‘TOOTH ACH, DEAR!’

Coloured engraving by Thomas Lord Busby (1804-21) after a French design. Menzies Campbell catalogue number HC.J.16.X.86. Published by the artist, 21 Charlotte St, London, 1826.

It depicts an elderly lady consoling a youth (in priestly garb), suffering from toothache. There may be some allegorical significance or contemporary reference which can now only be guessed at. It may perhaps recall the politics of The French Revolution (1789-1799). The old fashioned attire and desiccated appearance of the aged woman and her coupling with a young priest suggests unnatural bedfellows and may depict the dual power of feudal and religious privilege which ruled France during ‘The Old Regime’. This reading of the engraving as a lampoon of the aristocracy and the Church chimes with the political perspective of the revolutionary Jacobins who were the architects of the Reign of Terror. Jacobins saw both Monarchy and Church as the roots of social evil. The young priest’s toothache is almost certainly a comment from a Jacobin perspective either of the influence of the pre-Revolution aristocracy on ‘drawing the teeth’ of the Church; in the sense of emasculating the institution and preventing its proper protective function or it may be a triumphant remark on the success of the Revolution on destroying the perceived power of the Church.

Note: The title of the engraving uses an archaic English spelling of ‘TOOTH ACH’ - without the final 'E'.

Print from The Menzies Campbell Collection at the Surgeons’ Hall Museum Edinburgh, reproduced with permission of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
DENTAL HISTORY MAGAZINE

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Contributions on the History of Dentistry from any source are welcomed. Word and JPEG files by e-mail are preferred but other formats are acceptable.

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Down in the mouth in ancient Egypt: Autumn Lecture 2010

This year’s Henry Noble History of Dentistry Research Group autumn lecture was combined with the Dental School’s annual Menzies Campbell Lecture. We were delighted to welcome Dr Judith Miller to Glasgow Dental Hospital and School on 20 October to give the pithily titled lecture: ‘Down in the Mouth in Ancient Egypt’.

Dr Miller graduated as a dental surgeon from The University of Glasgow in 1963. She practised as an orthodontist but following a trip down the Nile she was inspired to study Biomedical Egyptology at Manchester University where she gained an MSc and a PhD.

The study of ancient Egyptians and their funerary arrangements has proved to be an enduring fascination for the armchair archaeologist and the professional alike. Dr Miller described categories of Egyptian mummies. Some corpses may have mummified naturally due to environmental conditions others are the product of complex ritualistic post-mortem procedures carried out by priests. Dr Miller has examined 500 mummified specimens. The audience learned that the dentition of the Egyptians was heavily influenced by a diet rich in carbohydrate and particularly, by the availability of honey (sucrose). In addition, in a desert, environment the inevitable incorporation of sand (containing quartz and felspar) made food dangerously abrasive to the teeth. Some attrition was so severe that root canals were exposed. Similarly, advanced osteoarthritis of the temporomandibular joint was not unusual. Root caries and both interstitial and occlusal cavities were well represented. Limited dental treatment was available in the period. Dr Miller listed six papyri which record dental prescriptions. The Edwin Smith surgical papyrus discusses dislocation of the mandible. There is even evidence of bridgework using gold wire. But the poor periodontal condition would probably have allowed the removal of decayed teeth by digital pressure alone, there was apparently no great evidence of dental extraction in the cases which Dr Miller considered. She concluded that although the ancient Egyptians had a good, abundant, diet, the pathology of their jaws and dentition, so marked by osteoarthritis, erosion, caries, periodontal and dental abscesses suggests that many would have suffered disfigurement and constant pain and could have taken little pleasure from their meals. Apparently life in ancient Egypt may not have been so glamorous as Hollywood has led us to believe.

Spring Lecture

The Spring Lecture will be given by Melanie Parker, assistant curator of the BDA Museum, London on Monday 14th March, 2011. The subject will be John Tomes. Venue to be announced.

Edna Robertson

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death of Edna Robertson on 8th November 2010. Edna was a member of the executive committee of the Henry Noble History of Dentistry Research Group and a former Editor of the Newsletter. An appreciation of her work will appear in a future issue of Dental History Magazine.

Dental connections of the ‘Glasgow Boys’.

The recent exhibition “Pioneering painters - The Glasgow Boys” at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow has brought to light some dental connections of this celebrated group of painters. Thomas Gilmore Whyte, a dentist who practised in Dundas Street in Glasgow at the end of the 19th century and lived in Helensburgh, was also an accomplished amateur painter who exhibited at the Royal Glasgow Institute. He had a studio at his home which he made available to some of the group and particularly to John (later Sir John) Lavery. The exhibition, which is now transferring to the Royal Academy in London, includes some domestic interiors of Whyte’s family home, and two of his children were models for the ‘goose girl’ in the painting ‘To Pastures New’ used on the exhibition poster, and the boy in the ‘Funeral at Brig o’ Turk’. Can anyone help us trace one of Whyte’s pictures? A visit to a complementary exhibition of the work of ‘The Glasgow Girls’ in Kircudbright, (shortly to
transfer to the Glasgow School of Art), lead to the discovery of a one-man show of paintings by William Hanna Clarke, a former resident of the town and again a friend of the Glasgow Boys, and in particular E A Hornel who lived there. Clarke was also a dentist, having qualified at Glasgow Dental Hospital and School in 1903, but he gave up the profession in 1913 to become a full time artist. Researches continue and we hope to publish a further account in a later issue.

The BDA are hoping to fund the purchase of another, later, Lavery painting - a portrait of his dentist C A Achner at work in his surgery, with Lady Lavery as his patient. The executive of the HNHDRG have pledged their support of the appeal.

A new Chair for Professor Stanley Gelbier

King’s College London Dental Institute has appointed Stanley Gelbier as Honorary Professor in the History of Dentistry, a first for the UK. Professor Gelbier’s historical work is well known from his research, writings, lectures and editorship of Dental Historian. He became Assistant Curator of the British Dental Association Museum in 1982 and full Curator in 1987. Professor Gelbier’s research has ranged widely, from care of pauper children and other deprived people to leading contributors to the profession and dental care, including all those dentists who gained knighthoods or a place in the House of Lords, as well as Chief Dental Officers to the Department of Health, England. He has written histories of the British Paedodontic Society, the International Association of Dentistry for Children and the British Society of Oral Health and Disability. Together with Professor Nairn Wilson, Dean and Head of the Dental Institute, and other colleagues, Professor Gelbier now plans to research other leading dental figures.

