



The  
Cowlshaw Symposium

26 October 1996

The design of the cover of this programme is based on the *de luxe* binding of K. F. Russell's *Catalogue of the Historical Books in the Library of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons* (Melbourne, Queensbury Hill Press, 1979)

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks are due to many people who have helped in the planning and presentation of this Symposium:

- to the Speakers:
  - Prof John Pearn, who is the third Kenneth F. Russell Memorial Lecturer;
  - P.F. Burke;
  - Prof Tess Cramond;
  - J.S. Guest;
  - D.G. Macleish;
  - S.A. Mellick;
  - N.A. Myers;
  - Prof D.A. Simpson.
- to the immediate past-President, Mr J.P. Royle, who has volunteered to conduct registrants on a tour of the College;
- to members of the staff of the College, who have supported the project in various ways:
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  - Peter Carter;
  - Kerry Haywood;
  - Chris Hazell;
  - Jane Oliver;
  - Colin Smith.
- and to the President and Council, who endorsed the proposal to hold a Cowlshaw Symposium.

A.W. Beasley  
Reader to the Gordon Craig Library

## INTRODUCTION

The Cowlshaw Symposium is designed to make the College's collection of historical volumes better known, both to Fellows of the College and to the wider bibliophile community.

Any such initiative must recognise that this valuable resource owes its very existence to the complementary dedication of three men: Gordon Craig, Leslie Cowlshaw and Kenneth Russell.

From Craig's generosity came the library into which, through Russell's enterprise, the fruits of Cowlshaw's collecting was able to be incorporated - and there Russell's protective care and energies came further to the fore, so that he was granted the title of 'Reader to the Gordon Craig Library'. To his successor in the post falls the task of convening today's Symposium, and the delivery today of the third Kenneth Russell Memorial Lecture links once again the three names.

### ROBERT GORDON CRAIG

A lowland Scot from Ardrossan in Ayrshire, Craig was born in 1870, the son of a master mariner, and brought to Sydney at the age of eight. His schooling was divided between Sydney and Edinburgh; after a year in the arts faculty at Sydney University,

an attack of typhoid fever and a brief spell in a shipping office, he turned to medicine, graduating MB BS with first-class honours in 1894.

He practised briefly in Newtown, and in 1900 he was appointed as honorary assistant surgeon to the staff of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, where he had earlier been a resident. On his return from overseas study in 1908 he introduced (it is said) ether anaesthesia to RPAH; he also moved to Macquarie Street and purely specialist practice. In 1911 he was promoted honorary surgeon and, a pioneer of urology, he was designated urologist to his hospital in 1926. He served in the hospital ship *Karoola* in the First War.

When Hamilton Russell brought Professor Louis Barnett's proposal for an association of surgeons of Australasia to the 1920 Australasian Medical Congress in Brisbane, it was rejected and, in its place, Craig's amendment proposing sections of surgery within the various branches of the BMA, was adopted.

But by 1926 (after the celebrated Syme-Russell-Devine letter of November 1925, proposing that 'a body should be formed', had succeeded in capturing the spirit of its time) it was Craig who spoke in favour of a College, rather than some more pusillanimous designation. He also mentioned (according to Orm Smith's memoirs) having already discussed the publication of a journal by the proposed body. Not surprisingly, his was one of the ten New South Wales names in the list of Founders of the College of Surgeons of Australasia; and he was one of the ten

elected members of the first Council in 1927.

During his lifetime he was a generous benefactor of RPAH (with the endowment of a fellowship in urology in 1920) and of the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children; at his death in 1931 he bequeathed the sum of £60,000 to the young College, to foster postgraduate education and research. Much of his bequest went to build up the library that bears his name.

### LESLIE COWLISHAW

Cowlishaw was seven years younger than Craig, and Sydney-born, the son of a prosperous shipping merchant. At Sydney Grammar School he came under the influence of A.B. Weigall, who developed in him a good grounding in the humanities. He twice travelled with his family to England and Europe during his school days, and embarked on a third odyssey immediately after qualifying in medicine in 1906.

