

Society Reports

VESALIAN EXHIBITION

A special exhibition in honour of the four hundredth anniversary of the death of Vesalius has been mounted at the Wellcome Historical Medical Library, 183 Euston Road, London N.W.1, where it is open to the public from Mondays to Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECTION OF MEDICAL
HISTORY IN THE AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION (VICTORIAN BRANCH)

THE Annual Meeting of the Section of Medical History in the Australian Medical Association, Victorian Branch, took place on Monday, 13 April 1964, in the Museum of the Medical Society of Victoria, East Melbourne.

The following Office Bearers were appointed for 1964:

President	Dr. Edward Ryan
Honorary Secretary	Dr. M. L. Verso
Honorary Treasurer	Dr. J. T. Hueston

On assuming Office, Dr. Ryan expressed his appreciation of the service that Sir Clive Fitts had given to the Section during his two years as Chairman, and a motion of appreciation was placed on record.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. Malcolm Fredman, who presented a paper, 'The Horseless Doctor', which dealt with the impact of the coming of the automobile on medical practice.

In his preliminary remarks Dr. Fredman traced the early development of motor transport. He pointed out that the motor car had evolved largely because of the demand for individual transport and because civilization was ready for the mechanical vehicle. It was the concept of a self-propelled vehicle, of 'automobilism', rather than the internal-combustion engine in particular that appealed. Early motor vehicles did not suit doctors' requirements, but in the early twentieth century, with the coming of such vehicles as the de Dion Bouton, the medical profession accepted the new means of transport very quickly. It resulted in a tremendous saving of doctors' time as well as enabling patients to obtain medical assistance in emergencies much more rapidly than previously.

Dr. Fredman cited numerous extracts from journals, newspapers and advertisements, which had been published in the early days of motor transport when the question of using the motor car in medical practice was a live issue. The early manufacturers saw the medical profession as a valuable potential market and many advertisements were directed to them.

Dr. Fredman concluded his talk with a number of anecdotes of early medical motoring in Australia.

M. L. VERSO