Proof that beauty lies in the eye of the beholder

In our recent Japanese cover picture, DHM 3:2, a set of dentures with black bases are shown on the floor half way along the lower margin. This reminded Paul Geissler that there were in the Menzies Campbell Collection, a set of black denture teeth made by Claudius Ash for export to the far east. In her recent book, The Courtesan and the Samurai (Bantam, 2010) the novelist and historian, Lesley Downer includes enchanting descriptions of the detailed procedure for dressing and applying the face paint and black teeth of a 19th century Japanese Geisha. In some variations a rose petal would also be painted on the upper and lower lips. Apparently married Japanese women of this era, also regularly blackened their natural teeth with sumac-leaf gall, vinegar and tea to indicate marital fidelity.
Witness Seminar: The Impact of the National Health Service on the Practice of Dentistry
The Seminar was held on 12 May 2010 at Lilybank House, University of Glasgow. It was an innovative joint venture in the history of dentistry between the University’s Centre for the History of Medicine and The Henry Noble History of Dentistry Research Group. The event was chaired by Professor David McGowan. Five distinguished speakers, who qualified as dental surgeons between 1947 and 1957, gave personal testimonies on both the positive and negative effects of the introduction of the National Health Service on the practice of dentistry. In an overview, one of the contributors, Bill Smith, described the nascent NHS as, ‘A basic ethical service.’

One Afternoon in February 1941: Eyewitness Accounts of the Newmarket Air Raid and the Destruction of a Dental Surgery
One fatal afternoon in February 1941, a German bomber attacked Newmarket. In this moving record of witness statements sent to us by AM Bryant, we learn of the direct hit on his grandfather’s dental surgery and the remarkable stoicism and courage of the victims in the face of violent death.

The US Dental Army Service During WWII
In another absorbing article considering the role of dentists at war, Xavier Riaud gives an account of the organization of The United States Army Dental Service as it prepared for the Normandy Landings. He includes a harrowing account of two war heroes, both dentists, who paid the ultimate price in confronting the enemy to protect the wounded.

Some Useful Dental Advice: 18th Century Style
In his last article for DHM, Malvin Ring draws our attention to The London Chronicle, an 18th century newspaper, which devoted a column to dental treatment. The paper also carried advertisements for dental preparations, suggesting that 18th century readers had a keen interest in dental health.

Bacon and the Textbook: mystery solved
In his article on the work of the artist Francis Bacon (DHM 3:1, p.20) David McGowan discussed the possibility that Bacon’s fascination for painting open mouths, often contorted in a scream, was at least partially inspired by an illustrated medical textbook which the artist acquired in Paris. The article ended in posing the questions: What was the title of the text and who was the illustrator? In this issue, David McGowan describes his completed research into the provenance of the book and reveals the answers to both questions.

Web News: Dental Grills, Diamonds and Rap Music
Carol Parry writes that the Namibian Dental Association’s website has published a page on dental history which includes a dental timeline from the ancient world to the 20th century with excellent illustrations. For readers who are interested in antique dental instruments there is news of the website of Dr Gregory Ribitzky who practises in Beer Sheba, Israel. The dental section of the Discovery Museum Newcastle website is particularly commended, especially for young readers, where they will marvel over quirky dental facts and learn about fashionable diamond tooth grills – all part of the ‘bling’ of rap music culture.
OBITUARIES

Malvin E Ring
Dr Malvin E. Ring DDS MLS FACD died at home in Brighton, New York State, USA on the 8th of April 2010 aged 90. Dr Ring, author of Dentistry: An illustrated History, (1986) and Editor of the Bulletin of the History of Dentistry for 20 years, was a member of our group and a frequent contributor to our pages. We will miss his letters and articles and we are proud to publish a short posthumous article which may be his last published work. In an obituary in the Journal of the History of Dentistry (Vol 58, No 2 p 97, 2010) Dr David Chernin refers to Dr Ring’s ‘concern for the continuing evaporation of the humanities in dental education’. His ability to combine his passion and excitement for history in order to advance this underserved and vital component of dental education became, in his words ‘a lifelong pursuit. Combining his world travels, engaging personality and passion for his chosen field, he advanced a professional awareness of dentistry’s historical roots. Future generations will associate Mal Ring’s name with his extensive, authoritative and invaluable contributions to the dental literature. We have lost a treasured colleague and friend.

Dugald Campbell
Dugald Campbell died in Ocean Grove, Victoria, Australia on 29th March 2010. Born in Glasgow in 1927 he became a dental student at Glasgow in 1946 and qualified LDS RFPS Glasgow in 1950. After National Service in the RAF Dental Branch, Dugald returned to Glasgow working as a Principal in NHS general dental practice in Bridgeton from 1952 – 65 and then in the School Health Service from 1965 – 74. Dugald was a highly respected and successful dental surgeon but in 1974 a new challenge presented itself when the Community Dental Service was created. He was appointed Assistant Chief Administrative Dental Officer (ACADO) to the Greater Glasgow Health Board, the largest in Scotland. There, working with his good friend and colleague, the CADO Bob MacKechnie, he developed his interest and skills in administration. He was especially involved with the Glasgow Dental Hospital & School, the development of regional clinics and outreach teaching for dental students.

Peter Barton
The artist and former consultant oral and maxillofacial surgeon, Peter Barton has died. After military service during WWII, Peter studied at the Sir John Cass School of Art in London. He later qualified in dentistry in 1952 and medicine in 1954. He became a consultant oral and maxillofacial surgeon in Oxford. He left medicine in 1983 to paint full time at his studio in Sheildaig, Wester Ross. Peter exhibited widely in Scotland and England and a large number of his works are held in public and private collections. Two examples of his work, ‘North Cuillen Ridge’ and ‘Beinn Eighe’ have recently appeared on the covers of DHM (3:2 and 4:1). Both pictures are in the collection of Khursheed and Kate Moos.
The Impact of the National Health Service on the Practice of Dentistry

Witness Seminar, 12th May 2010
Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Glasgow and
The Henry Noble History of Dentistry Research Group

In the absence of Dr. Malcolm Nicolson, due to ill health, Professor Marguerite Dupree welcomed everyone to the Seminar being held in Lilybank House, University of Glasgow. There were five lead speakers, a chairman and an audience of twenty-three attended.

The Chairman, Professor David McGowan invited all to enjoy the experience of reminiscing together and hearing about the changes brought about by the introduction of the NHS in 1948, described by witnesses who actually experienced this important time in dental history.

The speakers were: - Prof Sir David Mason, Prof D McGowan (Chair, standing), Dr Rufus Ross, Prof Khursheed Moos, Mr Bernard Caplan, Mr Bill Smith.

Witness: Bernard Caplan
The first speaker, Bernard Caplan qualified in 1950, and is about to celebrate the 60th anniversary with his 12 remaining fellow graduates later this year. Leaving Glasgow Dental School and going straight into practice as an assistant earning the princely sum of £20 per week was a huge change. At the commencement of the NHS there were no previous patient records. As all treatment was now free, patients queued up to be seen and especially for new dentures. It was quite common for patients to visit several dentists over a very short period and so obtain several spare sets all free under the NHS.

Bernard was horrified to discover that dentists were still using cocaine for local anaesthesia despite the dangers which had been stressed in his undergraduate course.

Dentures went straight from ‘bite’ to ‘finish’ with no ‘try in’ and Saturday morning was allocated to denture fitting only. This was done by the dentist, his assistant and also by the technician. It was of course highly illegal then for anyone other than the qualified dentist to put fingers into a patient’s mouth.