During this trip he began the serious collecting of historic medical texts, and in the period immediately before the First War he amassed a number of significant early works, establishing connexions with dealers in London, Paris, Milan and elsewhere. In 1909 he married Jessie Garnock, in Cooma where he was practising.

At the outbreak of war, he enlisted in the AIF, and served in Egypt and at Gallipoli as medical officer with the 12th Light England. Here he met Sir William Osler, who dubbed him the

'bibliophile from the bush' - which may be regarded as a mildly patronising remark by an expatriate Canadian from rural Ontario! But Osler gave him books and encouragement and, after service in France and later at the Randwick Military Hospital prior to demobilisation, he settled into a practice at Lindfield where he remained until his death in 1943.

He lectured widely on medical history; and in 1936 he was Syme Orator for this College. When the Royal Australasian College of Physicians was founded in 1938, he was appointed its first honorary librarian. In his will, he gave the College of Physicians first option on the purchase of his collection, which he had designed the College library to accommodate; but under the stress of the Second War, perhaps, the Physicians declined.

#### KENNETH FITZPATRICK RUSSELL

Born in 1911, Kenneth Russell was the son of a dentist. He qualified MB BS from Melbourne University in 1935, and proceeded MS three years later, while serving as Stewart Lecturer in Anatomy in the medical school of his university.

He served with the RAAMC in the Second War, in Palestine and Syria, in Tobruk and later in New Guinea. At the end of 1943 he was on leave in Sydney and learned of the circumstances surrounding the Cowlshaw collection and the Physicians' decision not to purchase it. He thereupon secured

Cowlshaw's trustees' agreement to hold the collection until the College of Surgeons could be approached, and (by a further stroke of wartime luck) the College secretary, H.G. Wheeler, happened to be on leave when Russell's letter reached Melbourne.

Wheeler in turn consulted Sir Alan Newton, the president, and the collection was purchased forthwith; it was kept in store in Melbourne until the end of the war, when the Australian Red Cross vacated the College building.

In 1945 Russell married Jean Fogo Wilson, who was serving at the time as a lieutenant with the AANS. He had a short period as surgeon to outpatients at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, then settled back into an anatomy post - as a senior lecturer until 1948, when he was promoted associate professor. He was also designated Reader in Medical History 1956-59; and in 1969 he was awarded a personal chair in anatomy and medical history. His university had honoured him with the award of a D Litt the previous year.

In 1960 he published his monumental bibliography of *British Anatomy 1525-1900*, he edited the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery* 1949-67, and in 1955 he was Vicary Lecturer of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. (He was also a sinologist of distinction.)

But his special concern was with the collection he had secured for 'his' College; he enjoyed his designation as Reader to the Gordon Craig Library, and in return he made sure that a

succession of Councils was left in no doubt about the needs, or the importance, of the collection. In 1979 he published, with support from the Ramaciotti Foundation and the gratitude and blessing of the Council, his *Catalogue* of the historical books in the College Library. He died in 1987; he is commemorated by a plaque in the library he loved, and by today's memorial lecture, but his living memorial is the collection whose importance gives meaning to this symposium.

### THE COLLECTION

Russell's *Catalogue* listed some 800 items, many including more than one volume, which covered 'all the books printed before 1850 together with the reference works on history of medicine of the two collections' - for although the Cowlshaw purchase is a major part of the College's historical volumes, the remainder of the library provides an important complement to it.

The library contains, as Russell noted, eight incunabula: an Avicenna *Canon* of 1479 from Padua; the 1483 Nuremberg *De proprietatibus rerum* of Bartholomeus Anglicus; a 1493 Celsus *De Medicina* from Venice; the *Opera medica varia* of Rhazes of 1497, Hugo Senensis' *Expositio super primo canonis Avicenne* of 1498 and Argellata's *Cirurgia* of 1499, also from Venice; and Aegidius' *De urinis et pulsu*, Lyons, 1495. There are also facsimile editions of incunabula, including those in the *Medicina Rara* series.

