“All engrossing, all-devouring war…”

An exhibition at the Library of the Royal Society of Medicine to mark the centenary of the 1914-1918 War.

Monday 4 August 2014 until Saturday 25 October 2014

Monday – Thursday: 9.00 – 19.00
Friday: 9.00 – 17.30
Saturday: 10.00 – 16.30

Admission free. Open to all.

The Library, Royal Society of Medicine,
1 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 0AE

Tube: Oxford Circus or Bond Street
“All engrossing, all-devouring war…”

Sir Rickman J. Godlee. President’s Address,

RSM Official Bulletin No.26 October 1918.

RSM Official Bulletin. No. 18. 7th July 1914.

Just three weeks before the outbreak of war, RSM Council reported that “the most important event of the past year is the receipt from Lord Howard de Walden of the lease of 999 years of the Society’s site…This virtually secures to the Society the freehold of its new house. The new lease is more liberal in its conditions, and enables the Society to let, sell, or assign its property should such a course for any reason in the future be thought advisable.”

The Society had played host to delegates to the 1913 International Congress of Medicine “by allowing our rooms to be used for scientific meetings, [and] also by entertaining a large number of guests at an evening ‘At Home.’”

The resignation of Dr Nachbar from the editorship of the Proceedings, to take up the post of Superintendent of St. George’s Hospital, was the cause of great regret, mitigated by the consideration that “he has not left us because of the state of his health, or anything of that sort, but because he has been offered a better post.”

The number of readers using the Library was 14,511, an increase of over 3,000 on the previous year. The number of books borrowed for home reading was 9,896, an increase of over 2,000 in 1913.
Owing to the War, the number of Section meetings was reduced to 78 with an average attendance of 32 Fellows and Members.

On Friday October 8 1915 and Exhibition of Fracture Apparatus by Officers of the R.A.M.C. was opened by the Director-General, Sir Alfred H. Keogh, at the Society’s House. The Exhibition attracted a large number of medical men from all over the country, and from our expeditionary forces, during the greater part of the ensuing week and proved very useful in bringing before the surgical profession the latest and most successful methods of dealing with fractures. Similar exhibitions of appliances used in the treatment of gunshot wounds to the face and jaw were held in 1916, supported by the Odontological Section and the British Dental Association.

The Emergency Surgical Aid Corps had been frequently summoned to be in readiness during air raids, and on two occasions was called upon to give its assistance in dealing with casualties. Six Members of the Staff had joined His Majesty’s Forces, with the result that those who remained had to undertake an increased share of work. Special thanks were extended to Mr MacAlister “who has carried out the duties of Editor, in addition to those of Secretary, and whose success in both capacities is an index to the unsparing energy and zeal with which he continues to devote himself to the work of the Society.”

The number of readers using the Library was 9,822 and the number of books borrowed was 5,721.
RSM Council insured the Society’s house and its contents against the risks of War. Several servants of the Society had volunteered for the Army and Council had agreed to keep open their various positions and to make up their loss of wages during service. Calls for the removal of all German doctors from the Society’s roll were resisted when the President pointed out that there were only 11 German Fellows and two German Honorary Fellows of the Society and there was no way of knowing their political views.

Belgian doctors and Medical Officers accompanying colonial contingents in this country were allowed use of the Society’s library.

The Honorary Librarians reported that the work of the Library had been considerably affected by the War. “Fellows on active service have made frequent applications for books and information, and although the Library staff has suffered a reduction in its numbers, the current business of the Library has been carried on satisfactorily.” The number of readers for that year was 9,731; of these 337 were visiting Belgian doctors. 7,693 books were loaned.

At the request of the Director-General of the Army Medical Service, the Section of Balneology and Climatology supplied the War Office with information and advice on the treatment of wounded soldiers at British spas and bath resorts.
An informal meeting of Fellows was called on November 25th 1914 to discuss the matter of offering volunteer surgical assistance in the event of aerial raid or bombardment. This idea originated with Dr Moreland McCrea, but “its inauguration, development and success were due to the initiative, energy and foresight of MacAlister” the Society’s Secretary. At the close of this meeting 100 names were received of those willing to answer a summons, day or night, or to proceed to any point where their services might be required. Two rotas were drawn up: one of volunteers able to go to the East Coast, and the other for service in the Metropolis. The East Coast Rota was recognised by the War Office as a unit of the Central Force, and the Commissioner of Police accepted and commended the offer of help in the Metropolis.

