

Friends of the College Archives Newsletter

Issue 4, Autumn 2010

College Archives update

A full list of the archives collection is now on the AIM25 project website. AIM25 is a major project that aims to provide electronic access to collection-level descriptions of the archives of over 100 higher education institutions, learned societies, cultural organisations and livery companies within the Greater London area. To view the list, go to www.aim25.ac.uk and navigate to the list of organisations listed in the 'Medicine' category on the right-hand side.

The College Archives will soon embark on an exercise of cataloguing the presidents' portraits,

historical objects and framed photographs in the College building and those in offsite storage. The photography work will be carried out by Elizabeth Wewiora, who is being sponsored by Professor Sue Bailey.

The Honorary Archivist, Dr Fiona Subotsky, and the Archivist, Francis Maunze, are organising an exhibition about the life and work of Dr Helen Boyle, the first woman president of the College, for the College's International Congress to be held in 2011 in Brighton.

Women Presidents of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association and the Royal College of Psychiatrists



1939

Helen A. Boyle
*Lady Chichester Hospital,
Hove, Sussex*



1993–1996

Fiona Caldicott
Uffculme Clinic, Birmingham



1962

Isabel G. H. Wilson
*Former Senior Commissioner,
Board of Control*



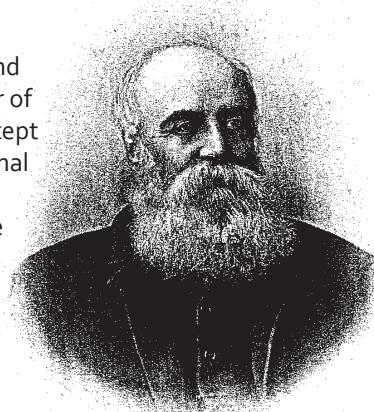
2005–2008

Sheila Hollins
*St George's Hospital Medical
School, London*

Dr John Hayball Paul and Camberwell House Asylum

Dr John Hayball Paul (1816–1899) was the longest-serving treasurer (1863–1894) of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association and its successors. His presence is thus regularly noted in the *Journal of Mental Science*, although he was not a wordy man. He was popular, however, and his obituary (*Journal of Mental Science* 1899; 45: 430–1) partly accounts for this:

‘when money was scarce and members few, the Treasurer of the Association practically kept the Association and its Journal going by the generous expenditure of considerable sums which he never mentioned.’



John’s wealth presumably derived from his proprietorship of Camberwell House Asylum, which he shared with his wife’s uncle, Alfred Richards, a lawyer. In W. H. Blanch’s *Ye Parish of Camberwell* (1875), we read that:

‘The asylum known as Camberwell House, in the Peckham Road, with its surrounding pleasure and garden grounds, occupies a space of some 20 acres, part of which is laid out in a park-like manner, the remainder being kept for the use of patients who take an interest in garden pursuits. The principal building on the north side of Peckham Road was built ... for a school ... and in 1846 the late Mr Aubin, with Dr Paul and Mr Richards, opened it as an asylum for the insane, and the two latter gentlemen have made such additions and improvements as to render Camberwell House Asylum the largest of its kind in the metropolis... The establishment is licensed for the reception of 483 inmates and for their care and management there are upwards of 80 officers and servants.’

Much can be deduced from census records: John married the 16-year-old Mary Ann Aubin, whose father owned the large Norwood School of Industry, and whose grandfather had run Marlborough House in Peckham, the main workhouse for the City of London. Thus, the experience and contacts for running a large metropolitan institution was within the family. The timing was apt: as the Lunacy Act 1845 required that lunatics be removed from pauper workhouses, the immediate availability of Camberwell House ensured its success.

Surviving records of the Camberwell House Asylum

The College Archives have the following records:

- photographs of the asylum (part of the asylum building, tennis court and the grounds)
- laundry rules (c. 1910)
- notice for a lecture and a concert held in the theatre at the asylum (c. 1920s)
- case book volume 1 (1846–1847) containing information on admissions nos. 1–441 and notes to the 1860s
- two volumes containing admissions records nos. 201–600 for pauper patients (1846–1848)
- commissioners’ in lunacy visitors book (1846–1865).

The Wellcome Library holds volumes 2 and 3 of the case books, which came from the collection of Dr R. A. Hunter. Further material on Camberwell House is available at the Southwark Local History Library at the John Harvard Library in London.

The first visit of the commissioners – J. W. Mylne, J. R. Hume and T. Turner – took place on 6 March 1846. There were already 47 patients, 18 males and 29 females. All except one were ‘paupers’, and were therefore being funded by their workhouse union of origin. The one private patient partook of the same conditions. The commissioners’ report was mainly positive:

‘[patients] were in general tranquil and comfortable: and several of them whom we questioned gave a favourable account of their diet and treatment ... None of them were under mechanical coercion ... We found a number of the males playing at cricket and amusing themselves in the large airing court.’

They also noted that ‘the resident surgeon has begun to keep a casebook and he has undertaken that in future he will observe more particularly the instructions which have been issued by the commissioners upon that subject.’ From the case books it is apparent that the usual diagnoses were mania, melancholia or idiocy, sometimes additionally with epilepsy or ‘general paralysis of the insane’. Pauper patients seem often to have

been admitted in an extremely poor physical state, and so died not long afterwards.