From the 16th century there are 84 items, from the 17th 156 and from the 18th (which provides several of the items to be discussed today) no fewer than 249.

In Benjamin Bell's *System of Surgery* of 1788 the recently-appointed Curator of the Cowlshaw Collection, Marius Fahrer, has located descriptions of artificial limbs 'made by a very ingenious artifit... Mr Gavin Wilfon' - limbs which would not disgrace a present-day prosthetist either in design or construction.

And indeed, if there is one lesson to be drawn from a study of the collection, it is this: that, among the archaic but often quite beautiful accounts and illustrations of our surgical forebears, there is commonly to be found something that brings the reader up with a start because of its modernity. As Leslie Cowlshaw observed, exactly 70 years ago:

The great vice of medical education is its tendency to fix attention on the latest and best only, to the neglect of what has been accomplished in the past. At times the latest book on a subject is not the best. This failure of the latest to be best comes chiefly from lack of knowledge of previous experience. Every year sees methods of treatment tried over again which were tried and found wanting many years before, and fresh discoveries vaunted which are only rediscovered. This waste of effort and time arises from an ignorance of what has been accomplished before.

We ignore the collection, even as we ignore Cowlshaw's admonition, at our cost.

# PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, 26 OCTOBER 1996

- 9.30 am Registration  
10 Opening by the President, Mr C.U. McRae
- SESSION 1* Chairman: Prof A.W. Beasley,  
Reader to the Gordon Craig Library
- 10.05 P.F. Burke:  
KENNETH FITZPATRICK RUSSELL - the first Reader  
to the Gordon Craig Library
- 10.40 *The third Kenneth F. Russell Memorial Lecture*  
Prof J.H. Pearn:  
NOM ET LUMIÈRE  
(*The anatomy of plants*, Grew 1682)
- 11.20 Morning coffee
- SESSION 2* Chairman: Mr J.P. Royle, Immediate Past-President
- 11.50 Prof Tess Cramond:  
ON BENEFICENCE, TEMPERANCE AND MEDICAL SCIENCE  
(*Hints designed to promote beneficence, temperance and  
medical science*, Lettsom 1816)
- 12.25 pm D.G. Macleish:  
POTT, PEDANTRY AND PRECISION.  
(*The chirurgical works of Percivall Pott*, 1775)
- 1 Lunch  
- Inspection of archival and library displays  
- Tour of College memorabilia (under the guidance of  
Mr J.P. Royle)

- SESSION 3* Chairman: Prof R.C. Bennett,  
Executive Director for Surgical Affairs
- 2.15 J.S. Guest:  
THE HUMANE ANATOMIST  
(*The anatomy of the humane body*, Cheselden 1713)
- 2.50 S.A. Mellick:  
ABERNETHY AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF SURGICAL  
TEACHING  
(*Lectures in Surgery*, Abernethy 1803)
- 3.25 Afternoon tea
- SESSION 4* Chairman: Mr S.A. Mellick,  
Chairman, Section of Surgical History
- 3.45 N.A. Myers:  
A DEBT TO ALEXIS  
(*Gastric juice and the Physiology of Digestion*, Beaumont 1838)  
- paper read by Mr E. Durham Smith
- 4.20 Prof D.A. Simpson:  
PARÉ AS A NEUROSURGEON  
(*The works of that famous chirurgion Ambroise Parey*, 1649)
- 4.55 Prof A.W. Beasley  
HOME AWAY FROM HOME  
(*Lectures on comparative anatomy*, Home 1828)
- 5.30 Closing remarks
- 5.45 - 7 pm Cocktail function

## ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

### NOM ET LUMIÈRE

The evolution of differential diagnosis in medicine followed the concepts of scientific taxonomy in the world of natural history. Approaches to differential diagnosis, in the bedside clinical approach to human disease, have taken one of two forms - either that of the 'lumpers' or the 'splitters'. The 'splitters' have won the day, with the finer and finer description, publication and analysis of specific diseases. Such refinement is necessary for correct management in the case of diseases which are treatable surgically or with drugs; or for giving an accurate prognosis and for questions of genetic counselling in those which are not amenable, at this stage of scientific knowledge, to therapeutic intervention.

