

2 A History of The Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland¹

J. Henry Dible

ORIGINS

In June 1906, many pathologists in Great Britain and Ireland received a copy of a notice (Fig. 2.1) suggesting the formation of a Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland. The signatories to this were amongst those most eminent in their subjects in these countries. We find the professors of pathology at Cambridge (G. Sims Woodhead), Edinburgh (W. S. Greenfield), Glasgow (R. Muir), Aberdeen (D. J. Hamilton), Manchester (J. Lorrain Smith), Oxford (J. Ritchie), Liverpool (R. Boyce), Leeds (A. S. Grünbaum), Birmingham (R. F. C. Leith) and McGill (J. G. Adami) and others, as well as leading bacteriologists such as W. Bulloch, S. Delépine, J. W. H. Eyre and A. E. Wright. There were also men eminent in the services (W. B. Leishman, professor at the Royal Army Medical College) and in tropical medicine (David Bruce and Patrick Manson), physicians like Clifford Allbutt, W. Osler, H. D. Rolleston, A. E. Garrod and Arthur Hall, professors of physiology like Noël Paton and T. G. Brodie, and veterinarians like J. McFadyean.

The idea of the formation of such a society had no doubt been forming in more minds than one. Sir Robert Muir has written: 'Active steps towards the foundation of a new Society were, however, first taken by Lorrain Smith, at that time Professor in Manchester. I remember well his stating his views to me and outlining a general scheme, with all of which I was in cordial agreement. We approached teachers of Pathology and others throughout the country and received generally the promise of whole-hearted support. The older pathologists, such as Greenfield, Hamilton, McFadyean and Woodhead were cordially with us as well as the teachers in all the provincial schools including Oxford and Cambridge.' It is clear, however, that those who were most active in forming the new society were Lorrain Smith and Muir, together with Ritchie and Boycott (Fig. 2.2) and to this little group of fathers of the Society Sims Woodhead must be added on account of his connection with the *Journal*: these are the names that recur most often in the early Minutes. It is perhaps noteworthy that of the 54 subscribers to the circular less than a third were from London, and this immediately arouses questions that can best be answered by a glance at the position of pathology in this country at that time and the way in which it had developed.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

If we look back 50 years and ask ourselves why this movement took place at this particular time, we find that it occurred at a climax in a period of great and expanding activity in pathology and

¹ Reprinted from the *Journal of Pathology and Bacteriology* 1957; 73 (Suppl.): 1-35.

June, 1906.

DEAR SIR,

It is proposed to form a PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY for Great Britain and Ireland similar in character to the Physiological and Anatomical Societies. For this purpose we are asking the co-operation of all those who are actually engaged in Pathological teaching or research, and we would be glad to enrol your name as one of the original members if you can see your way to join.

The first meeting will take place at Manchester on July 14th. The times and places of subsequent meetings will then be arranged and a committee will be appointed to draft rules for the management of the Society.

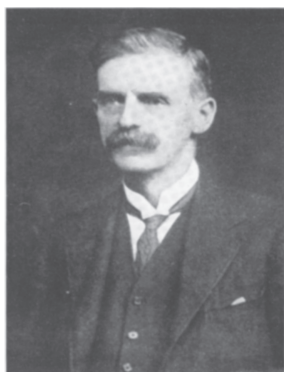
If you decide to join the Society would you kindly send your name to Prof. MUIR, University, Glasgow; or to Prof. LORRAIN SMITH, University, Manchester. The Agenda papers will be forwarded to those who send in their names.

We are, yours faithfully,

J. G. ADAMI	ARTHUR HALL	G. H. F. NUTTALL
T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT	I. WALKER HALL	W. OSLER
F. W. ANDREWES	D. J. HAMILTON	A. C. O'SULLIVAN
E. F. BASHFORD	V. HARLEY	D. NOEL PATON
R. W. BOYCE	E. KLEIN	J. RITCHIE
T. G. BRODIE	W. S. LAZARUS-BARLOW	H. D. ROLLESTON
D. BRUCE	W. B. LEISHMAN	M. ARMAND RUFFER
W. BULLOCH	R. F. C. LEITH	J. LORRAIN SMITH
L. COBBETT	J. MACFADYEAN	L. G. SUTHERLAND
G. DEAN	J. J. MACKENZIE	W. ST. C. SYMMERS
S. DELEPINE	E. J. MCWEENEY	E. F. TREVELYAN
J. DRESCHFELD	P. MANSON	R. S. TREVOR
J. W. H. EYRE	C. J. MARTIN	W. B. WARRINGTON
A. R. FERGUSON	SIDNEY MARTIN	A. H. WHITE
A. G. R. FOULERTON	A. E. MOORE	C. POWELL WHITE
A. E. GARROD	F. W. MOTT	CARTWRIGHT WOOD
W. S. GREENFIELD	R. MUIR	G. SIMS WOODHEAD
A. S. GRUNBAUM	G. MURRAY	A. E. WRIGHT

Figure 2.1 A faesimile reproduction of the notice suggesting the formation of The Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

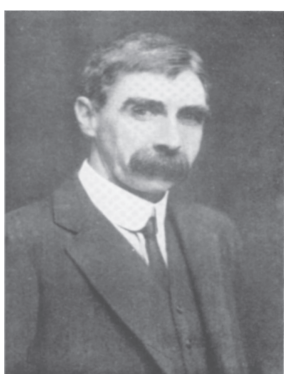
medical science generally. The nineteenth century, and especially its first three-quarters, was teeming with pathological activity, and we may well consider that in this period the science of pathology, if not founded, certainly came to recognition as a branch of science with a defined place, distinct from the clinical arts. This is supported by a consideration of the literary output of the time: Matthew Baillie's atlas was published in 1793, Cruveilhier's magnificent atlas between 1829 and 1842, Carswell's great work in 1838, Virchow's Cellular Pathology in 1858, Villemin's experiments on tuberculosis in 1868, Cohnheim's Lectures in 1877–8, Koch's work on the aetiology of tuberculosis in 1882, and Metchnikoff's Lectures on the Comparative Pathology of Inflammation in 1892. Such stimuli evoked a wide response, and this coincided with a great outburst of activity along the newer lines that were being opened up by the technical advances of the histologists such as Weigert (1843–1904) and experimentalists like Ehrlich (1854–1915), and also by the great improvements in bacteriological technique, which in the last quarter of the nineteenth century led to a spate of discoveries of causal organisms in infective disease. This upsurge of activity demanded



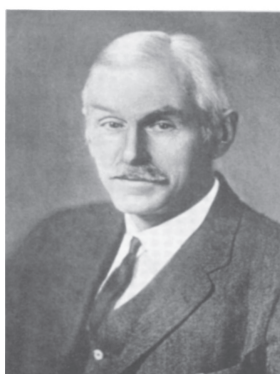
J. LORRAIN SMITH



ROBERT MUIR



JAMES RITCHIE



A. E. BOYCOTT

Figure 2.2 The four ‘fathers’ of the society.

for its service more and more men with more specialised knowledge than had been available to the great clinical investigators like Hunter, Bright and Addison.

EARLY CHAIRS OF PATHOLOGY IN BRITAIN

What was happening in the medical schools and universities in this period? A superficial view suggests that there were two lines of evolution. In Scotland and in Cambridge, where there existed university medical schools of considerable age, pathology emerged as an additional subject and was incorporated into the curriculum in the traditional manner. Chairs were created and formal university teaching in the subject was begun. The English and Irish provincial universities followed the same general lines, though many of them were as yet in the process of evolution and their medical schools had not achieved full university status.

The first chair of pathology to be established in Great Britain was that of Edinburgh (1831) and to this was appointed John Thomson, a pupil of Sir Everard Home and therefore presumed to be a man imbued with the Hunterian tradition; he is perhaps best known as the father of Allen Thomson the anatomist. John Thomson was succeeded in 1842 by William Henderson who became a convert to homeopathy and in consequence was forced to resign his appointment to the Infirmary. Syme and others did their utmost to oust him from his university chair; it is a tribute to the liberality of university tradition that they failed, and he reigned until 1869. University College,

London, had also offered a chair of pathological anatomy in 1828 to Robert Carswell of Glasgow, but Carswell was busy with his work with the French physician, Louis, on tuberculosis and on his own *Atlas of Pathological Anatomy* and did not take up the appointment until 1831. After a few years in the chair Carswell found the financial struggle too great for him and eventually he became physician to the King of the Belgians ('Uncle Leopold') and was knighted by Queen Victoria. The chair then became a part-time appointment until A. E. Boycott was made Graham Professor in 1914. Fifty years after the Edinburgh innovation the second chair in the country, that of Aberdeen, was founded in 1882 through the liberality of Sir Erasmus Wilson, the first professor being D. J. Hamilton, FRS. In 1883, Cambridge appointed C. S. Roy and in 1894 Glasgow followed with Joseph Coats. Then came Manchester (Sheridan Delépine, 1891), Liverpool (Rubert Boyce, 1894), St Andrews (Robert Muir, 1898), Birmingham (R. F. C. Leith, 1899), and by the end of the century or within a few years of this chairs had been established in all the Scottish and in many of the English provincial universities.

In London the second chair to be established was at St Bartholomew's Hospital (F. W. Andrewes, 1912), followed by that at Guy's (P. P. Laidlaw, 1915). By such a criterion the London Schools generally, with the exception of University College, had lagged behind, and in this there is reflected an early difference in the relationship between pathology and the clinical subjects in London and in other parts of the country, which to some extent has persisted to the present day. The London medical schools at this time had no real university affiliation, but were appanages of the great London Hospitals, all of them independent and highly individual institutions, many with proud traditions stretching back over centuries; they were dominated by their honorary physicians and surgeons, often striking personalities with names that are famous, to whom pathology was part of their daily work, as it was to John Hunter.

They made notable contributions to the subject, as the names of Matthew Baillie (1761–1823), Bright (1789–1858), Hodgkin (1798–1866), Paget (1814–99), Brodie (1783–1862), Addison (1793–1860), and, rather later, of Bland-Sutton, Mott, Jonathan Hutchinson and Garrod will recall, but they left little room on their hospital staff for the pure pathologist, as distinct from the physician or surgeon interested in pathology – and, which largely settled the matter, there was no living for him. Pathology thus developed in London more as an ancillary to the clinical practice of the hospitals and less as a subject in its own right than it did elsewhere. This early difference in outlook and method of development goes far to explain the preponderance of Scottish and provincial names amongst the signatories to the memorandum that led to the formation of our Society.

Moreover, London, then as now, was well supplied with medical societies. There were several and they led a healthy and active independent existence until – as some think inadvisedly – they merged their identity into the Royal Society of Medicine.

THE PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

Pathology was catered for by The Pathological Society of London. This Society began some 60 years before ours, holding its first meeting on 1 February 1847, the President being C. J. B. Williams, MD, FRS, a pupil of Laënnec. Its 130 members were, except for three, entirely Londoners and included only one Professor of Pathology (W. H. Walshe, physician and also Professor of Pathological Anatomy in University College). The London Society flourished until a year after our foundation when, on 14 June 1907, it held its last meeting before becoming incorporated into The Royal Society of Medicine. Its ordinary members by then numbered 638 and its 30 Presidents were all, except for Burdon-Sanderson, the last but one, clinicians as we understand the term today. Twenty-two of them were Fellows of The Royal Society, which throws into relief one of the alterations in scientific values that has taken place during the last half-century. The last president, P. H. Pye-Smith, FRS, a consulting physician to Guy's Hospital, in a short final address said: 'When

our Society was founded pathology was still the hand-maid of Medicine and Surgery as is shewn by the names I have cited. The science has now a far more independent position, and is the foundation or institute on which all scientific prevention and treatment of disease must rest.' These discerning remarks are worth quoting today when developments in state medicine have tended to obscure and to reverse the true relationship of pathology to medicine.

One notable name, absent from the signatories to the notice convening our Society, is that of S. G. Shattock. He, at the time, was the general secretary of The Pathological Society of London and editor of its Transactions, a position he had held since 1900, and he had been in some office in that Society since 1889. Under his editorship, from 1903 onwards, articles of his own in the Proceedings were usually given a Latin sub-title and were frequently accompanied by a summary in Latin as well: in this he succeeded in attracting a few imitators. A man of great parts and character, Shattock felt, like certain others, that the new society might be in competition with the London society and there was some lukewarmness from this direction at the time of its foundation. Shattock never became a member of our Society nor attended its meetings.