In his training years the patient came first, time and money were irrelevant. Bernard now had to work with the situation where more patients meant more money and so time spent on the patient was minimal.

Witness: Bill Smith
Bill Smith, the next speaker, qualified in 1957 having completed his National Service before commencing his studies. Bill spent part of his childhood in Iraq, before returning to Millport and was educated at Rothesay Academy. He was a lifelong friend of Prof. Bob Caldwell, also a Millport boy. Unsure of which way to turn after qualifying, the sum of £20 per week as an assistant in practice was very appealing.

Although nine years had passed since the start of the Health Service, getting as many patients as possible through the door and making money was the aim. Bill had a practice in the same building as Collins the Publishers and treated many of their staff. Bill told of experiences with the Regional Dental Officers, who chose patients at random to check that the dentist’s work had been completed satisfactorily before the NHS made payment for the work. This situation was highlighted when a young lady signed up for free dental treatment using the name of a friend who had emigrated to America. She was called for examination by the RDO (Regional Dental Officer, NHS official) and only with great difficulty was she eventually traced and the discrepancy explained. Bill saw the NHS as a basic ethical service.
Witness: Rufus Ross

The third speaker was Dr. Rufus Ross, Chairman of the Henry Noble History of Dentistry Research Group. Starting in Glasgow Dental School in the plaster room doing dental mechanics, now known as prosthodontics, he qualified LDS in 1947. This was the last year to qualify LDS, as in late 1947 Glasgow Dental Hospital and School became part of Glasgow University and the dental degree became BDS. Rufus did not start an assistantship because he joined the RAF for his 2 years National Service. It was there that he had to give his first dental block injection, this had never been taught as part of the dental course. Returning to Glasgow in 1949, and married that same year, Rufus set up an NHS practice in Partick. Due to building regulations they had to reside in the property during the working week, but live with their parents at the weekend. This was the very early years of the NHS and like his colleagues Rufus’s experience was that his workmanship was regulated by what the NHS was prepared to pay. In 1960 he joined a partnership in Chisholm Street where he remained for 12 years and in 1978 he became a Community Dental Officer. Touring with a caravan and visiting schools and local communities it was possible to give much more time and care to the patient. Rufus retired in 1986, when his interest turned to dental history.

Witness: Khursheed Moos

Professor Khursheed Moos lived in London and was only 14 years old in 1947. He qualified in London in 1957 and worked in a variety of practices. On returning from his National Service in the army, he decided to study medicine. To help fund his studies he worked as a locum in an NHS practice. Once again preparation for entering general practice had been lacking during his study years. Sterilization of instruments was by immersion in boiling water and the preferred treatment was extraction rather than preservation of the teeth. It was not uncommon to find young women wearing ill-fitting dentures which they had removed from their mothers after death.

Witness: David Mason

Professor Sir David Mason was the final speaker. What impact did the NHS have on Dental Education? It was envisaged that dental education would have a better future with support from the NHS and this has proved to be so. Previously teaching in the Dental School was on a part time basis, given by visiting dental practitioners and the Dental Hospital was severely under-funded at this time. In 1947 Glasgow University took over responsibility for Dental Education, and the first full time appointments were made under the guidance of Professor James Aitchison. By 1969 the Renfrew Street building was extended, with a frontage on Sauchiehall Street and the student intake was raised from 50 to 75 per year. The undergraduate General Dental Practice unit was an innovative development and NHS support transformed specialty and higher training. The Post-Graduate Dental Centre which opened in 1987 was the first such centre in the UK. Outreach teaching across the country expands, and dental education though very different continues to succeed. Operational research in the NHS has profoundly influenced education as well as the delivery of services.

Discussion session

The speakers and audience adjourned for a well-earned break for refreshments, before returning for a 45-minute question and discussion session. This proved most interesting with many questions being raised. The discussion could have continued very much longer, but at 5.00 pm it was time to bring the meeting to a close. Professor McGowan closed the meeting by thanking Professor Dupree and the Centre for the History of Medicine for hosting this event, and thanking especially all speakers who had taken part, all who had worked hard to organise and make the event a success and finally to those who had come along to listen and participate. Professor McGowan reminded us that these are just a few examples of the experiences of dentists under the new NHS in Scotland in the early 1950’s, but most importantly they have now been recorded for future historians of the dental profession. Dr. Ross proposed a vote of thanks to Professor McGowan for his excellent chairmanship.

The seminar was recorded by Glasgow University sound engineers and the recording will be available through the University’s website in due course. An edited transcript will also be prepared for later publication.
One Afternoon in February 1941

Eyewitness Accounts of the Newmarket Air Raid and the Destruction of a Dental Practice

From the book edited by Dave Occomore

In February 1991 the Newmarket Local History Society commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Newmarket Air Raid with an exhibition, and in 2000 published a book titled, ‘One afternoon in February’ edited by Dave Occomore. It was brought to our attention by Tony Bryant, a third generation dentist and Edinburgh graduate whose grandfather’s practice was destroyed in the raid. The excerpts are published with the kind permission of the Society.

Joe Woods and Sherrif Hallet were in Bryant’s Dental Surgery when the bombers struck. These are their stories.

Joe Woods writes:

“It was to my knowledge and remembrance a bright crisp sunny spring-like afternoon. I had been in the market which ran up both sides of the High Street and had purchased some seeds from Rolph’s stall returning to Eaton House a little late to business where my job was to cast two gold upper dental bridges for a Czech Doctor, who incidentally was cook for a Czech Patriotic Camp up Fordham Road, Newmarket.

They were nice castings and as I washed them to ease the invested debris away; I was extremely pleased. An assistant, Frank Smith, shouted to my horror, ‘Look quick, there’s a German plane turning over the airfield way!’ I looked - the plane had a drone like a Dornier but it could have been a Whitley. No doubt it turned round over or between Exning and Burwell and veered towards Fordham and the Bury Roads. They had seen what they wanted; there was no opposition, it came into Newmarket via the Jubilee Clock and let loose its stick of bombs. We heard them exploding as the dust and debris receded.

Frank Smith rushed to the stairs. Walter Bryant rushed from his Surgery and we called Ruth Tonge from her typewriter. I kept in the Laboratory, up against the office wall and told Sherrif Hallet to sit in the corner near me. The bomb fell shattering the Surgery. The floor above was equally devastated, the Ladies Hairdressers had disappeared and the Sporting Chronicle office, Gilbert’s Ironmongery and Goodwin’s were hit. Chester’s the Tailors and Leonard’s had gone but so had our neighbours, The Post Office and Boyce & Rogers, the Saddlers.

The bombing continued [hitting] Boots the Chemists, The White Hart Hotel, Lloyds the Solicitors and the Memorial Hall. Higher up the street, Hepworths, and the Marlborough had ceased to exist and Jack Doore’s Jewellery and Clock and Watch shop had disappeared. Being a trained ARP [Air Raid Precautions] member, and the dust and debris from the explosion having settled, the living were my interest now. From Walter Bryant I extracted a two and a half inch floor nail which had embeded itself in his forehead. Ruth had facial cuts, as had Frank, but Sherrif and I were okay except for shock.