This approach to the finer and finer designation of specific diseases has had its origins in the work of taxonomists working primarily in the discipline of natural history. The great pioneers in this area were surgeons and physicians with a passion for botany. The first tentative scientific steps in the approach to botanical classification took place in the 16th century, and by the 17th century courageous surgeons and physicians put forward pioneering descriptions of plant anatomy by which the first classifications could be attempted.

The work of Nehemiah Grew laid the foundations for the later studies of the Bauhin brothers and ultimately (in 1752) those of Carolus Linnaeus, in Uppsala. The work of Grew, and in particular his *The anatomy of plants* published in 1682, forms a nodal point in this progression - a chronology which started with exquisite macroscopic dissection of tissues, passed into microscopic studies, and ultimately developed into tentative taxonomic classifications which brought order to an otherwise amorphous mass of descriptive data.

The clinical skills of differential diagnosis today owe much to the work of these early medical botanists. An analysis of the

progress of botanical and later clinical science affords a perspective of bedside surgery and medicine today.

*Professor John Pearn is Professor of Child Health at the University of Queensland, based at the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane. His clinical interests include clinical genetics, clinical toxicology and the prevention of childhood trauma. He is the author of some 300 papers and six books in medicine including The Prevention of Childhood Accidents (1982), Accidents to Children - their incidence, causes and effects (1983), In the Capacity of a Surgeon and Preventive First Aid (1989). He has served on the National Executive of the Paediatric Research Society of Australasia, and was National President of the Human Genetics Society of Australasia (1981-83) and its Chief Censor during that period.*

*A doctor-soldier, John Pearn commanded No 2 Field Hospital (1979-82), and was co-author of the chapter on burns in the Handbook of War Surgery. He served as Consultant Physician to the Australian and New Zealand Forces in the Vietnam campaign (1970) and was the Intensivist to the United Nations Force, UNAMIR II, serving in Rwanda (1994-95).*

*A keen medical historian, he is the author of some eight books on the history of medicine, and some 50 research papers on medical history in Australia and New Zealand. He is currently President of the Australian Society of the History of Medicine of which he is a co-founder. He has been awarded the Herbert Moran Medal of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the Ashdown Medal of the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine, the Bancroft Medal of the Australian Medical Association and in 1995 he delivered the Sherrington Oration at the University of Oxford with a lecture entitled Humanitarianism in War.*

### KENNETH FITZPATRICK RUSSELL

This paper reviews the life and achievements of Kenneth Russell - a challenging task, for his was an extraordinary life, and his untimely death in his 76th year robbed us of a civilised gentleman who was at the zenith of his creative achievement.

To illustrate the enormity of the task it is only necessary to list some of Ken Russell's hobbies and interests: art and medical literature; reading; sinology and seal carving; numismatics; medical philately; bookbinding; collecting bookplates; carpentry; metalwork including pewter casting and silversmithing;; model ship building, and cooking.

These varied interests form part of the backdrop to his



distinguished public career at the University of Melbourne and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, where the foundations were laid for his international recognition as scholar and collector.

An attempt will be made to cover all relevant aspects of his life, with special emphasis on his academic career and the great debt that the College owes to him and his family; on the persons and events that helped mould his career and influence his work; and on his personal attributes and the role of his family.