I have spent some time over this account of the beginnings of pathology in this country in order to show the background against which our Society was founded and grew up; in it will be discovered some of the reasons why The Pathological Society has in the past drawn its strength so largely from north of the Border and from the English provincial universities. This tradition is still with us.

MANCHESTER, 14 JULY 1906

The signatories to the memorandum met in the Physiological Theatre of the University of Manchester on Saturday morning, 4 July 1906, at 9.30 a.m. Professor Muir proposed that Professor Hamilton should take the chair, which he did, and after some opening remarks, supported by Professor Delépine, it was moved that: 'The Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland be constituted': this was carried by acclamation and so the Society came into being.

The Society then proceeded to the election of a committee to draw up a constitution and rules to be presented to the next meeting. Thirteen gentlemen were nominated and Drs James Ritchie, then pathologist to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, and A. E. Boycott, then assistant bacteriologist to the Lister Institute, were appointed secretaries, and C. Powell White (Pilkington Research Student at Manchester University) treasurer. A levy of five shillings was made to meet the current expenses. It was agreed that the next meeting should be in London, and also that the Society should offer to cooperate with the Physiological Society in presenting evidence from the pathological standpoint before the Royal Commission on Vivisection. The Society, which had thus been constituted, proceeded to public business; 17 papers and 31 demonstrations (by 17 demonstrators) were given. The first paper on the agenda was by James Ritchie, interestingly enough on 'Terminal thrombosis in amyloid degeneration'; it is easy to forget that Ritchie was a physician to the Radcliffe Infirmary before he became a leading bacteriologist. I have been told, however, by James Miller that he (Miller) actually gave the first paper ('Amyloid goitre and amyloid disease of the air passages'), as on Ritchie's name being called he was temporarily absent and Miller took his place. The members of the Society were entertained at lunch by Professor Dreschfeld, who had held the chair of pathology in Manchester from 1881 until 1891, as well as the position of physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary. In 1891 he had moved to the chair of medicine and had been succeeded by Sheridan Delépine who was appointed the first professor of pathology and bacteriology. As the meeting had clearly been a large one, although the exact numbers are not now known because no record seems to have been kept, Dreschfeld's hospitality must have been considerable. (The old fashion of entertaining the Society to lunch lasted for many years, the latest record being at the invitation of the managers of the Royal Victoria Hospital on the occasion of the Belfast

meeting in 1953.) On the Friday evening Henry Ashby and Mr Samuel Buckley entertained some members at the Clarendon Club and others were entertained by Dreschfeld. Mr Thorburn also gave an 'At home'. On the Saturday night the first dinner was held at the Queen's Hotel, where 81 were present, of whom 65 were members. Dreschfeld was in the chair. There were five toasts on the list, excluding 'The King'! The Pathological Society was proposed by Clifford Allbutt and the Victoria University by Osler; the Vice-Chancellor and Mr Thorburn replied. Thorburn became a famous surgeon and received a knighthood, but he will be affectionately remembered in the Society for his speech at this first dinner, when he said (and I have this on the authority of Sir Robert Muir): 'You have today lighted a candle, which will bear marvellous fruit'.

SECOND MEETING 1907

The Society's second meeting was held at the Lister Institute on 12 January 1907. As at this meeting it was decided to constitute the membership of the Society from those who had responded to

Meeting at Lister Institute Jan 12th 1907

<p>Members</p> <p>Charles J. Martin</p> <p>Iana Ritchie Wescheid</p> <p>Sheridan Delepinos</p> <p>E. J. McWassney</p> <p>D. J. Hamilton</p> <p>J. Dreschfeld</p> <p>J. O. Carver</p> <p>William Muir.</p> <p>Jm Beattie</p> <p>A. Eastwood</p> <p>R. Muir</p>	<p>Visitors</p> <p>names to be put opposite the that of member using member</p> <p>{ A. E. Munchin</p> <p>{ A. Harden</p> <p>{ J. Horder</p> <p>{ Harriette Chick</p> <p>{ - Marshall.</p> <p>{ - Armit</p> <p>Ellip. Fehjwald</p>
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Figure 2.3 Fascimile reproduction of the signatures in the attendance book at the first official meeting.

Members	Visitors
W. Blair M. Martin	
Archibald Leitch	
Thos Moore	Helmsworth. M.S.
Arthur St. Joors.	
J. Bushnell.	
Mrs. Krimbaum	
Adel Kettle	
James Miller.	
E. J. Dwyer	
R. G. Hodgkins	Perceval Hartley.
Ch. Lehmann	H. S. Raper
S. J. Scott	
J. W. C. Lee	
John Ross	
Ernest Lynn	
A. G. Gibson.	J. A. Arkwright
William E. Marshall	Chace
	Alfred Keen
	Alfred MacCarty
	A. Hosson
	A. Scane
George Lyon	

Figure 2.3 (Continued)

the circular of invitation issued in June 1906, this may be regarded as the first official meeting. The signatures in the attendance book are reproduced in Fig. 2.3. It was decided to adopt, with certain modifications, the draft rules and constitution that had been drawn up by the ad hoc committee; this committee was continued until the Statutory Meeting of 1907. The annual subscription was fixed at one guinea.

RULES

The rules of the Society and its constitution are known to all members and are embodied in the list that is published yearly, so I will not go into them except to mention that under rule 23 'the

<p style="text-align: center;">Members</p> <p>John D. Thomson Gordon Holmes Edmund E. Batten</p> <p>Henry Wade. Stuart M. Donnelly.</p> <p>W. A. Walker J. H. S. Smith Jos. J. S. Lucas C. W. Downie.</p> <p>J. M. Leathes W. P. Pembrey F. W. Anderson J. W. Egle W. E. Carnegie Dickson H. G. Ward W. G. Bonney G. D. Dean J. H. Smith C. F. White E. I. Bradford W. L. H. H. H.</p> <p>J. A. Murray Arthur White B. S. Boycott</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Visitors</p> <p>Stewart J. Red E. S. B. B. B.</p> <p>Taylor W. J. Young S. W. H. H.</p> <p>L. G. G. A. W. Gratton M. A. M.</p> <p>J. C. Lewis</p>
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Figure 2.3 (Continued)

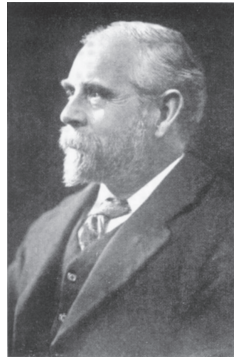
Chair shall be taken by the head of the laboratory in which the meeting is held, or by some member delegated by him for the purpose'; thus the Society has never had a permanent Chairman or President, which is sometimes a little confusing to those unfamiliar with its constitution. It has usually been the custom at places of meeting where there are Professors of both Pathology and Bacteriology for them to divide the duties of Chairman between them.

JOURNAL OF PATHOLOGY AND BACTERIOLOGY

The ad hoc committee next proceeded to investigate the possibility of securing an official publication, and in March 1907 recommended the formation of an Association with a capital of £550 to acquire from Professor Sims Woodhead the *Journal of Pathology and Bacteriology*, which he had founded in 1892 in conjunction with Young J. Pentland the Edinburgh publisher. It was agreed that Professor Woodhead was to be paid £275 in cash, and that £275 in shares in the Association was to be assigned to him. It was further agreed that the principles on which the Association should be conducted should be:

- '(1) That not more than 4 1/2 per cent. interest should be paid on the capital.
- (2) That out of the profits a sinking fund be furnished to redeem the capital of the Association (the shares being redeemed at par) and that ultimately the Journal should be handed over to the Society free of debt.
- (3) That otherwise the profits of the Journal should be devoted to the conduct and development of the Journal and especially to the payment for illustrations.
- (4) That the Journal should be supplied to the members of The Pathological Society at cost price, *i.e.* about 17/6d.
- (5) That the shares in the Association be held only by members of The Pathological Society.'

The Journal was to continue to be published under the editorship of Sims Woodhead (see Fig. 2.4), with Ritchie and Boycott as assistant editors, and a committee consisting of Beattie, Leishman,



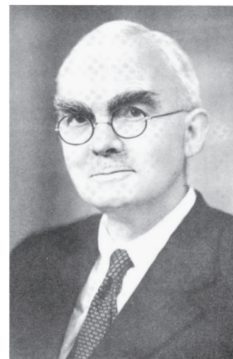
GERMAN SIMS WOODHEAD



H. R. DEAN



ROBERT GRANT



MATTHEW J. STEWART

Figure 2.4 Major contributors to the *Journal of Pathology and Bacteriology*.

Robert Muir and Lorrain Smith. One might feel today that rather a hard bargain had been driven, but it is evident from the Minutes that the members of the Association envisaged a considerable period of financial stringency. However things turned out well and by 1914 they were ready to transfer the Journal to the Society.

In the Editorial of October 1907, in announcing the new affiliation of the Journal, the Editor stated:

‘As heretofore, no papers will be received that have appeared, or which are to appear, in other Journals. Records of personal research and not historical *résumés* are specially desired; and in all cases preference will be given to articles not overburdened with abstracts from literature. Illustrations must in all cases be confined to new features... Although the Editors reserve to themselves the right of editing articles submitted for the Journal, they will not hold themselves responsible for any statement made in the articles published.’

These forthright pronouncements gave some warning of the Editor’s determination to be master in his own house, a decision from which he never departed and which outlived him as a tradition.

Amongst other matters the Committee also considered the admission as members of laboratory attendants engaged in scientific work, and found that ‘there was nothing in the rules which necessarily prevented the admission of these gentlemen’. W. A. Mitchell of Cambridge was an original member of the Society and in the list of those approved at this meeting it is interesting to find the name of Richard Muir, a man outstanding for his technical work, and a considerable medical artist. Nominated as honorary members were Lord Lister, Metchnikoff, Roux, Laveran, Ehrlich, Koch, Golgi, Welch and von Recklinghausen.

1907–1913

The first statutory meeting under the rules was held in July 1907, at Edinburgh, and the Society in the form in which we have known it since was finally under way. The subscription was fixed at ‘twenty-five shillings, including the price of the *Journal*’. Meetings followed at the Royal Army Medical College and Cambridge (1908), Leeds and Glasgow (1909, where there were 34 papers), Guy’s Hospital and Bristol (1910) and Birmingham and Oxford (1911). A notable happening at the Oxford Committee meeting was: a ‘sub-committee consisting of J. Lorrain Smith, J. C. G. Ledingham and A. E. Boycott was appointed “to consider and report upon the possibility of establishing some form of employment bureau for laboratory assistants”’. At this meeting a record, which may never be exceeded, was the presentation of eight papers by a single member (H. G. M. Henry)! Sir W. Osler presided at the Society’s dinner in University College. In 1912 the Society met at Liverpool and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. At the Liverpool meeting in January 1912 it was reported that an association of laboratory assistants in pathology and bacteriology was in the process of formation amongst the assistants themselves. The Committee recorded its sympathy with the project and its willingness to assist and encourage the objects of the Association. At about this period the Society was being asked repeatedly to send representatives to various congresses at home and abroad and in every instance declined. In 1913 meetings were held at St Bartholomew’s Hospital and Sheffield. C. Powell White resigned from the office of treasurer and was succeeded by J. C. G. Ledingham. J. Bordet was elected an Honorary Member.

1914

The 1914 meetings were at the Royal Army Medical College and Cambridge. There was a special committee meeting in Manchester in May, to which Professor Sims Woodhead was invited, to

consider the affairs of the Journal. At this meeting the Committee learnt that the 'proprietors' of the Journal would be in a position to transfer it to the Society during 1914, and therefore decided to give notice at the July meeting that at the next statutory meeting, which it was anticipated would be in the summer of 1915, the Society should resolve to accept the Journal, and to empower the Committee to appoint for a period of three years an Editor and Assistant Editors, who should be eligible for re-election, and to alter the rules accordingly. An important provision was that the Editor and Assistant Editors should be responsible *to the Committee* for the conduct of the Journal and for keeping its accounts. This delegation of responsibility to a small organisation created an arrangement that has worked extremely well and benefited both the Journal and the Society generally. It was decided that there should be a payment of 18 shillings a year to the Journal account from each member's subscription, and that the Journal account should be kept separate from the general accounts.