The President reported that the Government utilization of the “machinery of the Royal Society of Medicine” is “all very satisfactory. But I think we must not lose sight of one thing. In our desire for recognition by the public and the State, we must not forget our true functions; we must not get off our locus standi, nor seek a locus – a place in the sun – to which we have no claim. We are a scientific Society, and not a political organization. Most of our work can be done, without submitting ourselves to the gaze of the public, and without constantly calling upon the outside world to see what fine fellows we are. Our advice to, and our connexion with other bodies, ought, in my opinion, to be based on our possession and command of knowledge in medicine, and surgery and the allied sciences.”
records the names of:

“Fellows of the Society who have lost their lives in connexion with the War.”

Captain Walter Seymour Armstrong
  Captain GS Blandy
  Lt. Col. Dauber
  Laura Forster
  W. Briggs Grandage
  Col. James Harper
Captain Alfred Wallace Harvey
  Naval Surgeon Hawes
  Col. Sir Victor Horsley
  Captain Kellie
  Captain John Temple Leon
  Major AA Martin
  Major AJ Martineau
Col. William Moyle O’Connor
  Captain Morgan James Rees
  Col. Charles Stonham
The President’s report mentions:

“…the hospitality of this Society to Colonial and American Army-surgeons who are over here to join us in the War. I hope Fellows who happen to come across American Surgeons will point out to them that not only are the rooms and the library at their disposal, but that the good offices of our Staff are at their disposal also, for supplying them with information when they are abroad, or in any other way helping them in the course of their practice.”

“…the work which has been done by the Emergency Surgical Aid Corps. At the last air raid, which was so destructive of life, our men were called out, and had the opportunity of rendering some considerable service. One of the squads was able to render service on the spot, and some of the others went to various hospitals. This corps is supported altogether by the voluntary contributions of its own members, who, on many occasions, have spent tedious hours in the night, in the time of the Zeppelin raids, waiting but doing nothing; for more often than not they were not called out after all. If any who were not able to give personal service would help in a pecuniary way, such support would be very much appreciated by the Corps.”

Meetings of the Society were reduced in number and tended to concentrate on matters of relevance to the War with lectures on gas gangrene, tropical diseases among troops serving in the Balkanic Zone, and the sterilization of wounds. Discussions were held on medical disabilities induced by the War, toxic jaundice observed in munitions workers, neuroses of ontological interest, and gunshot injuries of the jaws.

The number of readers using the Library was 9,219 and the number of books borrowed was 5,127.
The President’s report describes how “The war has robbed us of some of our notable senior Fellows and of some younger men, stricken down in an unfamiliar field before they had the chance to show their mettle in their proper sphere of action. We cannot make the list complete, but our figures show an increase every year – two, three, four, ten, from 1915 to 1918. It may seem strange that there are not more, but you must remember that those who run the greatest risks as naval surgeons, regimental medical officers, or at field ambulances, are most of them, if they belong to the civilian services, too young to have joined this Society.”

Accommodation within the Society’s house had been given to the Medical Research Committee of the National Health Insurance, the Ministry of National Service Board of Assessors, and the Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for War to inquire into the Medical Establishments in France.
The President acknowledged that “the war is, so to speak, drawing the Society out of its scientific shell.” He nevertheless sounded a note of caution: “Far be it from me to suggest that it would be well for the Royal Society of Medicine to descend from the serene temples of wisdom in order to join in the scuffle of medical politics. That is not for us.” He was also eager to reassure Fellows that “no one can hint that there is any military flavour about No 1 Wimpole Street, and the illusion is kept up by obliging any assessor who wears the King’s uniform to cast it aside before he enters upon his duties.”

While the Honorary Librarians reported “a considerable increase in the number of readers and visitors” to the Library, the President noted that “owing to the diminished staff and the military duties of the senior librarian who is now a veteran volunteer,” the library staff “find it difficult enough to keep abreast with the heavy duties imposed upon them.” The number of readers reached 11,278, a figure not exceeded since the outbreak of war. The number of books borrowed was 7,517. “The industry and attention of the Library staff deserve the highest commendation.”

Among the special gifts made to the Society, Sir William Osler, *inter alia*, presented:

Harvey (William) – *Exercitatio Anatomica de Motu Cordis et Sanguinis in Animalibus*, Francof. 1628.
Full-sized cast of the famous Hope Asklepios, presented to the Society by Mr Gordon Selfridge: Now displayed in the Heritage Centre on the 2nd floor of the Library
A General Meeting of Fellows was held at the Society’s House on November 13, 1918, two days after Armistice Day. Sir Alfred Keogh was formally elected an Honorary Fellow at this meeting, and the mood was positive if not triumphant.