Searching my way out I came across the body of a member of The Sporting Chronicle, and a further two members of the Hair Salon had head wounds. All these were later treated. I found Miss Sturgess the owner of the Salon, looking over Gilbert’s back yard. I called to her but she couldn’t get out so I contacted the rescue party who reached her and freed her by ladder. After helping to release the victims in Calloways I had a wash and went to the Hospital to help out.

They gave me a ward for identification and I had two interesting cases. One was a man who had been travelling from the North, home to London. It appeared that his train had been diverted through Newmarket.

[Since he had been] cooped up in a non-corridor [compartment] with no facilities, he got out as the train pulled up and was directed to the toilets about 200 yards away. Whilst there, the train carried on leaving him stranded. He left the Station and was caught by the blast while visiting the market, unfortunate but safe.

The other incident was a Newmarket man, [who] suffered wounds. His face was very red and bloodied, he had hundreds of hair line scratches and his eyes were swollen. Three times I went...
to him but I couldn't understand what he tried to say. The [ward] sister said would I try again? I did. I was able to ascertain that he was George H Goult, a well known local councillor. Leaving the hospital, Mrs Goult and Mary were in the forecourt. Mrs Goult said, 'They won't tell me anything.' I replied, 'They will now if you ask. George is alive and recovering.'

Arriving home I was told to report, as soon as possible, to ARP HQ. I went straight down and Captain King told me two women were missing from the Hairdressing Salon. They were customers having hair done. I was able to help.

Two bodies were found; one was the Assistant Matron of Newmarket Workhouse (The Hospital) and the other unfortunate came from Mildenhall where her husband was manager of Bendalls, Solicitors.

Pop Butcher and Fred Palmer worked at Calloways. I pinched saws from Gilbert's the Ironmongers. We had these and freed 3 or 4 people from the shop including a baby which had been blown from its mother's arms by the High Street blast.

Next day I went to the mortuary and did further identification. What a heinous recollection. Thank God however the bombs fell on buildings and not the High Street itself. There is a plaque on the Post Office recalling the memory of those who died there. Miss Cole the Telephone Superintendent was later honoured with the MBE." [Member of the British Empire]

Stan Varney, an employee of Burgess the Butchers records:

"At the time of the Newmarket Blitz, I was employed by a Mr A Burgess and worked in his small Family Butchers in the High Street. We sold cooked meats, pies etc, as well as raw meat. As Mr J January, the manager, was called up in the RAF a few weeks earlier, I was in charge of the shop at the time.

I well remember the afternoon of the bombing. I had just gone to the freezer at the rear of the shop, when suddenly there was a loud bang and I could not see for dust. Two lady customers were crawling over the floor towards me. When we looked around, we realized how lucky we were to be alive. I pulled my startled wits together and began to explore the situation. Mr Jefferson, (Newmarket District Council Food and Health Inspector) soon came on the scene and stopped the sale of all foodstuff in the shop.

Then Mr Bryant the dentist, whose shop was next door, came in (I can see him now in his usual snow white jacket, half dazed, looking like a chimney sweep.) He asked me if I could store some of his equipment and false teeth as we had a roof over our premises and his dental establishment was open to the weather. The next day he gave me a bottle of home made wine (a gift from a grateful patient, he told me).

The Army was brought in to help clear up. As far as I can remember they were mostly of Polish and Czech Nationals, and had their eyes on the 'grub stakes'. There was little left to eat in the shop the next morning, one officer told me they didn't go hungry.

[The] most interesting thing the officer told me, was the bomb found next door was a third intact. I saw this myself and was surprised to see it was painted green and red (the Town's football colours) and was made in 1939.

I shall always remember Mr Bailey, a Kirtling farmer, coming in to the shop with about a score of wild rabbits, within an hour or so of the bombing. This was a weekly sale, but today of all days! He still wanted a piece of salt beef, in payment for the rabbits, from the brine tub, which was full of plaster and muck.

When I eventually went home, I was ticked off by my worried parents, who lived up the Bury Road, for not letting them know I was okay. My father was indoor service for the Hon George Lambton. I was only 16 years at the time."

Editor's Note: The following witness statements are not directly concerned with the dental surgery, their edited testimony has been included to acknowledge their experiences and to enhance the peripheral details of the attack on Bryant's Surgery.

The Statements of Alice Day (Sturgess) and Iris Osborne (Hammond):

My sister and I were on the third floor of Eaton House in
the High Street on 18th February 1941, which at this time was a hairdressing salon. The other person working in the Salon at this time was Miss Iris Hammond of Burwell. It was a beautiful day I remember, bright sunshine. Newmarket was very busy because of it being market day, with many stalls down both sides of the High Street, so there were many people walking about.

It was a special day for me because a Mrs Hutchinson from Mildenhall was coming back into the Salon for a perm; her husband was a solicitor at Bendalls. They had been hoping to start a family for 15 years; it was her first visit since having the baby and she was so delighted. Having put her under the dryer, the siren went. Not knowing quite what to do, my sister and I decided to all go down to the ground floor of the building. Sadly Mrs Hutchinson was killed.

To this day, I often wonder if it would have been better had she remained under the dryer, because that dryer was the only one still standing on the floor of the Salon when some days later I returned to look at Eaton House. The other clients to be killed were the two Miss Lamberts from the hospital; one Miss Lambert was the Assistant Matron.

As I have said, we all decided to go to the ground level; we were all on the landing to the stairway when I decided to go and get my engagement ring, which I always took off before using perm lotion. Having put the same on my finger, without any bang what so ever the yellow walls suddenly seemed to bend in two and the next moment what seemed to be a hurricane wind with tremendous force, hit me in the back and, at the same time, swept my arms into the air and lifted me off the floor and carried me through two doorways.

This is what I consider to have saved my life. Unfortunately, the others had a wall behind them, then a metal rail on the landing and another all facing them. My sister and Iris Hammond were forced down the stairs and the walls fell on them. The clients were crushed into the metal rail and the walls fell in on them. It was a real tragedy.

As for myself, I finished out at the back of the building on the only piece of floor left standing - flat on the floor with a very large beam over the top of me, holding up the remains of the building. I lay under this beam and feel sure that is why I am here today. The first thing I was aware of was hearing myself gasping for air, the bomb having created a vacuum.

I was in a very dazed state at this time. However, as I became aware of the situation, I realized just how bad things were. I then crawled along to where there was once a window only to hear a voice say 'Don't move! Stop where you are! Someone will come and get you.' It was Mr Jelliss, the trainer.

I think that it was a fireman that came to get me because I was shaking so much I knocked his helmet off! I can remember seeing Alfred Waugh, who worked at the Sporting Chronicle office on the same floor as us, with an enormous metal screw in the side of his behind plus his trousers. He was in very great pain and received a morphine injection. The other man in the same office was killed.