During the spring of 1914 approval was given for the formation of a subcommittee for a collective investigation of the subject of enlarged thymus, especially in relation to deaths from violence, and for the payment by the Society of the expenses of any necessary printing. E. Emrys Roberts (Cardiff) and C. McNeil (Edinburgh) formed the subcommittee. It appears that this subcommittee was unable to act during the war, and it was resuscitated in March 1920. The last meeting before the outbreak of the 1914–18 war was held in Cambridge in June 1914. It was a beautiful hot summer, as lovely as summer can be in Cambridge: I can feel it now, and it seems that as we walked with our friends amongst those shady backs leading down to the river there was a heavy oppression in the air as of a gathering thunderstorm. The lights were about to go out in Europe; we never saw them again. The Society held its customary meeting, authorised the committee to accept the Journal from the 'proprietors', heard the notice of motion anent the conduct of the Journal and the alteration in rules and adjourned at 2 p.m. on Saturday 27 June. It did not meet again for five years.

1919–1920: TYPE CULTURES AND LABORATORY ASSISTANTS

In July 1919 the Committee met in Edinburgh to gather up the threads. Perhaps the most fruitful of its labours was a discussion on the formation of a collection of standard cultures. It was resolved to communicate with the Director of the Lister Institute expressing the hope that the Institute would be able to undertake the formation and maintenance of such a collection, and offering facilities for communication with the general body of members by means of the circulars of the Society. This was the first step in the establishment of the National Collection of Type Cultures. At the general meeting H. R. Dean raised the question of the supply of reliable dyes and other special reagents, which had become difficult during the war and for which we had previously so largely depended upon Germany; a subcommittee was appointed to go into this matter. At the next Committee meeting, which was in Manchester in January 1920, the final legal formalities for the transfer of the Journal, which had been held up since 1914, were completed. A. Norman and W. Mitchell also attended this meeting and explained the constitution and objects of the Laboratory Assistants' Association and the proposed scheme of examination and certification. J. A. Murray, J. C. G. Ledingham and A. E. Boycott were appointed a subcommittee to make further enquiries, in conjunction with the officers of the Association, and to report. This year the Society held a spring meeting at Charing Cross Hospital. Here the scheme of examinations of the Laboratory Assistants' Association was explained and approved, and J. A. Murray and F. W. Andrewes were nominated as members of the examining council. At this meeting members were invited by the Charing Cross Hospital medical students to accompany them on their specially chartered steamer to see the Boat Race, an invitation that many accepted. At the summer Committee meeting Ritchie was appointed Editor of the Journal, with A. E. Boycott and H. R. Dean (see Fig. 2.4) as Assistant Editors: the Status Lymphaticus Subcommittee was reconstituted and enlarged to nine members.

Dean was elected a secretary in place of Ritchie, and until 1937 remained the active secretary: up to this time the Minutes are in Boycott's handwriting, which becomes progressively smaller as the years pass. Now they appear in Dean's unmistakable bold black vertical writing. Ritchie made a statement on the negotiations he had had with Messrs Oliver and Boyd of Edinburgh for the printing and publication of the Journal.

The full details of the reasons for this change do not appear in the Minutes, but it is evident that whilst the printing of the Journal was done in Edinburgh by Messrs Morrison and Gibb, the business of publishing was in the hands of the Cambridge Press. I have learnt from Mr Robert Grant (see Fig. 2.4) that, early in 1920, the Cambridge Press refused to continue the production, publication and financing of the Journal, and thereby placed the Editors in a serious quandary. Boycott and Ritchie approached Messrs Oliver and Boyd and had an interview with Mr James Thin (the senior partner) and Mr Robert Grant of that firm. The latter asked Boycott, was there a Pathological Society and how many members were there? The answer was 'Yes', and he thought there would be 100–150 members or thereby.

The next question was, could the Society finance the Journal? The answer was 'No; there were no funds and no provision had been made by Sims Woodhead for this unforeseen difficulty'. The upshot was that Mr Grant suggested that the production of the Journal should be entrusted to Messrs Oliver and Boyd, who would pay the outstanding debt to the Cambridge Press and return the property of the Journal without expense to the Society, the one condition being that its production and publication should be entrusted to Oliver and Boyd.

Boycott and Ritchie consulted with others and a few days later asked Mr Grant to draft an agreement embodying his proposals. The Committee was unanimous on the advisability of such a change and the new publishers took over from 1 June 1921.

MESSRS OLIVER AND BOYD AND THE JOURNAL

It is not an overstatement to say that this decision to associate the Journal with Messrs Oliver and Boyd was a most fortunate one for the Society. In this old-established Edinburgh house, with its traditions of fine work, the Journal under the splendid editorships of Ritchie, Boycott and Stewart became one of the best produced and most valuable medical journals of its kind, and probably supreme in its particular sphere. How much is owed to the Editors our members can readily appreciate: they may less easily learn how much is owed to Mr Robert Grant, the active head of Messrs Oliver and Boyd for the first 32 years of the Society's association with this firm. The Journal became a special interest of Mr Grant's and he also acted as its financial adviser, very much to our material advantage, and the sound financial position of the Journal is greatly due to his care and good advice. At the time this change was made the Journal's finances were causing the Committee anxiety and it was decided at the Leeds meeting in January 1921 that the subscription must be raised at the summer meeting to £2. In due time this was done and the allocation to the Journal from members' subscriptions was increased to 35 shillings. The subscription remained unaltered for 35 years: a remarkable achievement! At this meeting the Stains Subcommittee reported a profit of £30 5s 1d from the distribution of stains they had procured and approved; this was handed to the Treasurer. In January 1922, the Society was in Glasgow. Here the Committee decided to prepare an index of the Journal and also to consider publishing reviews of books on pathology and bacteriology. The summer meeting was at University College Hospital. At this meeting notification of Sims Woodhead's death was communicated and a Minute recorded his high standing in British pathology and his especial service in the matter of the Journal; this was in due course transmitted to Lady Sims Woodhead. It was decided that a medallion should be engraved and appear on the title page of the Journal that he had founded. In 1922 Boycott resigned from his Secretaryship, which he had held since the Society was founded; M. J. Stewart was elected to the vacancy.

1923–1924

The January meeting of 1923 was in Sheffield, the summer one in Oxford. Ritchie was ill and a message was sent to him from Sheffield. By the time the Oxford meeting was reached he had died, and Boycott was appointed Editor, assisted by M. J. Stewart (see Fig. 2.4) and C. Price Jones. A further change was that Ledingham resigned from the treasurership and E. Emrys Roberts was appointed to succeed him. At this meeting the Committee Minutes briefly record: 'a member had suggested that the Society should meet in two sections (a) pathology, (b) bacteriology. The suggestion met with unanimous disapproval'. The Society dined at Queen's College and was entertained at lunch on Saturday by the President and members of the Oxford Medical Society. The winter meeting at Newcastle-upon-Tyne was a small one, only 17 communications being given. It was enlivened, however, by a brisk debate on a motion that A. Renshaw proposed should be forwarded to the Board of Agriculture: 'That this Society considers that the time has now arrived when full facilities should be granted to accredited pathologists to investigate Foot and Mouth Disease'. This referred to the official policy of stringent segregation and slaughter. After some discussion the following amendment was moved: 'That this Society, while in sympathy with the prosecution of research by individual members is not disposed, as a Society, to offer advice to a Government Department'. The amendment was carried by 21 votes to 3. This is an example, out of several that have occurred in the Society's history, of instances in which political action of some sort or another has been proposed. The Society has invariably declined to take such action and there can be little doubt that in so doing, and in remaining strictly a scientific society, it has acted wisely.

At its meeting in July 1924, the Committee nominated E. E. Glynn as treasurer: Emrys Roberts had died early in the year and Ledingham had acted in the interval. The practice concerning the printing of members' degrees and other qualifications was considered and 'it was agreed that decorations and "chief" degrees should be printed in the annual list of members. The selection of degrees or decorations in each case was left to the discretion of the secretaries.' This practice has continued with occasional oversights until today: the exclusion of diplomas and the like here finds its authorisation: there have sometimes been some heart-burnings, especially amongst junior members, but most will agree that the function of the Society's list is not to advertise the qualifications of its members. An interim report of the Status Lymphaticus Subcommittee was submitted by M. J. Stewart and it was resolved that it should be forwarded to the Medical Research Council and to the Editor; it was also presented at the general meeting and subsequently published in the *Journal* in 1925. The Subcommittee was authorised to co-opt additional members, up to ten, and to pay them an honorarium of £25 per annum. A final report eventually appeared in the *Journal* in 1931 above the names of M. J. Young and H. M. Turnbull.

At the general meeting of 1924 Boycott gave notice that at the next statutory meeting he would move 'that the ordinary membership of the Society be limited to 400'. Boycott also spoke during Private Business of the services to pathology of S. G. Shattock, who had died during the year, and the secretaries were instructed to send a letter of sympathy to the relatives. In this short tribute Boycott referred to Shattock's refusal to have anything to do with the Society, upon which I have already commented.

1925

In January 1925, the Committee met in Glynn's room in the Thompson Yates Laboratories in Liverpool. Boycott's proposal to limit the size of the Society was discussed and after a Boycott short debate he withdrew it: the principal opposition came from R. Muir, who urged the great advantages to young pathologists of membership of the Society and this, he pointed out, involved the receipt of the *Journal* – 'a very good journal' – which he thought it of great importance that

they should read. A letter was considered suggesting the appointment of committees (a) to draw up a bacteriological classification, and (b) to consider the classification of the streptococci. The Committee decided to take no action. In the summer of 1925 the Society met in Dublin – which up to the present it has not again visited. The Committee decided to prepare and circulate some account of the Pathological and Bacteriological Laboratory Assistants' Association. It was reported that Mervyn Emrys Roberts, whose candidature for an Epsom College Foundationship had been supported by the Society, had been elected.

1926

In 1926 the Society met at the Lister Institute in January and in Aberdeen in July: this was the last occasion of a meeting at the Lister, the increase in size of the Society causing the severance of this old link. At the January Committee meeting it was reported that for the first time the Society's funds showed a debit balance. The treasurer, Glynn, suggested that the Public Trustee should be asked to act as Trustee for the Society and he and the Editor were empowered to consult the Public Trustee. There was also a loss of £29 on the Journal account, due to the cost of the index to the first 25 volumes. It was decided to support the candidature of John Wyon, the son of the late G. A. Wyon of the Pathology Department at Leeds, for an Epsom scholarship. Boycott criticised the cost of the dinner at this and the previous meeting of the Society.

1927

At the Committee meeting at the London School of Medicine for Women, in January 1927, it was decided to advise the Society to appoint the Public Trustee as trustee for the funds and property of the Society and that he be authorised to invest its funds in Trustee securities: this was duly agreed by the Society in General Meeting the next day. As a result of the excellent response to the Wyon fund, Stewart suggested that the Society should become a subscriber to Epsom College and it was decided to advise the Society in this respect; consent was also given to this. There was some discussion on the order in which papers should be grouped on the agenda, Dean saying that he had difficulty in classifying them under the headings of Morbid Anatomy and Bacteriology: as an alternative it was suggested that the papers might be placed in the order in which they were received. The majority favoured the existing method subject to the exercise of the secretaries' discretion.

A summary of several letters from S. C. Dyke concerning a proposed association of practising pathologists, from which the Association of Clinical Pathologists ultimately evolved, was received. The Society was entertained to lunch by the Council of the London School of Medicine for Women.

The Society at this time had been asked to take action with the Physiological Society in requesting its members not to accept posts in medical schools, or in universities or research institutions, in which on principle restrictions were imposed on the use of animals for experimental purposes. Representatives of the Society met those of the Physiological and Biochemical Societies and pointed out that there were difficulties in accepting this simple proposition, arising from the fact that many members of the Society held appointments as hospital pathologists. The conclusion of the matter was that the Society passed a resolution that, 'any further restriction on such use of animals would be detrimental to the progress of medical science'.

1928

At the meeting at St Thomas's Hospital in January 1928, it was reported to the Committee that the treasurer, E. E. Glynn, was gravely ill and steps were therefore taken to deal with the account that

had been held in his name. Stewart reported that the matter of financial support for the candidature of John Wyon for a scholarship at Epsom had been brought to a successful conclusion: it was decided to subscribe 200 guineas to the general funds of Epsom College and that the votes derived from this should be used, at the discretion of the Committee, either for the benefit of members of the Society or their dependants who might be candidates for pensions or scholarships, or put at the disposal of the Council of Epsom College. The Committee also formed a provisional subcommittee to consider the formation of a National Committee in connection with the International Society for Microbiology. It was further decided to support the inclusion of a section of bacteriology in the International Botanical Conference to be held in Cambridge in 1930. The question of holding more than two meetings a year was debated, but the general sense of the Committee was against this. At the summer meeting, in view of the serious nature of Glynn's illness, it was decided to proceed with the election of a treasurer and E. H. Kettle was appointed.