*As an undergraduate student at the University of Melbourne, Peter F. Burke attended the voluntary History of Medicine lecture series given by Professor K.F. Russell.*

*These lectures developed his interest in the history of medicine so that, while he was working in England in the late 1970s, he undertook and successfully completed the Diploma course in the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London.*

*Upon his return to Australia Mr Burke (apart from establishing a surgical practice) became much involved in the Melbourne medical history scene. He has been a member of the executive of the Medical History Society of Victoria, a member of the executive of the Section of Medical History of the AMA of Victoria, a member of the Archives committee of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons from 1979, and an associate in the Department of Medical History at the University of Melbourne.*

*Over the years he has presented many papers relating to the History of Medicine - and in particular, surgery- and has continued his committee activities, especially at the College where, most recently, he has held the position of Honorary Principal Curator.*

## OF BENEFICENCE, TEMPERANCE AND MEDICAL SCIENCE

The years 1769-1788 were significant not only in the history of Australia and New Zealand but also in the history of resuscitation. That era saw the foundation of the Royal Humane Society with its sponsorship of the teaching of resuscitation of the near-drowned, at a time when some contended that it was presumptuous to rescue and restore to life those whose end was divinely ordained. For the first time medical practitioners

were active in teaching resuscitation techniques to the general public, and medical students received instruction in what would now be called basic life support.

Among the founder members of the Royal Humane Society was a group of Quaker physicians, not the least of whom was John Coakley Lettsom. He organised anniversary church services and gala fund raising dinners at which those who had been rescued walked in procession round the hall.

He gave generous donations to purchase 'elevating religious literature' so that those rescued would appreciate their gift of life.

Lettsom gives insights into the reasons why our modern concepts of resuscitation in use at that time were abandoned and forgotten for almost 150 years.

*Emeritus Professor Tess Cramond AO OBE FRCA FANZCA Hon FFARCSI (née Brophy) was foundation professor of anaesthetics in the University of Queensland (1978-93) and has been Director of the Pain Management Service at the Royal Brisbane Hospital since 1967.*

*She has served the College as Dean of the Faculty of Anaesthetists 1972-74, and was appointed to the Court of Honour in 1980. She has been honorary Federal Secretary of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists and president of the Queensland branch of the AMA, of which she is a Fellow.*

*Her academic awards include the Nuffield Prize, the Gilbert Brown Prize, the Gold Medal of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and the Orton Medal of the Australian and New Zealand College.*

*Professor Cramond has contributed to community resuscitation teaching through Surf Life Saving Australia, the Australian Red Cross, St John Ambulance, the Queensland Ambulance Training School and the Queensland Electricity Commission. She was one of the founders of the Australian Resuscitation Council, and was appointed Emeritus Consultant in 1989 and admitted to its Roll of Honour in 1993.*

*She has published widely on medical history, including resuscitation, as well as on anaesthetics, pain relief and opioid pharmacology.*

## POTT, PEDANTRY AND PRECISION

The Cowlshaw Collection contains one volume written by Percivall Pott. A book of some 800 pages, it comprises his

surgical papers written between 1756 and 1775. These include *A Treatise on Ruptures* (1756), *Observations on Fistula Lachrymalis* (1758), *Observations on the Nature and Consequences of Head Injuries* (1760-68), *General Remarks on Fractures and Dislocations* (1768), and other works on Hydrocoele, Fistula in Ano, Cataract, Polypus of the Nose, Cancer of the Scrotum in Chimney-sweeps and Mortification of the Toes and Feet.

In addition the Collection houses three volumes by Pott's son-in-law, Sir James Earle, written in 1808. These contain a biography of Pott and reprints of all his papers, including those written after 1775, notably *Remarks on that kind of Palsy of the Lower Limbs* [accompanying] *A Curvature of the Spine* in 1779.

Pott's written work leaves no doubt that he was a versatile and experienced clinician. His language is precise, elegant, engaging and free of grammatical error. The opportunity for him to write was precipitated by his well-known injury, but his keen powers of observation and his valuable advice continued almost to his end. There is very little focus on the conditions for which he is remembered eponymously.

Pott died aged 75, in 1788, having lived at a time of surgical transition. He was a barber-surgeon, an active member of the Company of Surgeons in its early days. He served St Bartholomew's Hospital 'man and boy for half a century'. Of high moral standing, 'he was the most eminent of his time as a writer, as a teacher and as a practitioner in surgery'. He was 'employed in many of the first families' of London, and 'was consulted on cases from America, Russia, Turkey and India, as well as from neighbouring kingdoms...'