Iris Osborne writes:
My maiden name was Hammond and I lived at Slade Farm, Burwell. It was a nice spring day when I got on my cycle to go to Newmarket, where I worked at Sturgess the Hairdressers. This was situated on the top floor, with Bryant's the Dentists on the second floor. Both were above Gilbert's the Ironmongers. The morning passed as usual. In the afternoon Miss Lambert, who was in charge of the White Lodge Laundry, came to have a shampoo and set. Mrs Wilks- on [sic. Hutchinson?] of Mildenhall, who had just had a baby, came to have a perm. All was going normally when the siren went.

We could hear a plane, so started to run down the stairs to shelter. I didn't remember any more until I started scraping myself out of the rubble. I eventually got myself out and Marjorie Sturgess had got herself partially out. I said to her, 'I'll give you a pull.' but she said, 'Go back, you are pulling me under'. When she eventually got out I remember saying to her, 'You do look a sight.' She answered, 'What about you, you are covered in blood.' Soon after that I passed out.

My father, who was a farmer, was at the corn market which was then held in the Bull Hotel yard. I was an only child and my Dad and I were close to one another. My father pushed his way down the High Street and eventually met Mr Moore, who was manager of Boots the Chemist. He told my father I had been got out and was taken to the Jockey Club and then to White Lodge Hospital. By this time my sight had gone but after a while I knew where I was because I recognized Miss Marriott's voice. She was head of the Red Cross. Miss Mary Taylor looked after me until I was taken to a ward. On arrival at the ward I said to the nurse, 'I'm blind, but I know you are Diana Darling, the [horse] trainer's daughter' but she did not know me. About 8 p.m. Professor Maxwell cleaned my eyes out with cocaine. The next day I was operated on. My ear was stitched back on, three pieces of shrapnel removed from my left leg and a few broken bones to be mended.

About ten days later Dr Rolands came to see me and said, 'You still have a piece of shrapnel in your left leg.' I said to him, 'I know, it's under me knee.' He then decided to take it out where I was and when [it was] removed it still had a piece of my shirt attached to it.

REFERENCES
1. Eyewitnesses: Joe Woods, Sheriff Hallett, Stan Varney, Alice Day (Sturgess) Marjorie Lash (Sturgess) Iris Osborne (Hammond).
In 1901, speaking at a meeting of The American Dental Association, Dr John Sayre Marshall, the founder of the US Army Dental Care System, declared:

“A soldier who has bad teeth cannot stay in good health for long. He may suffer from sudden digestive disorders which render him unable to fight on the field and which make him a liability for his comrades. The duty of every American dentist is to rehabilitate his mouth so that he can maintain good general health and go back as soon as he can to the front to serve his country.”

**Historical background of American dental care before World War II.**

On June 17, 1775, Major General Joseph Warren died from a bullet wound during the battle of Bunker Hill. It was Paul Revere, a dentist from the newly formed American army, who identified the Major General’s body ten months later in 1776 when Revere recognized the two artificial teeth that he had made for Warren in 1775.

In 1778, Comte de Rochambeau landed in Newport, accompanied by a French dentist, named Jacques Gardette. As the soldiers had to make arrangements for their own dental care, Gardette set about training civil dentists to treat the troops during The American War of Independence, 1775-1812. One such trainee was Josiah Flagg who later served in the American Army during the Anglo-American War of 1812 as a dentist without official status.

In 1839, the first dental school in the world was founded in Baltimore followed in 1940, by The American Dental Association. In 1861, the Dental Association of the North parted with that of the South. During the Civil War, dentists worked for both sides without proper facilities.

On April 4, 1872, William Saunders became the first official dentist of the US Army and treated the youngest officers of the Military Academy of West Point in New York.

On February 11, 1901, John Sayre Marshall became field officer and was the first dentist on the payroll.

On April 20, 1906, Leonie von Meusebach-Zasch was the first woman dentist to work for the army. On March 3, 1911, the dental service of the US Army was officially established.

On November 30, 1918, the number of active dental officers reached 4620 among whom 1864 were stationed in Europe, the first unit having landed on August 20, 1917 in France.

On January 6, 1922, the U.S. Army Institute of Dental Research was created and was commanded by Colonel Siebert Boak.

On July 1, 1934, the Army Medical Museum evolved into The Registry of Dental and Oral Pathology.

On January 29, 1938, the rank of Brigadier General was granted by the 75th Congress to the head of the dental division. On June 29, 1938, Leigh Fairbank became the first to occupy this position. He remained head of the division until March 16, 1942.

In 1941, 2,000 reserve dentists were summoned to fight. On March 17, 1942, Brigadier General Robert Mills became the 9th Chief Executive Officer of the dental service of the US Army. On March 17, 1946, he retired with the rank of Major General granted for the first time to a dentist.

On April 9, 1942, the Japanese arrested Major Roy Bodine in Bataan, Philippines. He was held as a prisoner of war for three and a half years in the Philippines, Japan and Korea before being released on September 7, 1945. His dedication to duty and that of his comrades was held up as an example.

In 1943, the army did not produce enough artificial glass eyes. Researchers from the Dental Research Institute extended their investigations to the maxillofacial sphere. They succeeded in making a plastic eye with a light synthetic resin which was used immediately. Later the dental staff also played a major part in the development of prosthetic techniques for the treatment of head wounds. Dentists also contributed to the design of audio phones.

In preparation for D-Day and the Normandy Landing, huge piles of weapons and equipment, including tons of dental amalgam was...
transported to Great Britain. On November 1, 1944, the dental service had 15,292 officers.

**Organization of US Army Dental Care in Normandy**

The system was organized in two divisions: The first unit consisted of well equipped mobile surgeries which followed the troops into battle. The second division, stationed just behind the front lines, was made up of specialized clinics.

In the weeks leading up to June 6, 1944, the Allies made massive efforts to ensure that their dental units were well prepared and thus avoid as many problems as possible when fighting began on the various fronts. After that date, 50% of the dentists served as assistants to surgical battalions or in other medical services.

Once the situation was safer, the organization of dental services for the front and interior zones became possible. Throughout the entire course of the war, the number of dentists rose from 250 at the onset to a little more than 15,000 by the end. The full strength of the US Army was about 8,000,000 people; out of this number, there was required to be a ratio of 1 dentist for every 500 men. But this ideal ratio was only achieved in 1943. In December 1942, for example there should have been 30,000 dentists to achieve the required ratio when around 500,000 men had enrolled in one month. A great shortage of equipment affected all the services at the beginning of the war but the American national production made up for this delay which ceased during the landing.

**Mobile and Stationary Units**

The American army had 33 trucks converted into mobile dental offices [surgeries] and 30 trucks turned into prosthetic laboratories which followed one another in Europe. Flying units, which consisted of a dentist and his assistant, could provide emergency medical treatment if required on the battle front. These troops had transportable equipment and supply kits such as chairs that could be dismantled. All the equipment was packed up in boxes. During the conflict, at the dentists’ request, an artificial light and an electrical tower were added to these devices to ensure adequate treatment. The equipment and devices were piled up in warehouses located in safe places to the rear of the battle zone.

