to shop assistants or to children. The photo below (top row centre) was part of a few quiz questions posed to us and shows Selina is holding a trepanning instrument from around the 1920s.



The photo bottom left is part of a large collection of medicine chests as used famously by Shackleton, Livingstone/Stanley, and Scott.

A new History of Medicine gallery is being planned by the Science Museum for mid-2019 and at the same time they are planning to relocate everything from Blythe House to a new store in Wiltshire. As part of all this they are reconfiguring the famous old pharmacy formerly displayed in the Science Museum. Our thanks go to Chris Duffin for organising the visit.

Membership Subscriptions 2019

As advised last time we have found that we need to increase our 2019 membership rates to £30 per member with a £15 concessionary rate for registered students. Our expenditure has been increasing partly due to all the new things we have been providing but our income has been reducing. There is a separate letter with this mailing about ways of paying us including about how to set up a Direct Debit. We are now encouraging everyone to do this by switching over from Standing Orders. Please note the web access link which is also shown in the letter <https://pay.gocardless.com/AL0001TKYA1VW4>

Awards

- The application forms for the 2019 Burnby Bursary and for the new Pharmacy History Research Grant are now available on our website: www.bshp.org/awards . The new Grant will be awarded annually and is aimed at pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and students of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences. It is to be used to support a project in the history of pharmacy.

Pharmaceutical Historian : An International Journal for the History of Pharmacy

With this mailing you will have received the latest printed copy of our journal (Volume 48 Number 3, September 2018). All the issues from the start of 2017 are available online as open access pdfs through Ingenta Connect. This is where you can access them: www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bshp

In previous Gazettes we referred to the completion of the project to digitize all the pre-2017 back issues of the *Pharmaceutical Historian*. This archive, from 1967 to the end of 2016, is available on an open access basis. The work has been very generously carried out at the Technical University of Braunschweig (Technische Universität Braunschweig) in Germany by Stefan Wulle and his team. The archive itself is being kindly hosted on the University of Braunschweig Library server. It can be accessed directly using this link: <http://publikationsserver.tu-braunschweig.de/get/65362>

As part of the above all four numbers of the *Transactions of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy* have also been digitized, and the articles are available online on the same open access basis. The work was kindly undertaken and hosted as above. Please see: https://publikationsserver.tu-braunschweig.de/receive/dbbs_mods_65592

We monitor the statistics of article downloads but having said this we have no idea who is downloading or why. It may simply reflect how many friends and family people have! The leader so far is Sylvia Micheletti's article on exotic poisons (September 2017, Volume 47 Number 3), at 45 downloads, followed by Owen Durant's piece on cataloguing nature's library (December 2017, Volume 47 Number 4), with 39 downloads. Total downloads to the end of June were 448 for Vol.47, and 44 for Vol.48 to date, giving a total of 492, so by the time you read this we will have passed 500, i.e. in a year since we went 'live'. Please let us have any comments or suggestions.

Dates for your diary

Monday 15 October (5.30pm)	Evening meeting at UCL : Dr Cherry Lewis (Honorary Research Fellow, University of Bristol) – "The enlightened Mr Parkinson – of Parkinson's disease fame".
Friday 9 th November (9am-6pm)	"Drugs, Trade and Empire 1650-1950 : How the pharmaceutical industry sold medicines to the world." Joint Symposium BSHP and the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. For more information see: (www.apothecaries.org/Apothecaries/media/Media/Faculty%20HPMP/Pharmacy-Flier-Prog.pdf)
November	We are still hoping to arrange our annual joint BSHP/School of Pharmacy meeting but this is not yet finalised. Details will follow.

Our meeting dates for 2019 are now confirmed as Mondays 4 February, 13 May and 14 October. **** Please note the change to the May date which is one week earlier than last advised.****

New members

We would like to give a warm welcome to the following new members :

- Xandria Williams, London
- Ian Moss, Stoke-on-Trent

Contacts

Facebook: British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Twitter : @PharmHist

BSHP Secretariat : info@bshp.org



The Village Apothecary, perhaps Parkinson himself, from the cover of one of his pamphlets.
(image from the Wellcome Collection)

The Enlightened Mr Parkinson – of Parkinson's disease.

Lecture by Cherry Lewis

*Honorary Research Fellow, School of Earth Sciences,
University of Bristol*

Signed copies of Cherry's latest book on Parkinson will be available for purchase at the lecture!

Monday 15 October 2018 at 5.30pm

MAPLETHORPE LECTURE THEATRE, UCL SCHOOL OF
PHARMACY, 29-39 BRUNSWICK SQUARE, LONDON WC1N 1AX

Nearest Tube: Russell Square

Refreshments will be served from 5.00pm

NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

**Questions? Contact Chris Duffin, BSHP Programme Secretary:
events@bshp.org**