1929

The list of honorary members, originally nine, had by the beginning of 1929 shrunk to four and in this year L. Aschoff, Theobald Smith, T. Madsen and G. Schmorl were added. At the Committee meeting in January of that year it was decided that at the Cambridge meeting in the following July the Committee, instead of meeting on the afternoon of the first day as had been customary, should dine together on the previous evening and meet afterwards for business: this pleasant custom has endured. The Cambridge meeting was held in the new Department that had just been built under Dean's direction in Tennis Court Road. On this occasion, on a ballot for members of the Committee, J. G. Greenfield and P. Hartley tied for third place. Hartley wished to retire, but the Society decided to vote again. On a second ballot they again tied. Hartley then proposed the election of Greenfield, which was approved unanimously.

1930

In 1930, the Society met at the Middlesex Hospital in January and at Manchester University in June. E. E. Glynn's death was reported at the Manchester meeting. The Journal had incurred a loss of £184 for the year and a decision was taken to ask the Editors to endeavour to reduce its cost, and at the same time to send a letter to members pointing out the position and asking them to curtail the length of their papers. W. W. C. Topley was appointed an Assistant Editor in place of H. D. Wright.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES OF THE JOURNAL, 1931–1933

It is evident that the Committee, when it met in January, was seriously troubled about the deficit on the account; £900 was owing to the publishers and the Society's bank overdraft was £550. It was decided to sell securities to realise £550. The Editor stated that the size of the Journal would be reduced and that the next issue would contain about 110 pages. The position was again considered in the summer when it was decided to increase the price to outside purchasers from £2 to £3 per annum. The Editor was also asked to enquire of the publishers about a possible reduction in their charges and to examine the charges of other publishers. This enquiry was the beginning of quite a rumpus. At the Committee meeting in January 1932, Boycott reported that as a result of the Editors' efforts a loss of £759 in 1930 had been converted to a profit of £159 in 1931; with the increased price to outside purchasers he thought that there should be a further profit of £400 per annum. Messrs Oliver and Boyd had agreed to reduce their charges to 23/28ths of the charge made by them in 1920. Boycott also said that he had investigated the prices of other

publishers, but that the facts were not very easy to ascertain owing to different methods of preparing estimates. Some members of the Committee, however, were not satisfied and Boycott was pressed, and agreed, to make further investigations and to obtain competitive prices. At the summer meeting in Oxford the Editor estimated a surplus of £500 or more on the Journal if its size was not increased. A detailed comparison with other firms' printing and publishing costs showed that, by transferring the Journal from Oliver and Boyd to one of the two other firms considered, a saving of £150 a year might be effected. After a long discussion the Committee decided in favour of this, by 9 votes to 6, Boycott and Stewart dissenting. When the Committee met in the January following (1933), its members had in their hands letters of resignation of office from Boycott and Stewart. Upon this B. H. Kettle, who had proposed at the previous meeting the transfer of the Journal from Messrs Oliver and Boyd, said: 'In common, I think, with every member of the Committee I was very distressed to learn of the resignations of Boycott and Stewart. I proposed the resolution at the last meeting of the Committee that we should change our publishers, because as Treasurer I felt it my duty to conserve the funds of the Society; but as a member of the Committee I feel I have an equally important duty to the Society, which is to do all I can to preserve its unity and strength which depends so largely upon the maintenance of good fellowship and good will. Had I realised that the editors felt so strongly in this matter I should certainly not have proposed the resolution and, if I had proposed it, I do not think I should have received the support of the Committee. The action of the Committee has had results which I for one did not contemplate for one moment and I therefore beg to propose that the resolution to change the publishers from Oliver and Boyd to the Oxford Medical Press, which was passed at the last meeting of the Committee, be rescinded.'

Kettle's resolution, which was seconded by Dean, was put to the meeting by the chairman and passed unanimously. The decision of the Committee was communicated to Boycott and Stewart, who had retired during the discussion, and who then rejoined the other members. Boycott said that he was glad to hear of the decision and wished to thank the Committee for the consideration that had been shown to Stewart and himself. After Stewart had spoken in the same sense they withdrew their resignations as editor and assistant editor. Boycott, however, went on to say that he had found the work of the Journal more and more arduous and that he did not think that he would be able to continue in the office of editor for any very long period. The chairman expressed the appreciation of the Committee of the work that had been done by Boycott and Stewart for the Journal and the pleasure felt at the withdrawal of their resignations. Thus the matter ended.

1931–1932

In detailing this incident, which is of some importance in the history of the Society since it confirmed the association with the publishing firm of Messrs Oliver and Boyd, an association that has continued to the present time, I have passed over certain other matters that have thereby lost their chronological order. Stewart reported in January 1931 that Bryan Strangeways, another candidate supported by the Society for an Epsom scholarship, had been successful. C. C. Okell was appointed an Assistant Editor at the Oxford meeting (1932) in place of W. W. C. Topley. At the same meeting J. W. McLeod asked the opinion of the Committee on the formation of a bacteriological section of the Society. McLeod's argument was that non-medical bacteriologists needed a society for the discussion of bacteriological problems that were not concerned with pathology. It was a question whether a separate Bacteriological Society should be formed, or whether there should be a section of The Pathological Society for the discussion of communications of this nature. There was no vote, but the majority of the members of the Committee appeared in favour of the view, which had been expressed before at meetings of the Committee, that it was important that all members of the Society should have an opportunity to hear all papers on the programme.

It was suggested that if a society of non-medical bacteriologists was formed the new society might be invited to hold its meetings at the same place as, and just before or just after, the meetings of The Pathological Society.

The programme at Oxford was very full, 41 papers being presented. With the approval of the Committee the Chairman proposed to the meeting that the time allotted to each paper should be reduced from fifteen to ten minutes, that members who were also showing demonstrations on the same subject as their communication should volunteer to limit themselves to their demonstration, and that papers on kindred subjects should be discussed together. With this guillotine in operation the meeting was able to adjourn at 12.50 p.m. on the Saturday. The Oxford meeting, the first in the new department built for Dreyer, was memorable for two incidents. One was the fact that the benches in the lecture theatre had been freshly varnished shortly before and, the weather being exceedingly hot, the varnish softened so that members adhered *a posteriori* when attempting to rise; by the end of the meeting all the benches were firmly plastered with agenda papers! The second, and more pleasurable, was that Dreyer had provided a large barrel of cider in the hall of his department, which was greatly appreciated and freely resorted to.

1933

At the July 1933 meeting in Leeds the Committee returned to the problem of the growing list of communications. It was agreed that in order that the meeting should end at 1 o'clock on the Saturday, and so as to allow fifteen minutes for papers as well as ample time for discussion, preference should be given to the first 24 papers on the programme, and that any in excess of this should be printed, but taken only if time permitted. This admirable solution proved in subsequent years a source of embarrassment to the secretaries and to be clearly incompatible with an earlier desire that papers on related subjects should be grouped on the programme. They did their best to combine the latter principle with a reasonable concession to priority of notice, and inevitably they met with some criticism. The matter arose more acutely in 1955 and I shall refer to it again.

1934: BOYCOTT RESIGNS

The 1934 January meeting was at St Mary's Hospital. Boycott, on medical advice, resigned his editorship that he had held since 1923, and M. J. Stewart was appointed in his place. There is no doubt that during his tenure Boycott rendered great service to the Society and advanced the status of the Journal very materially. As an editor he was meticulous, authoritative and autocratic. His methods did not pass without criticism and he was apt, in the interest of what he considered to be a better presentation, to alter the author's wording and occasionally, it must be said, his meaning. This sometimes involved a clash of opinion! Another of Boycott's foibles was his addiction to corresponding by postcard; often these bore the tersest of messages. In reply to a long letter of detailed explanation on some disputed point about a paper one might receive a postcard: 'Yes. A. E. B.' Mr Robert Grant has written to me: 'As an Editor he had his own ideas of punctuation and sometimes his alterations made difficulties with his contributors. One of our Readers made an alteration in Boycott's punctuation, and that resulted in a postcard to me: "Please instruct your compositors to follow in future *my* copy, even out of the window".' Sometimes he had a grave objection to printing an initial letter in place of the first Christian name. That resulted in another postcard: 'Please ascertain if "J" stands for James, John or Jemima'. Boycott had an extreme aversion to commas and struck them ruthlessly out of the manuscripts that came to him. I myself had as good a conceit of my ability to write English as Boycott, and would reinstate most of mine at the proof stage! These amusing trivialities in no way qualify the fact that Boycott was a great editor and left a permanent stamp on the Journal.

The Summer meeting of 1934 was held at the Queen's University of Belfast. Stewart resigned his office as one of the secretaries and J. H. Dible was appointed in his place; G. K. Cameron was appointed to fill the vacancy for an assistant editor. G. F. Nuttall was elected an Honorary Member. The Society was entertained to tea by the honorary staff of the Royal Victoria Hospital and on Saturday afternoon enjoyed various pleasant excursions to the Giant's Causeway and the Mourne mountains, or played golf on the links of the Royal County Down Golf Club as guests of the Belfast members. The July 1934 issue of the Journal was published in honour of Sir Robert Muir, FRS, to celebrate his 70th birthday, and was contributed entirely by his pupils.

1935

In 1935 the Society met in London (King's College Hospital) and at Liverpool University. K. Landsteiner, Peyton Rous and F. B. Mallory were added to the list of Honorary Members. At the Liverpool meeting a paper was given by one member whose claims to cure cancer and other diseases by the injection of vaccines had received prominence in the daily press and who had been strongly criticised to the Committee for the general character of his recent communications. As soon as he rose to speak there was a considerable and pointed exodus of a number of members from the theatre; having delivered himself, he publicly announced his resignation from the Society and walked out of the room: this dramatic gesture was succeeded by a prolonged silence, until the Chairman without comment called for the next paper.

1936

In 1936 the January meeting was at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School, and the July one at Dundee. At the latter meeting Sir Robert Muir was elected an Honorary Member. About this time, at the suggestion of Ainley Walker, the Committee decided to recommend the institution of a class of Senior Members to which those of twenty-five years' standing, who had retired from active work, might be elected at a nominal subscription of 10s., without being entitled to receive the Journal. As at the time there were 45 original members in the Society and some 90 members who might be considered eligible for Senior Membership, some anxiety was felt lest this suggestion should lead to a considerable drop in income. The matter was discussed at subsequent Committee meetings, but the fears proved groundless and in 1950 the subscription for senior members was abolished. The increasingly large number of members whose subscriptions were in arrear also engaged the Committee's attention: there were some 150 in arrear for a year or longer, and the Treasurer was authorised to obtain and pay for such assistance as he might need to collect subscriptions.

1936–1937: ARREARS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

The meetings in 1937 were at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and in Cambridge. At the former the rule regarding Senior Members was approved, together with a new rule authorising the Committee to remove from membership anyone whose subscription was two years in arrear. Kettle had died in 1936 and Dean had carried on the duties of Treasurer in the meantime. Dean's investigation into the financial position showed that, in March, 390 members were in arrear and that a sum of £792 was consequently owing to the Society. As a result of energetic action, involving the sending of 369 letters between March and the end of June, £588 of the arrears had been collected, but £195 10s was still owing. Dean mentioned that he had received

great assistance from W. A. Mitchell in dealing with the accounts. These now showed a balance that would enable the Society to invest £400. It was proposed and agreed that a new rule should be introduced whereby newly elected members must send a Banker's Order to the Treasurer, and the secretaries were instructed to draft such a rule. J. McIntosh was asked by the Committee if he would accept nomination to the office of Treasurer and agreed to do so. C. C. Okell resigned his Assistant Editorship and H. D. Wright was appointed. Dean announced that he proposed for the future to hand over the active duties of the secretaryship, which he had performed since 1919, to J. H. Dible.

In 1938 meetings took place at the Middlesex Hospital and Edinburgh University. McIntosh's acceptance of the office of Treasurer led to the Committee's meetings and supper in London usually being held in the pleasant surroundings of the Board Room of the Middlesex Hospital, an innovation that was continued later by Scarff. This was the last meeting held at the Middlesex, for reasons which now begin to appear.