As they were organized into clinics, the aim was to centralize and optimize dental care. The stationary medical centres were organized according to regiments and offered varied accommodation. For example, the Dental Clinic (DC)1° was furnished with 25 chairs. It aimed at receiving divisional camps and other groups and could cope with around 15,000 men. It was supplied with the most modern equipment (X-ray generator and prosthetic laboratories) and was spread over two floors. measuring: 40 m long and 12 m wide.

**Photos courtesy US Army**
DC) 5°: Only one chair and without an X-ray generator but supplied with a small prosthetic laboratory.

(DC) 6°: Again only one chair. No camera but supplied with a small prosthetic laboratory.

(DC) 7°: Only one chair. Designed for prisoner camps.

In May 1943, he was serving in the 105th Infantry Regiment of the 27th Infantry Division where he excelled as a dentist. But he also made sure that he took part in every battle simulation during training and he went on to win all his regiment’s competitions. He was promoted to the rank of captain in 1944 and left for Saipan, Mariana Islands. He volunteered to replace the 2nd Battalion’s surgeon who had been wounded. On July 7, 1944, the Japanese broke through the American lines in Tanapag. The medical centre was soon overwhelmed by huge numbers of casualties. Salomon ordered that the wounded soldiers under his care should be evacuated. Then he got hold of a submachine gun to cover their retreat. On the following morning, July 8, the Americans finally outflanked the Japanese.

They found the dentist’s body riddled with 76 bullets. There were 98 Japanese bodies piled up in front of his defensive position.

The Geneva Convention

On May 1, 2002, President George W. Bush signed an order posthumously awarding Soloman the ‘Congressional Medal of Honor’ for his ‘extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty.’ He is the only dentist to have received this decoration. He had been refused any recognition immediately after the war. The Americans of that era, who had signed ‘The Geneva Convention’, thought that a doctor wearing a Red Cross arm band had no right to bear arms. They were wrong.

The USA had signed ‘The Geneva Convention’ to better the condition of the wounded and the sick in the armies on campaign of July 27, 1929.

ARTICLE 6 of The Convention states:
“Mobile sanitary formations (i.e., those which are intended to accompany armies in the field) and the fixed establishments belonging to the sanitary service shall be protected and respected by belligerents.”

ARTICLE 7:
“The protection due to sanitary formations and establishments ceases if they are used to commit acts injurious to the enemy.”

ARTICLE 8:
“A sanitary formation or establishment shall not be deprived of the protection accorded by Article 6 by the fact:
1. That the personnel of a formation or establishment is armed and uses its arms in self defense or in defense...
of its sick and wounded, etc.”

Dr Hernan Reyes from the International Committee of the Red Cross claimed that:

“The nursing staff has the role to protect the wounded and the sick. To bear arms is therefore solely authorized to protect these people. During the Second World War, let’s take the example of a French wounded man who would have succeeded in stealing his pistol within the country hospital sheltering wounded men from the two camps, and who would have started to shoot at all the German wounded men being there and who would have not obeyed the order of ceasing fire formulated by the nursing staff. The doctors would thus have had the right to shoot at this armed man to protect the others. The staff would also have had the right to retaliate if a wounded man, whoever he is, would shoot at the nursing staff within the hospital which is considered a neutral place. However, if an enemy would attack a hospital with its infantry, the nursing staff would not have the right to return fire like in a bunker. The staff would have to hoist the Red Cross flag and try to make its neutrality respected. If nevertheless the enemy would begin to kill the wounded soldiers of the other camp, nobody could reproach the nursing staff to intervene, even with their weapons.”

116 dentists died during the war: 20 on the battlefield, 5 because of injuries, 10 as prisoners of war and 81 following a disease or injuries which occurred outwith the battlefield. In a belated honour, a dental clinic in Fort Brenning has since been named after Ben Saloman Pete Suer

Alexander ‘Pete’ Suer (1917-1945) received a physical training like any other servicemen and became familiar with military dental training in a war hospital but also in ‘Medic’, a unit fighting on the front line, a position which consisted in practising first vital emergency care, collecting the wounded and evacuating them outside the battlefield. Moreover, in Sicily, Suer had invented a bold method to save the wounded who were beyond reach. Standing on the bumper of his Jeep, waving a Red Cross flag, Pete moved between the lines to collect the wounded while the two camps kept on shooting at each other. He was the most admired and decorated doctor of the regiment. He received ‘The Silver Star Medal’, a military decoration for curing his wounded soldiers under German fire after D-Day. During their stay in Normandy, Suer captured 15 German soldiers and a doctor.

Fatal wound

During his 5th operation (Sicily, Italy, Normandy and Ardennes) on December 23, 1944, Suer was informed that two soldiers who had been wounded close to the German lines were waiting for emergency treatment. Accompanied by three male nurses, he got to where the servicemen were lying and crawled towards them. At that moment, mortar fire crushed both his feet. Nevertheless, Pete insisted that the two wounded were evacuated before him. Then, he was driven to the aid station where a plasma perfusion was performed. Suer was transferred to Liege then to Paris and from there, to the Walter Reed Army Medical Centre in Washington DC where his legs were amputated. He died as a result of the surgery. He was 28 years old.

References

Shayne’s Dental Site, ‘History of Dentistry’, in OHSU Dental School, Ohio.
Some Useful Dental Advice
18th Century Style

by
Malvin Ring

In the Saturday, February 4, 1764 issue of The London Chronicle newspaper (Fig.1) there appeared this exciting notice:

SCOTLAND
Edinburgh, January, 28.
This day the Right Hon. the Countess of Elgin was safely delivered of a son at Broomhall.

But this wasn't the only bit of useful news to be garnered by the paper's readers in those long ago days. There were numerous advertisements, one touting the virtues of:

“Dr. James's Powder for Fevers, the Small-pox, Measles, Pleurisies, Quincies, acute Rheumatism, Colds, and all inflammatory Disorders as well as those called Nervous, Hypochondriac, and Hysteric. Price 2 s, 6d.”

Lozenges of the pleasantest kind
Another which advised those suffering from tickling coughs, catarrhs, sore throats, hoarseness, and deflections on the lungs and soreness of the breast to suck, ‘Pectoral Lozenges made with Balsam of Tolu, since these are the pleasantest and most effectual of their kind’.

Surprisingly appropriate advice
However, in addition to these patent medicines, there appeared a column devoted to caring for the teeth, with no attribution of authorship. It is surprisingly appropriate and correct in its advice, for at that time dentists and apothecaries were advocating the use of astringent mouthwashes to cure the diseases of the gums which, it was claimed, were invariably the cause of tooth loss. And if not the mouthwashes, then at the least the daily use of Dr. So-and-So's dentifrice, which would make the teeth firm again in the bone and return them to their original whiteness! Both, as we know, useless remedies in the treatment of periodontal disease.

