

*The Scottish Society of the History of Medicine*

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*News, Notes and Queries*

THE MELBOURNE PHARMACY

A CORRECTION

In the October 1971 number of *Medical History* a note appeared over my name entitled 'A notable pharmacy comes to Melbourne' (pp. 401-2). In this it was stated that the shop was opened in London at 29 Chapel Street, Belgravia, in 1915. This was the date given to me by Savory & Moore Ltd. although it was questioned on the grounds of style and obvious age of the fittings; in fact the date is not correct. Savory & Moore opened their branch in Chapel Street about 1849 and they are listed as being at that address in the *London Directory* of 1853. The *Registers of Pharmaceutical Chemists and Chemists and Druggists* of 1869 lists the shop with Charles Hunt as manager, a position which he held until 1910 when he retired. The date of 1849-50 is suggested by many of the pre-*British Pharmacopoeia* drugs listed on the labels of the drawers and by the type of nails, screws and details of joinery used in the fittings. I had no doubt as to the approximate age of the fittings, but in view of the dogmatic date given to me by Savory & Moore Ltd. I suggested that the furniture had come from another, older shop. It now appears that this is original to the shop when it opened in 1849-50 although some modifications to the layout were made at a later date.

I am most grateful to Dr. J. K. Crellin of the Wellcome Institute of the History of Medicine for providing me with the information which cleared up the confusion. My faith in primary sources has received a slight jolt.

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