In January a special meeting was held between representatives of the Society and those of the Pathological and Bacteriological Laboratory Assistants' Association, which had decided to revise its constitution and seek conversion into a limited company. The Association regarded the maintenance of the existing association with the Society of paramount importance and suggested that representatives of the Society might be on the Board of Directors. Further, a change of title was proposed incorporating the term 'technician'. Mr Denyer for the Association submitted draft Articles of Association.

1938: DEATH OF BOYCOTT

At the July meeting the death of A. E. Boycott was announced and Stewart spoke of Boycott's outstanding personality, his scientific achievements, his devotion to biological science, and his notable service to the Society as Editor of the Journal. Boycott was certainly an outstanding figure in the Society. Tall, cadaverous, with side-whiskers which moved up or down his face according to his whim, an incisive way of speaking, extremely and sometimes devastatingly logical and never moved to wrath or swayed by emotion – or so it seemed – his personality was felt at all the meetings at which he was present. An ascetic and an intellectual he tended to be contemptuous of some of the pleasures that appeal to many other men. He was a firm and merciless critic, at times perhaps a little harsh in dealing with a junior member giving his first paper, but not so of malice. He would find the recipient of his criticisms later and explain his point and make suggestions for avoiding the pitfall. He was a great supporter of the Society and had been in office from its inception until he resigned his editorship from ill-health in 1934. After being away ill for some time he reappeared at the St Bartholomew's meeting in January 1936 and read a paper – his last. The warmth of his reception then probably surprised him, but the Society felt more at home with him present again amongst its number; it was the flicker of a dying fire. With Boycott's departure the spirit of criticism, formerly so much abroad in the Society, seemed to suffer some decay; it was sustained by J. A. Murray and J. Cruickshank but nevertheless, or so it seems to one who has grown old in the Society, we are today more ready to accept the authority of the spoken statement and the didacticism of the lantern slide, and less apt to probe the facts behind and to question the validity of the conclusions, than we were 30 years ago.

The January meeting of 1939 was held at the Royal Free Hospital and London School of Medicine for Women, and the summer one in the University of Birmingham.

The draft Articles of Association of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology (as it was later named) were discussed by the Committee and various suggestions made. A clause providing for the payment of examiners was objected to by Dean, who received unanimous support.

J. A. MURRAY

At this meeting J. A. Murray was nominated as an Honorary Member. The Secretaries' letter to him drew the following characteristic reply:

2 Belgrave Gardens, NW8

14 Jan 1939

'My dear Dible,

Please convey to the Committee my sincere thanks for the kindly feeling which led to their proposal to put me down for the high compliment of Honorary Fellow of the Society.

It is with the greatest regret that I ask them not to proceed any further with it.

I think it is indecent to disturb a dead body that is not doing any harm.

Yours v. truly,

JAMES A. MURRAY.'

At the general meeting R. D. Passey suggested that in view of the large size of the Society the meetings in London might be held in some central institution instead of the various hospital laboratories as had been customary. The matter was referred to the Committee for consideration. At the summer Committee meeting Dible reported upon enquiries he had made about the possibility of meeting at the Royal Society of Medicine or the Royal College of Surgeons. The former institution would charge about £20, to which would have to be added the cost of hiring microscopes. The Royal College of Surgeons would willingly take the Society, but there might be some difficulty owing to examinations at the time of the winter meeting. After a discussion in which it was stated that the theatre at the Royal College of Surgeons was not suitable, and that there would be difficulties there for demonstrations, it was decided to continue to use such London medical schools and institutions as could provide the accommodation necessary.

1940–1941

The January meeting for 1940 was to have been held at Guy's Hospital. Owing to the war the Secretaries, who decided not to follow the precedent of the 1914–1918 war and suspend the activities of the Society, arranged a one-day meeting at Cambridge as an emergency measure after consulting with the Treasurer and Editor. This action was subjected to some criticism, but was endorsed unanimously by the Committee. The candidates approved by the Committee at this meeting were subsequently, in August 1940, by resolution of the Committee, offered temporary membership of the Society on the understanding that their names would come up for election at the first general meeting that could be held. Sixteen papers were read and 100 persons lunched and 95 dined at Trinity Hall. The summer meeting of 1940 had been arranged to be held at Trinity College, Dublin, but this proving impracticable an invitation from Florey to meet in Oxford was accepted and notices were sent out accordingly. These too had to be cancelled, owing to other difficulties arising out of the war, and no meeting could be held until one was arranged by Stewart for a single day in Leeds, in March 1941.

In the interim a special meeting of the Committee had been held, also in Leeds, in the January of that year. The Committee at each of these meetings numbered only six. A pleasing incident was the receipt of a letter from Dr William J. Deadman, Chairman of the Ontario Association of Pathologists, expressing sympathy with the Society in the difficulties and dangers to which its members were exposed as a result of the war and offering to arrange an exchange of duties, or any other form of relief for those of us who might be forced on medical grounds to seek temporary respite. This letter was read to the Society and was much appreciated. At the Leeds meeting W. G. MacCallum was elected an Honorary Member.

It was decided at the special Committee meeting in January that the March 1941 meeting should be deemed the statutory meeting for 1940, which had not been held, and that a notice should be printed in the Journal to this effect. In view of the uncertainties of the times the Committee then put forward certain resolutions to provide for possible eventualities. These read: 'In the event of no meeting of the Society being held in a given year:

- (1) The officers and committee shall be continued in office;
- (2) when an election does take place, only the three members of Committee senior in order of election shall retire;
- (3) the Committee shall have power to fill casual vacancies in its membership;
- (4) the Secretaries shall have power to decide that any given meeting is a statutory meeting;
- (5) the Committee shall have power to elect new members and to transact any necessary business.'

The motion was adopted. Thus battered down, the Society prepared to ride out the storm. This meeting was attended by 70–80 members.

In July 1941, a meeting was held in Glasgow. Sir Henry Dale, FRS, was elected an Honorary Member. Seventeen papers were given and 56 persons were present at the dinner. It was decided to hold a meeting in Cambridge in the spring.

1942–1943: LABORATORY ANIMALS

In March 1942, the Society met in Cambridge, once more customarily for the two days: there was a good attendance, with 172 members and visitors signing the book. In Private Business a motion was discussed from D. McClean and A. A. Miles that the Society should institute a Benevolent Fund from a portion of its capital and from further monies accruing, as well as from a special voluntary levy upon members. This aroused considerable feeling and a letter was received from six Manchester members disapproving of the resolution and urging that the funds of the Society should be used for scientific purposes exclusively and for the needs of the Journal. The motion was lost by 38 votes to 25. A motion by H. J. Parish and W. B. Gye 'That the Society urges the Medical Research Council and the Agricultural Research Council to take up the question of large scale breeding of stocks of healthy experimental animals as a matter of national importance and urgency' was carried. This may be regarded as the stimulus that ultimately produced the Laboratory Animals' Bureau under the aegis of the Medical Research Council. At the dinner in the hall of Trinity Hall, A. Norman, on behalf of the Pathological and Bacteriological Laboratory Assistants' Association, presented the Society with a Chairman's walnut gavel, engraved with the names of the presidents of the Association since its foundation in 1912. H. R. Dean accepted the gift on behalf of the Society and thanked the members of the Association for a token of the happy and fruitful cooperation which had existed between the two bodies. In July 1942 the Society met in the Physics Laboratory, the Royal Fort, Bristol. The meeting was a small one, only 13 papers being given.

The Committee held a special meeting at the Middlesex Hospital in January 1943 to consider letters from the Inter-Departmental Committee on Medical Education ('Goodenough Committee') and a memorandum from H. R. Dean on the same subject. The Secretaries were instructed to compose a memorandum embodying the main conclusions of the meeting and J. Shaw Dunn, H. R. Dean and J. H. Dible were nominated to give evidence before the Inter-Departmental Committee. A memorandum from the Association of Scientific Workers on the provision of laboratory animals by Government Departments was also considered. The Committee recalled the earlier action by the Society in initiating this matter, but held that in view of the shortage of workers of all types throughout the country it was not practicable for such a scheme to be

proceeded with during the war. This matter was again raised at the April 1943 Committee meeting since, as a result of pressure from the Association of Scientific Workers that asked the Society's support in this matter, the Medical Research Council had called a meeting with that body, the Agricultural Research Council and the Ministry of Supply, and Dible had been asked to attend as the Secretary of the Society resident in London. The two Councils had declined to take action during the war and, having heard the details of the discussion, the Committee reaffirmed its former decision to take no further action at this time. The Society was also asked by the Association of Scientific Workers to participate in the organisation of a Central Bureau for the coordination and registration of medical research. The Committee was unanimously of the opinion that a case had not been made for the establishment of the suggested bureau and register. At the Committee's General Meeting that followed the first matter was raised again, and the Committee's decision reported: it was, however, moved by the Chairman, and carried by 51 votes to 31, that 'the Society recommends that the Committee shall appoint a representative to the Committee established by the Association of Scientific Workers to investigate the matter of the breeding and supply of experimental animals'. Eventually a conference was convened at University College at which the Society was represented by A. A. Miles and H. J. Parish. A. W. Downie was elected an assistant editor at the April Committee meeting. The summer meeting of 1943 was held at Manchester: it was moderately attended, with 78 members and 27 visitors signing the book. The Society decided to collaborate in an appeal for funds for the presentation of a laboratory to a Moscow hospital, which it was agreed Dean should sign as a secretary of the Society.

1944

In March 1944, the Committee met for supper under war-time conditions in considerable discomfort at Schmidt's restaurant in Soho and subsequently moved to the London School of Hygiene for its business. From a discussion on the nomination of newly qualified candidates for membership, which was becoming increasingly common, it was agreed that except in very special circumstances it was undesirable that candidates who had been qualified for only one or two years should be put forward for membership. This was expanded at a subsequent Committee meeting and at the general meeting, a year later, it was confirmed that: 'Candidates for membership should be persons who had been engaged for some years in research or teaching in pathology, or who had held for some years recognised appointments as pathologists, and also persons who had a comparable training and experience in any of the allied sciences; accordingly it was undesirable that beginners or "trainees", and persons with a very limited experience in pathology, should be nominated for membership of the Society'. It was at this time decided that the summer meeting of 1944 should be held at Cardiff. In fact it did not prove possible to hold another scientific meeting until a year later when, in the spring of 1945, the Society met at St Thomas's Hospital Medical School. In the interim, however, a joint meeting with the Biochemical Society at the Royal Society of Medicine was held that December for discussions on 'Oestrogens and malignant disease' and, 'Viruses in relation to cancer, with special reference to the milk factor'.

RUMOURS OF A NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

At this time there were considerable stirrings arising from the obvious intention of all political parties to promote a more extended National Health Service. The Royal Colleges established a Committee of Consultants to advise their representatives in discussions with the Ministry of Health, and Dible was invited to represent the Society on this Committee. At about this time

also the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London asked the members of the Committee who were resident in London and available to undertake the classification of the pathologists in the London area. This was done, although the list supplied contained a number of omissions to which attention was drawn, and it was therefore plainly stated that the draft sent to the Vice-Chancellor could only be regarded as provisional. The object of this survey was stated in Parliament to be to determine, for the purposes of the Government, the number of specialists available in the area. The General Medical Council also approached the Society regarding the possible formation of a register of specialists. The Committee agreed that the Society should take action in this regard, in order to be in a position to advise on the qualification of individuals for recognition should the duty of compiling a register devolve upon the General Medical Council. The Association of Clinical Pathologists had also been approached and a Committee was appointed to meet jointly with the Clinical Pathologists. The Committee of the Royal Colleges to which I have already referred, and upon which the Society was represented, continued to meet and to consider the steps that should be taken to plan a Consultant Specialists Service. Two further activities of the Committee at this period were the nomination of representatives to serve on the Medical Research Council's Committee on Medical Mycology and the setting up of a Joint Standing Committee, with the Association of Clinical Pathologists and the Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology, for the consideration of matters of mutual interest concerning technicians.