*With characteristic modesty, Scotty Macleish identifies himself simply as:*

*D.G. Macleish, AO*

*Honorary Consultant Surgeon, Royal Melbourne Hospital  
Past President, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.*

*An editor may be allowed to observe that he was PRACS 1985-87 and that he has been a James IV Travelling Fellow. He was also the first Weary Dunlop-Boon Pong Travelling Fellow to Thailand.*

## THE HUMANE ANATOMIST

William Cheselden (1688-1752) was probably the first person to give a regular course of lectures in Anatomy in London. His syllabus of 35 lectures (held in the Cowlshaw Collection) was published in 1711 and his *Anatomy of the Humane Body* two years later. As a student manual it was found extremely useful and became remarkably popular. It ran through 13 editions in England, and was a standard text for approximately 100 years. It was published in America and translated into German long after Cheselden's death.

Four copies of the *Anatomy* are held at the College Library and they form the basis of this paper. His surgical skill is examined - particularly his prowess as a lithotomist. He had considerable influence on his contemporaries, both by teaching and demonstrating his techniques. The 20 year old John Hunter attended his clinic at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Cheselden was a genial gregarious man, a generous host, fond of society, a great friend of Jonathan Richardson (who painted his portrait), of Swift, Gay, Hogarth and Alexander Pope who was not only a friend but a patient.

Cheselden enjoyed all aspects of living and in the first half of the 18th Century had a considerable influence on the professional and social life of London.

*James Guest qualified in medicine in 1941, his abiding interest in anatomy having been fostered by his mentor Frederic Wood Jones, who gave him a number of his drawings when leaving Melbourne.*

*He served in the Royal Australian Navy 1942-46, soon becoming SMO in HMAS Westralia; he maintained his links with the Navy, was awarded an OBE and the VRD, and served as naval ADC to the Governor of Victoria from 1969.*

*In 1948 he was awarded the RACS Gordon Craig Scholarship, becoming FRCS(Eng) the following year and then working as a senior registrar at St Mark's. Back in Melbourne, he became a surgeon at the Alfred Hospital, to which he remains a Consultant Surgeon; he lectured and examined in anatomy in the University of Melbourne and was a member of the Court of Examiners of the College.*

*He is a member of the Australian Society of the History of Medicine, of the Victorian Medical History Society and the Naval Historical Society of Australia. He is a Member of the Order of Australia.*

## ABERNETHY AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF SURGICAL TEACHING

In the Library is a beautifully bound handwritten volume of John Abernethy's *Lectures on Surgery*. Apart from the legend *Charles M. Terry, Oriel College, Oxford 1809* on the flyleaf it is undated, but it probably dates from 1803 and formed the basis of Abernethy's famous *Text Book of Surgery*.

In the 80 years after Cook's Australasian discoveries London harboured a succession of gifted surgeon-teachers who followed in the tradition of the Hunters and made outstanding contributions to anatomy, physiology and pathology. John Abernethy attended Hunter's lectures, and those of Pott at St Bartholomew's, where he became assistant surgeon and anatomy lecturer, and founded the medical school, as well as taking paying students at his home. He also described the specimens in the Hunterian collection.

Charles Bell came south from Edinburgh, taught anatomy, physiology and pathology, and became surgeon to the Middlesex and a founder of its school. He made important discoveries relating to circulation and the nervous system, dedicating some of his writings to Abernethy. The third member, James Paget, was a student at Bart's shortly after Abernethy's death, and made discoveries in pathology as a student. He later taught at Bart's and at the College of Surgeons, where he gave a series of courses on surgical pathology based on the specimens in the Museum.

All three became FRS, and left a legacy of eponymous structures and important clinical and pathological knowledge, some of which has had to be 'rediscovered' in our time.