What is even more unusual about the article is that it strongly advocates scaling of the teeth, to rid them of the calculus which had been deposited, but gives no indication of who would do the scaling. We know that as far back as Albucasis and Avicenna, the Muslim writers of about AD 1000, scaling to remove calculus was considered foremost among the oral duties of the Arabic physicians. Would it not, therefore, have been part of the regular practice of British dentists as late as the 1760s? If so, why doesn't the article suggest that the reader see a dentist? The only practical answer is that there were too few practitioners at the time, leaving the enigma - then why write about having the teeth scaled?

Skewer or misswak
The question also arises regarding the use of a brush made of a wooden skewer, instead of the
conventional toothbrush as we know it. The modern toothbrush was well known to Europeans, and we can only speculate that its cost was probably beyond what the common person could afford.

The skewer as brush, prepared in the manner described, is exactly the same as the *misswak*, made of a twig, and used by many ordinary people in Middle-Eastern countries for over two thousand years.

The *London Chronicle*, article follows below:

*Rules for the Preservation of the Teeth and Gums.*

The teeth are bones thinly covered over with a fine enamel, and this enamel is more or less substantial in different persons. Whenever this enamel is worn through, by too coarse a powder, or too frequent cleaning of the teeth, or eaten through by a scorbutick humour in the gums; the tooth cannot long remain sound, any more than a filbert kernel can, when it has been penetrated by a worm. The teeth therefore are to be cleaned, but with great precaution, for if you wear the enamel off faster, by cleaning the outside, than nature supplies it within, your teeth will suffer more by this method than perhaps by a total neglect. A butcher’s skewer, or the wood with which they are made, must be bruised and bit at the end, till with a little use it will become the softest and best brush for this purpose; and in general, you must clean your teeth with this brush alone, without any powder whatever; and once in a fortnight, not oftener, dip your skewer brush into a few grains of gunpowder, breaking them first with the brush, and this will remove every spot and blemish, and give your teeth an unconceivable whiteness. It is almost needless to say, that the mouth must be well washed after this operation, for besides the necessity of so doing, the salt-petre, &c. used in the composition of gun-powder, would, if it remained, be injurious to the gums, &c. but has not nor can not have any bad effect in so short a time. I have constantly practised this method for twenty-five years, and am thoroughly convinced it is safe and effectual. It is necessary to observe, that very near the gums of people whose teeth are otherwise good, there is apt to grow a false kind of enamel, both within and without, and this enamel, if neglected, pushes the gum higher and higher, till it leaves the fangs of teeth quite bare, above the enamel; so that sound teeth are destroyed, because the gum has forsaken that part which is not sheathed and protected, in consequence of such neglect; this false enamel must therefore be carefully scaled off; for the gum will no more grow over the least particle of this false enamel, than the flesh will heal over the point of a thorn."

**ILLUSTRATIONS**

Fig.1 The first page of the 4-page *London Chronicle* of Feb. 4, 1764.

Fig.2 The *misswak* or ‘twig toothbrush’ used by Arabs and many other Middle-Eastern people.

(From Ring, *ME Dentistry-An Illustrated History*.)

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

In 2004 one of the author's closest friends, Saul Kamen, DDS, died of a stroke. Dr. Kamen was an avid collector of old newspapers and he bequeathed the collection to the author upon his death. But Dr. Kamen was noted for far more than that. He is recognized as the "Father of Geriatric Dentistry," having been the prime mover in organizing the American Society for Geriatric Dentistry, and of which he became its first president. He began his career as a pediatric dentist and at one time was president of the New York chapter of the American Society of Dentistry for Children. In time, aware that organized dentistry paid no special attention to the elderly and to those with disabilities, he was the architect of the Federation for Special Care Organizations in Dentistry and a month before his death he was honored by being named a Diplomate of the American Board of Special Care Dentistry. He was also the first dentist to be inducted as a Fellow of the Clinical Medicine Division of the Gerontological Society of America.

Author: Malvin E. Ring, Rochester, New York
Francis Bacon and the Textbook
by
David A McGowan

The questions at the end of my previous article on Bacon (DHM 3.1, p.20) have now found answers. I was aware that the entire contents of Bacon’s studio had been removed to Dublin (his birthplace) for preservation, and wondered if the book could be there. Following an enquiry to the curators of the Hugh Lane Gallery in Dublin I received a copy of an 11x7.5cm fragment from the studio (Hugh Lane catalogue number RM98F 105:140j). It shows an illustration of an ulcerated lesion in the upper left buccal sulcus. There were no identifying marks apart from the label. (Fig 1.)

The library staff at Glasgow Dental Hospital and School, Beverley Rankin and Christine Leitch, traced an article, ‘The Cunning of Francis Bacon’ by Julian Bell in the New York Review of Books which, relying on the work of the art historian Margaret Cappock, described the fragment and its source which was the Atlas-manuel des Maladies de la bouche - a 1903 French edition of the German, Atlas der Mundhole, des Rachens und der Nase, (Atlas and Epitome of Diseases of the Mouth Pharynx and Nose), by Dr L Grunwald, 1894, J J Lehman, Munich. We found a copy of an American edition, edited by James G Newcomb of New York, in the Glasgow University library and easily identified the fragment as Fig.1 of Plate 5.

The description on the facing page identifies the lesion as an ‘Epulis’ and the case history indicates that it was what would now be called a Pyogenic Granuloma (a benign mass of granulation tissue formed in response to chronic infection, often related to the presence of a fragment of bone or tooth – as seen in the drawing). So much for my first speculation that it might have been either syphilitic or carcinomatous, with all the extra layers of significance which could be ascribed to either diagnosis.

In the preface to the book’s first edition Dr Grunwald states:

‘As regards the preparation of the illustrations, most of them were painted by myself; two were photographed from nature; one was taken from the well-known atlas by Luschka; and one was prepared with the kind permission of Dr Mikulicz. Most were partly prepared from personal sketches and partly from life – most of them by the artists, Messrs. Fink and Hamof the pictures were drawn directly from nature; a few had to be copied from older drawings and sketches.’

In the preface to the second edition he says:

‘The pictures Merschmidt and the lithographer was a Mr Reichhold’.

It is therefore unclear who actually drew the published version of Fig 1 Plate 5 but it is a vivid and probably very accurate depiction.

I am grateful to Jessica O’Donnell, Head of Collections at the Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin, for her assistance, and to the Gallery and the Bacon Estate for permitting the reproduction of the fragment.

1. Margarita Cappock also identified the fragment in her book, Francis Bacon’s Studio, Merrell, 2005.

Author: David A McGowan, Editor DHM, Rhu
The theme of this book is well described on the cover as combining family, dental, social and local history and it does so in an absorbing and captivating tale.

Although the main thread running through the biography traces the Brown family genealogy it is cleverly interwoven with the dental history of the period against a background of life in Victorian England.

Indentured apprentice
The Brown family had for generations been agricultural folk, farming in the rural parish of Kyloe, a few miles south-east of Berwick-upon-Tweed, generally as tenant farmers and labourers; the remarkable transformation to professional status is not only a social history of the times but also an illuminating account of the burgeoning dental profession and the process involved in becoming an indentured apprentice to a practising dentist. The author, Tony Brown, traces the family tree through four generations from 1879 with the birth of his great grandfather, Thomas Brown, shepherd, to the present day; remarkably each generation produced a dentist.