The Committee held another special meeting in July 1944 at which it was reported that Government restrictions on travel made it necessary that the Cardiff meeting should be abandoned. Under the emergency powers conferred on it at the General Meeting on 28 March 1941, the Committee left it to the discretion of the Secretaries to arrange for a meeting in January 1945 if possible, Birmingham being suggested as the venue. Candidates for membership were approved on the assumption that a meeting would be held in January, but it was decided that they should be deemed to be elected if no such meeting could be held. The report of the subcommittee appointed to draft a reply to the General Medical Council on the qualification of pathologists for registration was submitted and adopted. The preamble is interesting: 'The Committee resolved, that should it be found necessary to compile a register of specialists in pathology, and should this duty lie with the General Medical Council, to recommend ... etc.'. The multiple qualifications illustrate the uncertainty of the position at the time. The Government were groping their way and no one knew where such a statutory duty might lie, if indeed it lay anywhere. The General Medical Council was as uncertain as the rest of us. It is not necessary to quote here the full text of the Committee's considered report, since at the moment the issue is not before us, but the main points that were emphasised may be mentioned: experience in general medicine and surgery by whole-time resident appointments; a minimum of five years' study in the laboratories of a medical school or a hospital approved for this purpose by the University in the region, with one year of the five in a University Department of Pathology; no insistence on a diploma, but recognition to be given to time spent in acquiring this.

Information was also received on the formation of the Biological Council and the Society for General Microbiology, and a representative from the Society was appointed to the former. The hope was expressed that it would be possible at times to arrange meetings of the Society and the Society for General Microbiology upon consecutive days.

1945

On 2 January 1945, the Committee met again and learnt from the Secretaries that it had not been possible to meet in Birmingham and that it had been agreed by correspondence to postpone the meeting until March and if possible to hold it in London. The Treasurer reported that the state of

the Society's finances had improved very materially during the war owing to increased sales of the Journal and the diminution in general expenses consequent on the restriction of meetings. The shortage of paper was, however, a serious problem to the Editor and publication was beginning to fall seriously into arrear.

The March meeting was eventually held at St Thomas's Hospital Medical School and was attended by 137 members and 56 guests. In Private Business the Committee's recommendation regarding the qualifications of candidates for election was communicated. Attention was drawn to the desire that had been expressed that symposia upon current problems of special interest might be organised and members were invited to suggest subjects.

The January 1945 issue of the Journal was dedicated to H. M. Turnbull, FRS, on his 70th birthday: it included a reproduction of his portrait by Wilhelm Kaufmann.

The postponed Cardiff meeting was held in June 1945. The Committee considered the possible employment at some period of a paid Editor. The amount of work devolving upon the Editor had exercised some members for a considerable time and various suggestions had been made on earlier occasions of ways of providing Stewart with assistance, but none of these had been very effective. Stewart declined any honorarium for himself, but warned the Society that paid assistance might be required after the war when the size of the Journal would increase. At this meeting A. W. Downie desired to resign from his Assistant Editorship, but he was asked to continue until the end of the year.

Dible raised the question of the limitation of the size of the Society, which had been previously raised by Boycott in 1925 and rejected. The reasons that impelled him to do this again were that the growth of the Society made it difficult to find accommodation for the London meetings and that it would become more and more difficult in the future to continue the traditional form of the meetings unless some limitation was imposed. There seemed little support for frank limitation and the discussion that followed divided itself along two lines, one group of members favouring a division of the programme at the winter meeting into sections and the other the holding of three meetings a year as a possible solution. It was agreed that the latter should be tried in 1946 and that the Society should be recommended to meet at the Westminster Hospital in January, in Liverpool in April and in Aberdeen in July. At the general meeting G. H. Whipple was elected an Honorary Member.

1946

These pious resolves were upset by the clash between the Grand National and the projected Liverpool Spring meeting, so that when the Committee met again in January it was proposed to change the venue of the March meeting to Sheffield. The Committee also decided to recommend a donation towards the University education of J. Gray, the son of an old member of the Society. A suggestion was received from the Association of Clinical Pathologists that the Society should engage with the Association in negotiations on the salaries of whole-time pathologists in the National Medical Service. It was agreed without dissent that: 'since the primary objects of the Society were scientific it was not its function to engage in negotiations of this kind'. The Committee made a grant towards the expenses of the Biological Council and appointed W. G. Barnard as its representative. R. W. Scarff proposed the formation of a histological consultative panel for the Society and the formation of a reference collection: a subcommittee was appointed to consider the question and to report. At the Sheffield Committee meeting in March, the Histological Consultative Panel was constituted, and this absorbed the older panel of advisers that had been in existence for some time under the aegis of the National Radium Commission, as well as a panel supported by the British Empire Cancer Campaign. Scarf was appointed Secretary to the panel, which has since

done much useful work. At the General Meeting in Sheffield the Secretaries reported a gratifying response to the appeal on behalf of the son of the late J. Gray.

At the Aberdeen meeting in July 1946, the Secretaries reported a deficit of £5 16s on the Sheffield meeting, due to members failing to honour their obligations to dine or use the accommodation reserved on their behalf. The deficit was paid by the Society, but on subsequent occasions similar difficulties were encountered and as a result the Secretaries later were forced to demand payments in advance: this has now become customary. A suggestion was received at this meeting from the Association of Clinical Pathologists for the production of a joint Journal. This the Committee declined, the Editor stating that he would be willing to advise authors to submit their papers to a Journal published under the auspices of the Association of Clinical Pathologists if it appeared that they were better suited to such a publication than to the Journal.

1947

When the Committee met at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in January 1947, the protracted discussion on the qualification of members was brought to a conclusion: it was decided that unless there were exceptional considerations a candidate should not be recommended for membership unless he had been three years qualified and completed two whole years in pathological work. J. W. Howie was elected an assistant editor. At this meeting the question of a spring meeting in Liverpool was again canvassed and owing to the local difficulties the Committee decided to abandon it. The Conference on Experimental Animals, which had reported at the Sheffield meeting, announced that it had concluded its labours and was left with a deficit of £50. The Society decided to contribute £5.

At the July Committee meeting (1947) an invitation was received from N. Goormaghtigh to hold the next summer meeting in Ghent: this was cordially welcomed and the Secretaries were asked to make arrangements. This meeting was later cancelled owing to the refusal of the Treasury to allow the necessary currency. Stewart, at short notice, arranged for the meeting to be in Leeds.

1948

In 1948 the January meeting was held at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College and the July one at Leeds. At the latter the Committee discussed at length the difficulties, arising from the increase in membership, of continuing to hold meetings of the type traditional in the Society. The Barts' meeting had been attended by over 300 individuals and was very overcrowded. Of the various remedies discussed the Committee considered that the experiment of meeting in two sections was the most practicable and should be given a trial. At the general meeting H. M. Turnbull and Oswald T. Avery were elected Honorary Members.

JAMES McINTOSH

At this meeting, in the course of the Secretaries' report, J. H. Dible paid a tribute to James McIntosh, who had died during the course of the year. McIntosh was a much admired and personally loved member of the Society, the former for his great ability and important contributions to the advancement of pathology throughout his whole working life, and the latter for his personal qualities. A strong and vigorous personality, quick to anger and a man of strong likes and dislikes, McIntosh was generous and kind in the extreme. His vigorous qualities were a great asset at the

meetings of our Society and with him departed one of the more vivid personalities of the Society's middle period. He was Treasurer from 1939 to 1948.

At the meeting in December 1948 the Committee received a welcome invitation from a new quarter. Dr M. Straub of Rotterdam wrote suggesting that the Society should hold an additional meeting in Holland in the month of April. This was cordially received and Straub was nominated a member of the Society. The scientific sessions at the December general meeting were held in two sections for the first time. Pathological papers were given at University College Hospital Medical School and bacteriological papers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where the demonstrations were also taken. At this meeting 39 new members were elected, a record to that date; but at the following winter meeting 50 new members were elected: these figures show the very rapid growth of the Society and emphasise the seriousness of the problem of accommodation. During the course of the Society's dinner at the Mecca Restaurant, A. Norman, on behalf of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology, presented the Woodhead Medal of the Institute to H. R. Dean.

1949

The Summer meeting of 1949 was held at Oxford. The Committee dined at Worcester College. At this meeting, for the third time in the Society's history, an attempt was set on foot to limit its size, E. T. C. Spooner giving notice that he would move a resolution on the matter at the next Committee meeting when the item could be on the agenda. It was decided to support British Abstracts to the extent of £300 a year for three years. R. W. Scarff was nominated to the Board of Directors and G. R. Cameron to the Committee dealing with Section A covering pathological subjects. The Committee also learnt that a large meeting of representatives of societies interested in the standardisation of biological dyestuffs had met at the Royal Society of Medicine under Dible's chairmanship. As a result 'The British Dyestuffs Commission' had been constituted with Sir John Simonson as its Chairman and Dr W. B. Sandiford as its secretary. The Committee also approved a British National Committee for the International Society of Geographical Pathology. Dr Straub attended the general meeting and issued a personal invitation from the Netherlands Pathological Society for meetings in Amsterdam and Leiden on 14 and 15 April 1950, which was enthusiastically received. The Oxford programme was a large one, consisting of 31 communications and 19 demonstrations; the sections of Pathology and Bacteriology met separately. Many members were accommodated in Colleges and the Society's dinner was held in Hertford College.

1950: EMBARRASSING GROWTH OF THE SOCIETY

In 1950 the Society grappled for the third and perhaps the last time with the problem of its size (Fig. 2.5). The Secretaries reported to the Committee that in their examination of the possibilities of meeting in some central hall they had investigated the Beveridge Hall of London University, the Friends' House, the Royal Society of Medicine, the Royal Geographical Society, the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Royal College of Nursing, the Royal Institution, the Scala Theatre, the Royal Horticultural Society, Imperial College, and other Institutes of the University of London, but none of these had been available or suitable for the winter meeting. The matter was lengthily debated and it was widely agreed that much was lost by splitting the Society's meeting into two sections. The main problem concerned the London meetings and Dible gave it as his opinion that if the membership of the Society was limited to 800 it would be possible to continue the traditional character of its meetings, although in London it might be necessary, in the absence of

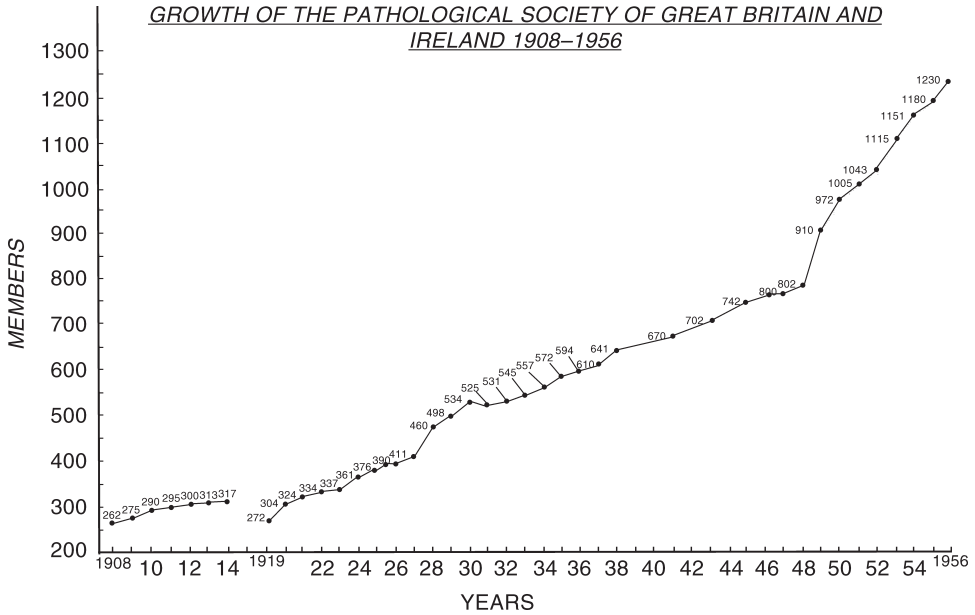


Figure 2.5 Growth of the Society.

a large hall, to meet in two sections. Spooner proposed, and Downie seconded, a motion that ‘the number of new members elected each year be limited to 20 until the membership of the Society is reduced to 800 at which it should remain. The election of new members to be by ballot of those proposed after the nominations have been approved by the Committee.’ Their motion was carried by 11 votes to 4. The Secretaries were also asked to arrange for three meetings a year, if possible. At the following general meeting the Secretaries gave notice that this motion would be presented for decision by the Society at the Statutory meeting in the summer. Thus the matter remained until the Committee met in Dundee in July. Then a memorandum from Dean setting out the arguments against limitation was considered and a number of members of the Committee spoke of objections to the proposal that had been made to them. Spooner, who was absent, had sent a letter in which he said he would agree to withdraw the motion if the Committee were of a like mind, and in effect the Committee decided to ask permission of the Society to withdraw the motion for limitation of its size at the private business meeting on the following day. This was its fate. The writer of this record of the Society, who from his experience as one of its secretaries had proposed in 1945 the limitation of the Society’s size, believes that this act was not in the best interests of the Society. A compact Society of reasonable size is able to transact scientific business in an admirably informal manner; this is of great value to those engaged in the prosecution of research who desire to communicate and obtain criticism of work that is in hand but not at the moment in its final form. Such a proving ground is impossible in a Society of large size in which personal criticism is more difficult. Moreover, the very size of the Society in later years has imposed physical restraints upon its meetings that can only be escaped from by corresponding limitations, the most obvious of which is the splitting of the Society into sections. In the laudable desire to keep the Society open to all aspirants for membership, its members have imposed upon themselves limitations that they have repeatedly exclaimed against.