*Sam Mellick was born in North Queensland and qualified with first class honours at the University of Queensland in 1948. After gaining his English Fellowship in 1953 he returned to become lecturer in operative surgery and surgical anatomy, and a surgeon at the new Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, whose department of Vascular Surgery he founded in 1961 and headed until 1985.*

*He became FRACS in 1960, and has since served the College as chairman of the Board of Examiners, Censor-in-Chief and as senior Vice-president. He was the founding chairman of the Section of*

*Vascular Surgery. His FACS dates from 1967, and he served two terms as a Governor of the American College. He was made an honorary Fellow of the Irish College in 1989, and was the first Australian to be president of the International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery.*

*He has been Windsor Lecturer, a Hunterian Professor, Bancroft Orator of the AMA, medallist of the John Loewenthal Society and Colles lecturer and medallist of the RCSI. He was awarded a CBE in 1987.*

## A DEBT TO ALEXIS

The presence in the Cowlshaw Collection of Beaumont's *Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice and the Physiology of Digestion* makes it possible to revisit the fascinating story of the surgeon, William Beaumont and his patient, Alexis St Martin.

Beaumont conducted 238 experiments on St Martin over several years, experiments which commenced in 1825 and continued with various interruptions until 1833.

The paper describes, in Beaumont's own words, the original wound sustained by St Martin, some aspects of his primary and later treatment; it then explores Beaumont's reflections on a wide variety of aspects of nutrition and digestion, including 'of ailment', 'of hunger and thirst', and (of specific relevance) 'of digestion by the Gastric Juice'.

Beaumont's experiments were meticulously recorded; an excellent example is Experiment 1 in the First Series:

August 1, 1825 - At 12 o'clock, a.m., I introduced through the perforation, into the stomach, the following articles of diet, suspended by a silk string, and fastened at proper distances, so as to pass in without pain - viz: a piece of high seasoned a la mode beef, a piece of raw salted fat pork, a piece of raw salted lean beef, a piece of boiled salted beef, a piece of stale bread, and a bunch of raw sliced cabbage; each piece weighing about 2 drachms; the lad continuing his usual employment about the house.

At 1 o'clock, p.m. withdrew and examined them - found the cabbage and bread about half digested; the pieces of meat unchanged. Returned them into the stomach.

We owe a debt to Beaumont and to St Martin - the former for

recording his thoughts and observations and the latter for allowing Beaumont to conduct his experiments. During the several years of their association, St Martin lived in Beaumont's house as a domestic servant 'for the express purpose of being experimented upon' and, as succinctly put by Combe, 'so far then as opportunity for observation was concerned nothing could surpass that enjoyed by Dr Beaumont'.

*Born in Adelaide, N.A. (Nate) Myers qualified in medicine from the University of Melbourne in 1945. Between 1946 and 1954 he worked his way up the ladder at the Royal Children's Hospital to become Chief Resident, while gaining the FRACS in 1953. He then spent a couple of years at Great Ormond Street, returning with an English Fellowship to become a surgeon at his old hospital, and he has devoted a loyal and distinguished career to the institution. As a recent chairman of the senior medical staff, he was made organising secretary for the 1970 International Centenary Surgical Congress of the Royal Children's Hospital.*

*Within the College, he has been chairman of the Victorian State Committee, and he is now honorary archivist in succession to his old colleague Douglas Stephens.*

*He has been a Hunterian Professor, he is an editor of Paediatric Surgery International, and he is a co-author of the definitive work on O esophageal Atresia - which was also the subject of his own MD thesis in 1989. He was made AM in 1981, received the President's Medal of the Royal Children's Hospital in 1988 and the Coe Medal of the Pacific Association of Plastic Surgeons in 1989.*

## PARÉ AS A NEUROSURGEON

The Cowlshaw Collection contains Latin and Dutch versions of the complete works of Ambroise Paré, as well as three printings of the English translation and Malgaigne's French edition. (There are also copies of his first work, on gunshot wounds, from 1545, and on the plague from 1568).

Although Malgaigne's great edition is essential in any study of Paré's achievement, the 1649 English edition provides a good basis for consideration of his practice in what would now be termed neurosurgery.