The Annual Report acknowledged the work of the Emergency Surgical Aid Corps. “They were called out on 69 occasions, and on being disbanded recently received the cordial thanks of the Admiralty, the War Office and Scotland Yard. As their public-spirited action undoubtedly reflected credit on the Society the Council feel that the Fellows at large may well join them in congratulating and thanking their confreres for their patriotic service.”

RSM Council had consulted the Medical Departments of the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force, all of whom were unanimously in favour of the institution of a Section of the RSM devoted to matters connected with Medicine and Surgery in relation to War. A Special General Meeting of Fellows had formally constituted the Section which was in process of being organised.

The Honorary Librarians reported that work in the Library had steadily increased owing to the return of many Fellows from active service. The Library had held exhibitions of rare and interesting books and the incunabula were collected and displayed in a central position. Of the 11,172 readers recorded as having used the Library in the period covered, 2,340 were visitors, mostly American and Dominion Officers. The total number of books borrowed was 7,131.

The full-sized cast of the famous Hope Asklepios, presented to the Society by Mr Gordon Selfridge, “now forms a very notable object in the Society’s Library.”
Plastic surgery in war

John Bingham Roberts (1852-1924)
B617.52-089.844 ROB

Sir Harold Delf Gillies
Plastic surgery of the face based on selected cases of war injuries of the face including burns. London, Hodder and Stoughton, 1920.
53.G.37

Frederick Anthony Keyes (1885-?)
Army dentistry; Forsyth lectures for the Army dental reserve corps / ed. by Frederick A. Keyes ...
B616.314 KEY
In this address to the officers and men in the camps at Churn, Osler urges “a true knowledge of your foes, not simply of the bullets, but of the much more important enemy, the bacilli. In the wars of the world they have been as Saul and David – the one slaying thousands, the other tens of thousands. I can never see a group of recruits marching to the depot without mentally asking what percentage will die legitimate honourable deaths from wounds, what percentage will perish miserably from neglect of ordinary sanitary precautions?

It is bitter enough to lose thousands of the best of our young men in a hideous war, but it adds terribly to the tragedy to think that more than one-half of the losses may be due to preventable disease.”
War injuries and diseases
and their treatment

Alan Eglin Heathcote EMERY
& Marcia L.H. EMERY
Surgical and medical treatment in art. 2006
WZ 330 EME

Paul Bernard Roth (1882-?)
B617.3 ROT

Sir Anthony Alfred Bowlby (1855-1929)
Wounds in war / Sir Anthony Bowlby. The Bradshaw lecture ; 1915
Large Octavo Tract 2180

Medical Research Committee
An atlas of gas poisoning. [London], 1918.
614.824 MED

Dunlap Pearce Penhallow (1880-?)
B616-001.4-089 PEN

Raymond Gregoire (1875-1942) & Alfred COURCOUX
616.24-001.4 GRE

Pierre Duval (1874-)
War wounds of the lung: notes on their surgical treatment at the front. Bristol : Wright, 1918.
B616.24-001.4 DUV
Cabinets 4, 5 & 6

War injuries and diseases and their treatment

Sir D'Arcy Power (1855-1941)
Wounds in war; their treatment and results. London: Frowde, 1915. Oxford war primers series 616-001.4-08 POW

Andrew Maitland Ramsay (1859-1946) et al.
Injuries of the eyes, nose, throat and ears. London, Frowde, 1915. Oxford war primers series 617.7-001.4 RAM

James Keogh Murphy (1869-?)
Wounds of the thorax in war / by J. Keogh Murphy ... London: H. Frowde [etc.], 1915. Oxford war primers series 617.54-001.4 MUR


Fig. 166. Shows bridged plaster applied for an infected gunshot wound of the leg in order to facilitate dressing and at the same time to immobilise the fragments.

Military Surgery, Dunlap Pearce Penhallow, 1918

Rutherford Morison (1853-1939) & William George Richardson
Abdominal injuries / by Rutherford Morison ... and W.G. Richardson ... London: H. Frowde [etc.], 1915. Oxford war primers series 617.55-001.4 MOR

Basil Hughes & Henry Stanley Banks (1890-?)
Social factors and changes

Women’s involvement in war effort,

Samuel Thomas Beggs
B6 BEG
Health conditions of recruits were sometimes connected with their work in factories, for example “long hours of standing” caused varicose veins and “conditions of employment” caused deafness.

M.N. Oxford
Nursing in war time: lessons for the inexperienced. 2nd edition.
London : Methuen, [1915?]
B616-083 OXF

Caroline (Twigge) Matthews
Experiences of a woman doctor in Serbia / by Dr. Caroline Matthews. London : Mills & Boon, limited, [1916]
B92(MAT)

Violetta Thurstan
B92(THU)
Women clearly felt that working in field hospitals was their vocation and it was probably a defining part of their lives.