At this meeting the Committee received a request from the Royal College of Physicians to act as a ‘Specialist Association’, and to classify its members for the information of the Advisory

Committee on Distinction Awards: the invitation was declined. A request from a member for support of a claim for recognition as a consultant was also refused.

AMSTERDAM

The Society met in Amsterdam on Friday, 14 April and in the University of Leiden on Saturday 15 April 1950. Papers were presented by members of the Society and by members of the Netherlands Pathological Society. The meeting was an enjoyable and memorable one, and by the kindness of the Society's Dutch hosts visits were made to the battlefield of Arnhem and the cemetery of the Airborne Division at Oosterbeek, as well as to De Hoge Veluwe and the van Gogh museum. The kind hospitality of the Society's Dutch hosts will be long remembered by those who were present and marked the good fellowship between Dutch and British pathologists that it is hoped will long endure.

At its meeting in Dundee in July 1950, the Committee decided against a meeting in March 1951. The number of assistant editors was increased from two to four, the two senior assistant editors to be *ex officio* members of the Committee. Here, at the general meeting, it was agreed to circulate the audited accounts and balance sheet prior to the statutory meeting and also that Senior Members should in future pay no subscription. The members of the Society were entertained to tea by the kindness of the College Council.

At the December meeting, a statement was made to the Committee that vacancies in its number were repeatedly filled by the same individuals so that new blood was not introduced: a regulation was suggested to obviate this. On looking into the matter it was found that over the preceding seven years only one member had in fact been elected twice: the Committee agreed however that, without making any rule in the matter, it was not desirable for a retiring member to allow his name to be proposed for election until a reasonable period, such as two or three years, had passed. The general meeting, which was at St Thomas's Hospital, was divided into two sections: 'A' of Morbid Anatomy, Experimental Pathology and Cancer Research, and 'B' of Bacteriology, Serology and Virus Infections.

1951

The January 1951 issue of the Journal was published in honour of Sir Alexander Fleming, *FRS*, and the April issue in honour of Professor Carl Browning, *FRS*, in each case on the occasion of the member's 70th birthday.

The summer meeting of 1951 was held in the large Arts Theatre of Liverpool University, which accommodated the whole company comfortably. The Committee considered criticisms that had been made of the style of presentation of papers by some contributors and the illegibility of much of the tabular matter shown on slides. S. L. Baker wrote: 'The worst type of paper, of which we usually have one or more at each meeting, takes the form of an inaudible soliloquy in front of a series of invisible tables'. The Secretaries were instructed to draft a memorandum on this subject, discouraging the reading of papers and making suggestions for improving presentation and for the amount of tabular matter that could be shown intelligibly on a lantern slide. This resulted in the leaflet that it is now the practice to send to all members who submit the title of a paper. An interesting project for a Science Centre for London, under the aegis of the Royal Society, was made known. The centre, it was suggested, might provide the societies invited to collaborate with a hall suitable for large meetings, as well as facilities for demonstrations and refreshments, the use of a committee room and possibly an office for secretarial purposes. The plan appealed very much to members of the Committee. The Royal Society initially refused to consider a request that

The Pathological Society should have an opportunity to participate. The matter had however been re-opened through the energetic action of certain members, in particular Dean, Wilson Smith and Florey, and the Royal Society had agreed to reconsider the matter. At this time it seemed that such a centre might provide a solution for the problems of the Society's London meetings, and possibly for some of those arising from the Journal. The matter does not seem to have been proceeded with.

1952

In consequence of criticisms of the Society's conservative financial policy, made during Private Business at the Liverpool meeting, together with a suggestion that accumulated capital might be employed in providing Research Studentships, Fellowships, Prizes and a hospitality fund, the Committee deliberated on its financial policy at the January 1952 meeting in Cambridge. The conclusion reached was that the Society's resources should be conserved in view of increasing expenses, especially with regard to the Journal and the probability that these would continue to increase in the future. The Society's officers were asked to prepare a memorandum giving a reasoned statement of the way in which the Society's monies had been used in the past, and of the financial position, for presentation to all members at the summer meeting. It was also decided to provide some funds for hospitality and social entertainment for the Society's Dutch colleagues and their wives who were expected at the Glasgow meeting, and Cappell was authorised to make certain expenditure for this purpose. The Cambridge meeting was extended over three days and embraced 51 communications. The whole Society met in the Anatomy theatre on the Thursday afternoon, and on the Friday and Saturday divided into sections that met in the departments of Anatomy and Pathology.

In July 1952 the Society met in Glasgow, again for three days: J. W. Howie resigned the senior assistant editorship that he had held since 1947. L. Foulds also resigned from the post of a junior assistant editor and D. H. Collins was appointed to the latter vacancy. The price of the Journal was considered and Stewart advised that the subscription should be raised: this was not acceded to by the Committee, but it was decided to increase the cost to outside subscribers to £4. H. J. Parish reported on the valuable work of the Laboratory Animals Bureau, on which he represented the Society. It was agreed to subscribe £10 10s annually to the funds of Epsom College and £40 per annum to assist in the schooling of Bryan Flaks. The memorandum setting out the financial position of the Society in relation to its resources, which had been drafted by Dible, was presented at Private Business during this meeting. Members of the Netherlands Pathological Society were present; the special arrangements for the entertainment included a dinner for the Dutch ladies in the University Rooms and a dinner for the visitors in the Faculty Hall of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. An excursion was arranged on the Sunday following the meeting to Loch Katrine and the Trossachs.

1953

In 1953 the January meeting was held in London in two sections: that of Pathology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and that of Bacteriology at the Wellcome Research Institute. At the January Committee meeting Stewart reported on the delay in publishing papers that had reached from six to eight months. The question of publishing additional volumes each year and also of increasing the subscription to the Society was considered: it was decided to review the matter at the July meeting. A sum of £100 a year for five years was voted for the assistance of the family of the late E. A. Home. It was decided to discontinue supporting the Biological Council since the Society gained little advantage from its activities.

At the Belfast Committee meeting in the summer Stewart again strongly urged an increase in the subscription owing to the growing losses on the Journal account. It was decided not to do this immediately, in view of the sound financial position of the Society as a whole, but as an interim measure to increase the proportion of members' subscriptions to the Journal account from 6s per member per part to 8s, a compromise that Stewart sturdily disapproved. A request was received from the Association of Clinical Pathologists that the Society should send representatives to an ad hoc committee set up by the Association to discuss the question of promoting a Faculty of Pathologists. The Committee decided that it was in no position to send representatives from the Society, but nominated three observers who might attend the Association's committee and who would be at liberty to express their personal opinions.

1954

In 1954 the January meeting was held in Birmingham and the July one in Edinburgh. At both of these meetings the Society was divided into sections. At the latter it was finally decided to withdraw the Society's financial support from British Abstracts, which had experienced various vicissitudes but was not in the Committee's view of sufficient value to pathologists to warrant the considerable expenditure the Society had incurred over the past four years. H. R. Dean and M. J. Stewart were elected Honorary Members at the Edinburgh meeting. At this meeting Dean resigned his secretaryship, which he had held since 1920. On the motion of the Chairman (A. M. Drennan) the Society recorded in the Minutes its gratitude and appreciation of his long service. A. W. Downie was appointed to the vacancy. The splitting of the Society into sections was adversely criticised by J. W. McLeod during the Private Business, and in this he was supported by A. C. Lendrum. It was suggested that more communications could be given in the form of demonstrations. The Chairman remarked that splitting was a penalty of the Society's size.

1955

In 1955 the January meeting was held in the Great Hall of the new Royal College of Surgeons buildings in Lincoln's Inn Fields. It was hoped that the space available would enable the division of the meeting into sections to be avoided and that in the splendid accommodation of this fine new building, with so many amenities available, a solution might be found to the chronic difficulties of the London meetings that became greater every year. These hopes were not entirely fulfilled, as the more formal arrangements dictated by so large a meeting destroyed some of the intimacy and facility for debate so valued in the Society. However, it seems that these difficulties are not insoluble and on future occasions the Society may be extremely glad to accept again the hospitality of the Royal College. Once more the Committee wrestled with the incompatibilities of meeting as a single body, providing adequate time for discussion, avoiding an extra session on Thursday, terminating the meeting at lunch time on the Saturday, and dealing with programmes and audiences of a size that made these desiderata impossible! In fact at this meeting, which occupied two days, 41 communications were given and the end was not reached until 5 p.m. on the Saturday evening.

STEWART RESIGNS

At the summer meeting in Bristol, Stewart informed the Committee of his desire to resign his editorship at the end of the year; at the same time Cameron resigned his post as a senior assistant editor, which he had held since C. L. Oakley undertook to discharge the duties of Editor for one

year and to report. J. W. Orr was appointed an assistant editor. At the Private Business on the following day G. L. Montgomery voiced the Society's very real and deep appreciation of Stewart's long, unselfish and efficient editorship, by which he had made the Journal a model amongst scientific journals. He moved: 'That the Society do express its sorrow and regret at Stewart's retirement and offer him its sincere and warmest thanks for his great and outstanding service'. In replying, Stewart said that his labour as an Editor had been a labour of love. He referred to his long association with Boycott to whom he attributed many of the editorial traditions of the Journal, and to the help he had had from his assistant editors. At this meeting Pierre Masson was elected an Honorary Member.

1956

The Committee at its Bristol meeting had received a memorandum from a number of signatories regarding ways in which it was suggested that the meetings might be improved. These problems had exercised the Committee for some time and various shifts had already been tried or were under consideration to meet the points raised. As an outcome of this the Secretaries met the subscribers to the memorandum at the Westminster School in January 1956 and had a full and frank discussion in which all the matters were dealt with and the possibilities explored. On the Secretaries reporting this discussion to the Committee it was decided, as an experiment, to convene the summer meeting in Manchester in 1956 for the Thursday morning and to continue to meet as a single body until Saturday mid-day, but to divide the subjects on the agenda in a more formal manner than had been done at any previous meeting and, by taking these sections consecutively and as far as possible at stated times, to try to permit those whose interests lay only in special parts of the programme to attend these without inconvenience. Other suggestions, e.g. that contributors should be asked to submit summaries of their papers, or that the programme should be limited in size and that the secretaries should make a selection of the papers offered, were not supported. A. Macdonald resigned from the post of a junior assistant editor.

ROTTERDAM

A special meeting was held in Rotterdam by the invitation of the Netherlands Pathological Society on 13–14 April 1956. Twenty-seven papers were read, and 49 members of the Society and 45 of the Netherlands Society signed the book.

THE JUBILEE MEETING

The summer meeting in Manchester in 1956 marked the jubilee of the Society, which as I have recounted began its existence in the same lecture theatre of that University 50 years previously. This physiological lecture theatre, which is a striking reminder of the large views of the late Professor William Stirling, comfortably accommodated the whole Society (Fig. 2.6); a beautiful bouquet of carnations, presented by The Pathological Society of the Netherlands, adorned the lecture table. The meeting began at 10 a.m. on the Thursday, 12 July, and the papers were arranged in sections as had been decided previously. Forty-four scientific papers were given and ten demonstrations. In Private Business the increase in the subscription to £3 was authorised. At the close of the Private Business the writer gave a short account of the history of the Society based upon the present article. A telegram of greeting was sent to Sir Robert Muir, who returned a most appreciative reply. The customary Committee supper was enlarged on this occasion to include all those who had served

THE SOCIETY AT MANCHESTER, JUBILEE MEETING, 13TH JULY 1956



Photo by Guttenberg, Ltd., Manchester

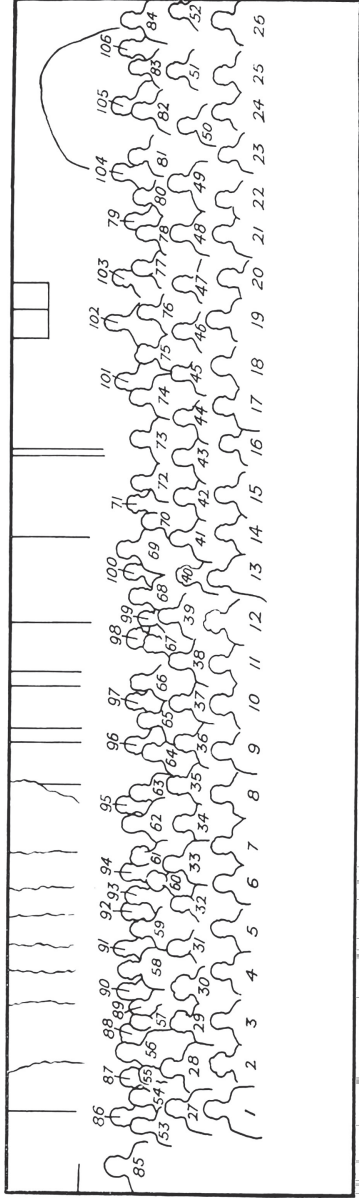


Figure 2.6 Members of the Society at the Jubilee Meeting.