Paré had a large clinical experience in head injury management. His patients included Henri II, king of France,

who died under his care from a penetrating orbital wound, and he witnessed and described a number of other craniofacial wounds sustained in war or in warlike sports. His surgical instruments and operative techniques do not appear very innovative when compared with those of earlier Italian surgeons, but were doubtless good in their day; his methods of trephination compare favourably with those of the English surgeon John Woodall, his younger contemporary. He operated on head injuries and cranial infection, but had no capacity to treat intracranial conditions that would now be seen as neurosurgical, such as cerebral abscesses and tumours: his technical limitations are obvious, and the physicians on whom he had to rely could give him no guidance in neurological diagnosis. He was keenly interested in developmental malformations, and described several conditions that would now be referred to a paediatric neurosurgeon.

Paré is of great historical importance as an outstanding Renaissance surgeon, whose influence extended throughout the literate world, and as far as Japan. With him, France replaced Italy and Spain in leadership in European surgical progress, retaining this position at least until the age of Hunter.

*Donald Simpson graduated in medicine in the University of Adelaide in 1949. He specialised in neurosurgery, training in the Department of Neurological Surgery in the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, under Mr J.B. Pennybacker, and later in the Royal Adelaide Hospital under Mr T.A.R. Dinning. He was director of neurosurgery in the Adelaide Children's Hospital 1970-85; he is now emeritus neurosurgeon in that hospital and in the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and titular Clinical Professor in the University of Adelaide.*

*At an early and innocent age, he was exposed to the historical novels of G.A. Henty. He then became addicted to the past, and has remained so; he has written several articles on the history of neurosurgery in Australasia and on other historical topics. He is the curator of the museum of the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia.*

*He is a foundation member of the Section of the History of Surgery and Anaesthesia (now the Section of Surgical History) of the RACS, and a member of the Australian Society of the History of Medicine, of the Centre for British Studies in the University of Adelaide, of the Maritime History Society of Australia, and the Australian Mining History Association. He is a Member of the Order of Australia, and a Doctor of his University.*

## HOME AWAY FROM HOME

John Hunter served as an army surgeon in Portugal during the Seven Years War. Here he became friendly with his colleague Robert Boyne Home, whose daughter Anne he later married. Her young brother Everard became first a pupil of Hunter's, then (after service with the naval hospital at Plymouth, and as an army surgeon in Jamaica) his assistant.

Home prospered to become Master and later first President of the Royal College of Surgeons; he became a baronet, and was serjeant surgeon to George III and a drinking companion of the Prince Regent. He was also Hunter's executor, who first plagiarised Hunter's writings and then burned his papers, lying when found out.

Home's son James Everard became a career naval officer who, after succeeding to the baronetcy, made amends for his father by presenting certain of Hunter's writings to the College. As senior naval officer on the Australian station in the 1840s he gained great respect, and he is a significant but neglected figure in the early colonial history of New Zealand. He died in Sydney in 1853 and is buried in the old Camperdown cemetery

*Wyn Beasley is a former vice-president of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and chairman of the Section of Surgical History. He is now Reader to the Gordon Craig Library, and in this capacity is convenor of today's Cowlishaw Symposium.*

*During his active surgical career he was a visiting orthopaedic surgeon at Wellington Hospital in New Zealand, and he retains a clinical involvement as consultant surgeon to the Wellington Artificial Limb Centre.*

*In recent years, however, he has turned to writing as a second career; apart from papers in medical and historical journals, he is the author of five books on historical subjects, including a commentary on the Portraits at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and a study of the lives and association of John Hunter, James Cook and Joseph Banks, Fellowship of Three.*

*He commanded the 2nd General Hospital, RNZAMC 1966-69, and was subsequently Director of Medical Services at Home Command in the rank of colonel. He was awarded a military OBE in 1971 and the Efficiency Decoration in 1974. He was Colonel Commandant of his Corps 1986-90.*

*He is now a Professorial Research Fellow at the Central Institute of Technology in Wellington, where he is working on the study of the life and times of the Home family that forms the basis of today's paper.*