Later life

After John resigned from the post of treasurer,

'he received from the hands of the President for that year (Dr David Nicolson) a handsome silver bowl and an illuminated address on behalf of the members, testifying to the affectionate regard in which he was held, and setting forth the many services so faithfully and so zealously rendered to the Association.'

He was also elected Emeritus Treasurer.

By 1898, John was suffering from renal disease and, after his wife died unexpectedly in October 1898, his condition deteriorated. He died, aged 84, on 29 January 1899, and was buried in Norwood Cemetery on 2 February. The *South London Press* reported that the cortège included a car and six carriages, two of which belonged to prosperous local doctors – Dr Stocker, the Medical Superintendent of Peckham Road Asylum, and Dr Shapter Robinson of Telford House. A Dr Jones is also named, probably Robert Jones, the General Secretary of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association at the time and

also Medical Superintendent of Claybury Asylum. John's daughter Elizabeth was not present, perhaps ill, as she died the following year. However, she was able to present an engraving of her father to the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, which was published in the *Journal of Mental Science* and is reproduced here. The president said that 'while they did not require a picture to keep Dr Paul's memory green, they were exceedingly pleased to have it' (*Journal of Mental Science* 1900; 46: 379).

Sources

Blanch WH. *Ye Parish of Camberwell*: 348–9. EW Allen, 1875.

Roberts A. The Lunacy Commission, a study of its origin, emergence and character. 1981 (<http://studymore.org.uk/o1.htm>).

Archives at the Royal College of Psychiatrists and at the Wellcome Library

Journal of Mental Science

Fiona Subotsky

Adopt-a-Book

A total of 27 books have so far been repaired since the appeal started in July 2007. The College is very grateful to all those who have generously donated to the scheme. Information about the scheme, a full list of books to be adopted and a donation form can be found at: www.rcpsych.ac.uk/rollofhonour/thecollegearchives/adoptabook.aspx. Here is a list of some of the books in need of restoration.

Esdaile J. *Mesmerism in India and Its Practical Application in Surgery and Medicine*. Longman, Brown, Green & Longmans, 1846 [£130.00].

Fletcher R. *Sketches from the Case Book, to Illustrate the Influence of the Mind on the Body: With the Treatment of Some of the More Important Brain and Nervous Disturbances Which Arise from This*. Longman & Co, 1833 [£130.00].

Tuke DH. *Insanity in Ancient and Modern Life: With Chapters on Its Prevention*. Macmillan & Co, 1878 [£40.00].

Winslow F. *On Obscure Diseases of the Brain and Disorders of the Mind*. John W. Davies, 1861 [£120.00].

Zerffi GG. *Spiritualism and Animal Magnetism*. Publisher unknown, 1871 [£90.00].

Contributions

Notices of events, letters and relevant brief articles are welcome. Please send contributions to the Archivist, Francis Maunze: fmaunze@rcpsych.ac.uk

Stop. Think. Understand

Below is a bus poster for the Changing Minds campaign (1998–2003). Changing Minds was an anti-stigma campaign whose objective was to encourage everyone to stop and think about their own attitudes and behaviour in relation to

mental disorders. Further information about the campaign can be found at: www.rcpsych.ac.uk/campaigns/changingminds/whatischangingminds/whychangingminds.aspx

STOP. THINK. UNDERSTAND

1 in 4 of us will suffer from a mental illness in our lifetime.

But many will also face isolation, prejudice & rejection as a result of our stigmatisation of mental illness.
Mental illness affects all of us.

Reduce the stigma of mental illness
@ www.changingminds.co.uk

every family in the land
changing minds

Notices

The Death of the Asylum in Late 20th Century Britain: A Roundtable Discussion

Speakers: Peter Barham (Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Oxford), Baroness Elaine Murphy, David Jones (University of East London) and Barbara Taylor (University of East London)

Date: Tuesday 16 November 2010

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Room G03, University College London, 26 Bedford Way, London WC1H

This event is organised by the Raphael Samuel History Centre in conjunction with 'History & Policy' (www.historyandpolicy.org).

Admission to the event is free, with no tickets or advance booking required.

For further information, email k.pettit@uel.ac.uk. For details of other Raphael Samuel History Centre activities go to: www.raphael-samuel.org.uk

RAPHAEL SAMUEL HISTORY CENTRE

A partnership between the University of East London, Birkbeck College University of London and Bishopsgate Institute

Wellcome Library workshops – autumn programme

The new autumn programme of Wellcome Library workshops can be found on the library website at: <http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/workshops>.

The workshops provide introductions to research and information resources at the Library, and are aimed at the general public. The programme includes:

- thematic workshops such as science in the news, medicine and literature, and the history of medicine on the Internet
- training on specific resources such as PubMed Central and Web of Science
- introductions to the archives and manuscripts collections, and the Wellcome Images digital image database.

All workshops are free and available to members of the Wellcome Library (membership is free and open to all).

To book a place on any of the workshops, please use the online booking facility on the library website (<http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/workshops>).