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. J. B. Duguid | 37. J. C. Sherris | 73. J. J. Bullen |
| 2. Janet S. F. Niven | 38. J. W. Stewart | 74. A. E. Francis |
| 3. R. F. Ogilvie | 39. R. W. Fairbrother | 75. Georgiana M. Bonser |
| 4. F. O. MacCallum | 40. Joan Taylor | 76. A. G. Rickards |
| 5. A. C. P. Campbell | 41. S. T. Cowan | 77. K. R. Dumbell |
| 6. V. D. Allison | 42. R. E. O. Williams | 78. W. G. D. Caldwell |
| 7. D. M. Pryce | 43. J. W. Howie | 79. D. Hobson |
| 8. T. Crawford | 44. K. S. Zinnemann | 80. F. Pick |
| 9. R. J. V. Pulvertaft | 45. C. A. Green | 81. T. D. S. Holliday |
| 10. J. W. Orr | 46. J. F. Wilson | 82. Th. G. Van Rijssel |
| 11. C. L. Oakley | 47. A. W. Branwood | 83. B. E. Heard |
| 12. Zaidéc Milner | 48. A. C. Lendrum | 84. A. G. Heppleston |
| 13. D. H. Collins | 49. H. E. Schornagel | 85. F. C. Chesterman |
| 14. C. V. Harrison | 50. D. MacKinnon | 86. L. M. Franks |
| 15. H. N. Green | 51. N. F. C. Gowing | 87. G. E. Paget |
| 16. W. D. Newcomb | 52. I. Friedmann | 88. Mary A. Head |
| 17. S. L. Baker | 53. J. Ball | 89. W. Whitelaw |
| 18. H. B. Maitland | 54. L. Golberg | 90. I. M. P. Dawson |
| 19. J. W. McLeod | 55. H. S. Baar | 91. J. B. Walter |
| 20. M. J. Stewart | 56. D. J. O'Brien | 92. R. J. C. Hari |
| 21. D. F. Cappell | 57. A. E. Chaplin | 93. Marry Catto |
| 22. C. H. Browning | 58. A. J. McCall | 94. M. T. Parker |
| 23. W. Mair | 59. A. J. Watson | 95. P. N. Magee |
| 24. A. F. J. Maloney | 60. Pang Shu-Chao | 96. R. E. B. Hudson |
| 25. J. W. Czekalowski | 61. H. Morag MacCallum | 97. H. B. Hewitt |
| 26. B. J. Mansens | 62. J. R. Anderson | 98. Clara Stewart |
| 27. H. L. Sheehan | 63. I. Rannie | 99. J. O. Laws |
| 28. J. S. Faulds | 64. F. B. Smith | 100. I. Doniach |
| 29. Dorothy S. Russell | 65. M. C. Berenbaum | 101. H. K. Weinbren |
| 30. Elizabeth Travers | 66. S. Szutowicz | 102. M. G. McEntegart |
| 31. G. A. Dunlop | 67. Edith K. Dawson | 103. K. McCarthy |
| 32. N. J. Brown | 68. H. B. Stoner | 104. H. de C. Baker |
| 33. F. J. W. Lewis | 69. H. J. Whiteley | 105. H. Williams |
| 34. A. G. Marshall | 70. D. Rivers | 106. G. Williams |
| 35. W. H. McMenemey | 71. C. C. S. Pike | |
| 36. M. A. Epstein | 72. E. M. Ward | |

Figure 2.6 (Continued)

during Stewart's tenure of office as Editor. Thirty-three were present, including Stewart and Mrs Stewart. On behalf of his colleagues Dean presented Stewart with a Georgian silver tea service as a memento of affection and regard, and of their appreciation of his devoted and distinguished work as Editor of the Journal for over 20 years, and both Stewart and Mrs Stewart replied.

On Thursday evening, 12 July, a reception to mark the anniversary of the Society's foundation was given by the Council of Manchester University in the Whitworth Hall. The Vice-Chancellor Sir John Stopford, FRS, and Lady Stopford received the guests.

The Society's dinner in the Students' Union departed on this occasion from the traditional custom, in that the remaining original members were invited to be present as guests, and of these W. Mair and Carl H. Browning were able to attend; other guests were the senior members of the Faculty of Medicine of the University. The chair at the dinner was taken by H. R. Dean; the health of the Society was proposed by Sir Geoffrey Jefferson, FRS, Emeritus Professor of Neurosurgery in the University of Manchester and replied to by Carl H. Browning, FRS, Emeritus Professor of Bacteriology in the University of Glasgow.

EPILOGUE

Thus ends this short account of The Pathological Society. If I have delved rather deeply into the day-to-day work of the Committee and its somewhat humdrum problems, I have done this deliberately

THE SOCIETY AT MANCHESTER, JUBILEE MEETING, 13TH JULY 1956



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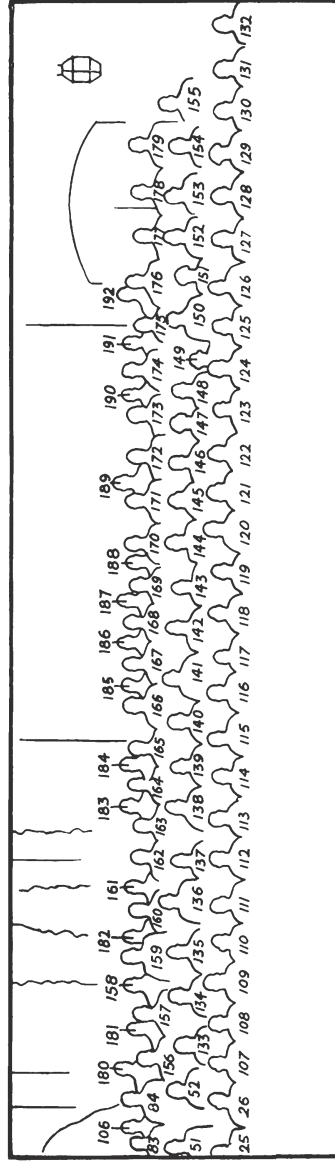


Figure 2.6 (Continued)

25. J. W. Czekalowski	131. E. M. Dunlop	162. H. Lederer
26. B. J. Mansens	132. G. P. McCullagh	163. E. T. Ruston
51. N. F. C. Gowing	133. S. D. Elek	164. D. McLean
52. I. Friedmann	134. Scott Thomson	165. R. M. Fry
83. B. E. Heard	135. T. E. Parry	166. J. H. Rack
84. A. G. Heppleston	136. E. G. Hall	167. D. L. Gardner
106. G. Williams	137. K. B. Rogers	168. B. Cruickshank
107. R. W. Scarff	138. F. Whitwell	169. J. B. Gibson
108. A. de Minjer	139. M. K. Alexander	170. G. Grant
109. O. H. Dijkstra	140. J. D. A. Gray	171. M. Symons
110. J. H. Dible	141. E. M. Darmady	172. R. A. Caldwell
111. J. Cruickshank	142. R. J. R. Cureton	173. R. H. Mole
112. H. R. Dean	143. R. Schade	174. G. A. K. Missen
113. A. W. Downie	144. B. Lennox	175. H. I. Winner
114. J. Mills	145. W. H. Hughes	176. A. D. Thomson
115. J. H. Biggart	146. E. W. Hurst	177. H. A. Sissons
116. H. Hamperl	147. E. Florence McKeown	178. A. H. Cruickshank
117. J. E. Morison	148. T. H. Flewett	179. W. St. C. Symmers
118. J. C. Burne	149. Eileen O. Bartley	180. R. A. B. Drury
119. P. O. Yates	150. G. W. A. Dick	181. P. Pullar
120. R. F. Jennison	151. Mary Sharp	182. M. Corridan
121. S. H. Jackson	152. J. V. T. Gostling	183. T. Bird
122. R. Whitehead	153. J. S. Young	184. D. G. Scott
123. F. A. Langley	154. A. G. Stansfeld	185. H. C. Moore
124. J. P. Smith	155. G. A. C. Summers	186. H. T. G. Strawbridge
125. T. S. L. Beswick	156. W. J. Williams	187. H. N. Hadders
126. F. S. Mooney	157. R. A. Parker	188. H. Urich
127. J. Gough	158. J. S. Kennedy	189. M. C. H. Dodgson
128. A. C. Thackray	159. R. C. Curran	190. D. B. Brewer
129. Isobel P. Beswick	160. D. C. Roberts	191. K. R. Thornton
130. R. Finlayson	161. D. G. F. Harriman	192. L. Michaels

Figure 2.6 (Continued)

so that members may have a record of what has been done. In our Society the business of keeping the wheels turning has always been accepted by the Committee, and thus valuable time at meetings has not been frittered away by tedious discussions on minor matters of business; this at times evokes criticism, but on reflection I believe the policy to have been wise. Our Society also, as far as it has been able, has refused to be drawn into political activities with all the entanglements and wrangling that these involve. This I am certain has been wise and by maintaining itself essentially as a scientific society ('The objects of the Society shall be to advance pathology ...') it has done well and enhanced its value and status.

I think it was Voltaire who said 'L'histoire ne peint que l'homme' and it is men who give colour and drama to history. In 50 years of a scientific Society's existence there is little that is likely to be stirring in a dramatic sense. The true history of the Society is the work of its members and this is to be found in the records of its meetings and in the volumes of the *Journal of Pathology and Bacteriology*. Let us agree that this is so, and that the incidents that have punctuated its progress are only the bricks in an edifice that is just beginning. But even so we eventually come back to the men; the figures who conceived the building and raised the scaffolding; the architects and founders of our Society: Lorrain Smith, Robert Muir, James Ritchie and A. E. Boycott, and others who coming quickly afterwards contributed so much to its structure and its present status, especially H. R. Dean and M. J. Stewart (Table 2.1).

On this our 50th birthday we have a right to be proud of an honourable and honoured past, and in praising the great men, 'our fathers that begat us', we are certain that the present and future generations will uphold the traditions that the past 50 years of the Society's existence have seen established under their guidance.

Table 2.1 Officers of the Society from 1906 to 1956

Data	Secretaries	Treasurer	Editor ^a	Assistant editors
1906	{ Ritchie Boycott	Power White		
1913		Ledingham		
1920	{ Boycott Dean		Ritchie	{ Boycott Dean
1922	{ Dean Stewart			
1923		Emrys Roberts	Boycott	{ Stewart Price-Jones
1924		Glymn		
1927				{ Stewart Wright
1928		Kettle		
1930				{ Stewart Topley
1932				{ Stewart Okell
1934	{ Dean Dible		Stewart	{ Okell Cameron
1937		McIntosh		{ Cameron Wright
1943				{ Cameron Downie
1947				{ Cameron Howie
1948		Scarff		
1952				{ Cameron Oakley
1954	{ Dible Downie			
1956			Oakley	{ Collins Orr

^a The Journal, from its foundation in 1892 until the Society acquired it in 1920, was owned by Sims Woodhead who edited it, assisted from 1907 by Ritchie and Boycott.

I am especially grateful to Sir Robert Muir for information about the earliest days of the Society. The facts recorded have been derived from the Minute Books. The manuscript has been read by Carl Browning, H. R. Dean and the late M. I. Stewart. The portrait of Sir Robert Muir (in Fig. 2.2) is reproduced from a wash drawing by his sister Miss Anne D. Muir, RSW. (J. Henry Dible)