A harsh existence
Thomas Brown’s early death from Phthis – tuberculosis, at the age of 31 meant that his widow Ann endured a harsh existence working at the farm in order to care for her two young sons, Willie and Tom. She decided that the prospects for the family would be better served by a return to her parents’ home in Bowsden, a small North Northumbrian village. Here she secured a small cottage for her family near their home; the journey in a hay cart, owned by her father would have taken two to three days.

By 1891 Ann had rented a house in Berwick-upon-Tweed and as was not unusual for a woman at this time, rented out rooms to lodgers which brought in a total of fifteen shillings a week. It must be remembered that there was no widow’s pension or child allowance and school fees had to be paid.

On leaving school in 1895, Willie became apprenticed to a cabinet maker while Tom, who stayed on until the age of 16, was offered a five year apprenticeship as Dental Operator/Mechanic to Mr R Atkinson, Surgeon Dentist of Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Willie recounts that his hours were from 6am to 5pm and was paid two shillings and sixpence a week and had to buy his own tools.

A 1878 Dentist
Mr Atkinson was a ‘Dentist 1878’ on the basis that he was already practising dentistry in the five years prior to July 1882, this enabled him to have his name on the Dentists Register first published in 1879. He himself had been apprenticed to a Berwick dentist in 1871. It is interesting to note that his next practice was bought in November 1889 from a William Robertson for £250; using the retail price index to arrive at today’s purchasing value, this figure would have to be multiplied by a factor of 43.9!
A ‘haunting’ prohibition

The indenture apprenticeship form was a legal document signed by both parties and cut down the centre in a zig-zag pattern which constituted the indenture; one half for each party, providing proof that both parts were from the same document. Some of the conditions were rather unusual, for example the apprentice was prohibited from marrying, playing at cards or dice tables and ‘haunting taverns or playhouses’ during the five year term of the contract.

The author’s detailed account of the training of an apprentice will no doubt resonate with dentists who qualified in the 1940s and 50s, especially if they were students at Glasgow Dental Hospital and School. An interesting piece of D.I.Y dental advice is tendered in the popular Victorian Enquire Within Upon Everything. In 1894, it describes how an old silver thimble or coin can be filed down sufficiently fine and mixed with quicksilver (mercury) to make a reasonable dental amalgam, however by this time silver amalgam was available as a proprietary product.

Having completed his apprenticeship Tom moved to Middlesbrough where he worked as a fully qualified, dental mechanic for Dr George Henry Salt, L.D.S. R.C.S.I. Tom is also described in the 1901 census as a ‘surgery assistant’ carrying out extractions and making dentures; much of this work now being delegated to other dental mechanics who worked for the practice. In addition, he built up a part-time dental practice at home, principally making dentures and crowns supplementing his weekly wage of £1.15s (£1.75). However, sometime after the end of World War I, Tom leaves Dr Salt and moves on. According to the Wards Directory of Middlesbrough for 1921/22, he set up his own practice and was successful in his application to be placed on the 1921 Dentists Register, since he had practised dentistry for five of the seven years preceding 28th July 1921.

A happy event

The author goes on to describe the birth of a son, Thomas Henry Brown and traces his upbringing and subsequent progress as a pupil in Dental Mechanics and at the same time, enrolling as a student in the LDS course at the University of Durham where he gained the diploma of LDS, thereafter joining his father’s practice. An interesting revelation is that by 1929, Tom senior’s accounts showed assets of £16,186 4s 4d, in today’s money, over £520,000. The dental dynasty continued when Tom Henry married producing a daughter, Helen, who also qualified in dentistry and his son, the author Anthony Brown, who completed the dental dynasty and on qualifying joined his father in the practice in 1962.

Highly recommended

This biography is both an absorbing portrayal of life in late 19th and early 20th century Middlesbrough and a detailed account of the developing profession of dentistry revealing a mine of information for the student of dental history as well as an engrossing and fascinating story for the lay person; a thoroughly enjoyable read and highly recommended.
The Namibian Dental Association has published a page on the story of dentistry as part of the Association’s website. There are details of dentistry in ancient times, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. There is also a very useful timeline and a good section on dental history in pictures. The website can be accessed at www.namibiadent.com/History/HistoryDentistry.html.

If you are interested in exploring old dental instruments then visit the Antique Dental Instruments website of Dr. Gregory Ribitzky, a practising dentist in the town of Beer Sheba, the capital of the Negev Desert, Israel. This website represents Dr. Ribitzky's personal collection of dental instruments, books and ephemera and contains some 200 good quality images of historic dental tools, trade cards, advertising and related items such as toothpaste. Do bear in mind, though, that much of the text is in Hebrew, with some accompanying text in English. The graphics to enter the site are, however, excellent and well worth looking at. The Antique Dental Instruments website can be accessed at www.dmd.co.il/antiques/big.html.

Closer to home and fun for the young is the dental section of the Discovery Museum, Newcastle website at http://research.ncl.ac.uk/behindasmile/index.htm. The ‘What’s behind a smile’ website was created by 11 students as part of their Museum Studies Masters Degree Programme at Newcastle University.

The illustrations include a tooth grill from 2008 and stick-on tooth jewels. Grills are associated with the culture of rap music and are worn as a fashion statement. Custom made grills can cost over £15,000. This latter fact was discovered on the tooth trivia section of the website at http://research.ncl.ac.uk/behindasmile/trivia.html. Click on the medicine bottles if you wish to find out more!

Author: Carol Parry, RCPSG

LETTERS

The Editors received this interesting letter from the archaeologist Morag Cross concerning a historical fund raising pageant for the ‘new’ Glasgow Dental Hospital and School. An account of the pageant (which took place in the 1920s) and the material received from Ms Cross will appear in a future issue of DHM.

Dear Dr Cummins

I’m an archaeologist who does a lot of research on buildings, and have ended up writing a brief centenary history of the architectural practice (Wylie Shanks and Wylie, now WylieShanks) with some accompanying text in English. The graphics to enter the site are, however, excellent and well worth looking at. The Antique Dental Instruments website can be accessed at www.dmd.co.il/antiques/big.html. Closer to home and fun for the young is the dental section of the Discovery Museum, Newcastle website at http://research.ncl.ac.uk/behindasmile/index.htm. The ‘What’s behind a smile’ website was created by 11 students as part of their Museum Studies Masters Degree Programme at Newcastle University.

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M. Cross
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Oil on canvas, 24x30ins, signed Fergal Nally, by Fergal Nally FRSA,RHA, BDS, MD, FDSRCS, FFDRCSI, ALCM, in the collection of Sir David and Lady Mason. Formerly Reader in Oral Medicine at the Institute of Dental Surgery and the Eastman Dental Hospital, London, Fergal Nally has exhibited widely in his native Ireland, in the UK and abroad and has written and illustrated a number of books. He was commissioned to design the Irish postage stamp commemorating the bicentenary of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 1984.