Foreword of: Experiences of a woman doctor in Serbia

A woman child. She dream’d the dreams of men.
Of fiery purposes, and battle’s din.
She left her dolls to play with soldier toys
And glow’d in enterprise of heroes bold.
Such child –
Grown to the kingdom of her woman’s heart,
Goes forth with joy beneath her country’s flag.
Gives of her skill to those who call for aid.
She faces death in many a cruel guise,
Holding life cheap, for honour and her King. A. M. Johns

Cecil William Hutt (1880-1934)
The future of the disabled soldier.
London, Bale, Sons & Danielsson, 1917
362.655 HUT
Alexander J. Philip
Rations, rationing and food control /
B614.3 PHI

Ministry of National Service
General directions for the guidance of commissioners deputy, commissioners of medical services, and members of medical boards with regard to grading. London, 1918.
London, 1918.

“Serjeant-Major R.A.M.C.”
With the R. A. M. C. in Egypt / by "Serjeant-Major, R. A. M. C.", with 32 illustrations. London [etc.] : Cassell and co., ltd., 1918
B356.33(42)(09) SER

Henry Carter
B351.761 CAR

Paul Creswick (1866-?)
B362 CRE

Edward Sutton
The fitting out and administration of a naval hospital ship / Edward Sutton. Bristol : John Wright, 1918.
B355.727(42) SUT
To be used in active service

War Office
Field service regulations. Part II,
355.514 WAR

Montagu Frederick Grant
353.33(42) GRA

“Rousillon”
Tips for the front: what to do and what to avoid on active service / by "Rousillon". London, Gale and Polden, 1915
8vo.Tract 11008
(Inset Image)

Henry Richard Kenwood
Health in the camp: a talk to soldiers.
B613.67 KEN

H. Meugens
Hospital handbook in English and French; an invaluable handbook for all soldiers, containing a list of drugs and dressings, medical terms, nursing necessaries, parts of the body, weights and measures, useful phrases and words for everyone in English and French / by H. Meugens. London:
Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & co., ltd., [1915]
B44-316.4:362.1 MEU
John Maclean Carvell
An index of first aid: a vade-mecum for the ambulance worker and all interested in the subject of first aid to the injured. London, John Bale, 1915. 617-083.88 CAR

Great Britain. Army Medical Dept.

Georges M. Dupuy

(Image Below)
Shell Shock

Wilfred Batten Lewis Trotter
B138.8 TRO

Sir Grafton Elliot Smith (1871-1937)
B 616.89-02:613.861.3 SMI

Elmer Ernest Southard (1876-1920)
B616.89-02:613.861.3 SOU

Andre Leri (1875-?)
B616.89-02:613.861.3 LER

Sir Frederick Walker Mott (1853-1926)
B616.89-02:613.861.3 MOT
Jean-Pierre Lepine

Joseph-Francois-Felix BABINSKI [1857-1932], Jules FROMENT & Edward Farquhar BUZZARD
Hysteria or pithiatism and reflex nervous disorders in the neurology of war. With a postscript by the authors. Translated by J. D. Rolleston. Edited...by E. Farquhar Buzzard. London, University of London Press Ltd., 1918 Military Medical Manuals Series 616.852 BAB

Adolf Lucas Vischer (1884-?)
Barbed wire disease: a psychological study of the prisoner of war. Translated from the German, with additions by the author. London: Bale & Danielsson, 1919. B616.89-02:613.861.4 VIS
(Inset Image: Right)

David Forsyth
John Hartman Morgan (1876 -?)
Germany's dishonoured army. [London]: The Parliamentary recruiting committee, 1915.
Tract 5878

Viscount James Bryce (1838-1922)
Tract 5877

Fernand van Langenhove (1889-?)
B341.322 LAN

Includes an account of “an apparition holding a flaming sword which stood before us” who seemed to guard (German) soldiers during the night.

T. N. (Theophilus Nicholas) Kelynack 1866-1944.
361.93 KEL
George Washington Crile (1864-1943)
(Image to Right)

Paul Eltzbacher
Germany’s food : can it last? : Germany’s food and England’s plan to starve her out : a study / by German experts ; English version ed. By S. Russell Wells ; with a critical introduction by A.D. Waller.
London, 1915 B9 ELT

Morton Prince (1854-1929)
The psychology of the Kaiser; a study of his sentiments and his obsessions.
London : T.F. Unwin Ltd., [1915] 92(WIL)

John Hartman Morgan (1876-?)
War Memorial in the foyer of the Royal Society of Medicine’s home
No. 1 Wimpole Street