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### THE WORSHIPFUL SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON FACULTY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

#### FIRST AWARDS OF HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

AT the inaugural session of the First British Congress on the History of Medicine and Pharmacy which was organized in London by the Faculty on 28th–30th September 1960, the Faculty's Chairman and Congress President, Dr. W. S. C. Copeman bestowed the Honorary Fellowship of the Faculty upon Sir Geoffrey Keynes and Professor Owsei Temkin. This new distinction is awarded for outstanding services to scholarship in the history of medicine and the number of Honorary Fellows is not to exceed twelve at any one time.

Conferring the first Honorary Fellowship on Sir Geoffrey Keynes, Dr. Copeman said:

In presenting Sir Geoffrey Keynes as the first Honorary Fellow of the Faculty we salute a man who has contributed and continues to contribute through a long and busy career to the

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advance of British medicine. Sir Geoffrey is not content to make history as a pioneer in many surgical fields, he has also written about his predecessors (as was said of Edward Gibbon) both luminously and voluminously.

His historical researches extend far beyond medicine into the history of British science and literature from Donne and Evelyn and Hooke, from Jane Austen and Hazlitt, to Rupert Brooke and Siegfried Sassoon. His expertise as an art historian has led him to the chairmanship of our National Portrait Gallery, while he is most widely known as a profound student of the dual genius of William Blake. He is a book collector of outstanding discrimination, who uses his collections as a tool of scholarship.

His studies in medical history range across the centuries from Ambroise Paré to Sir William Osler. Here in the City of London we salute him as our leading authority on the life and writings of his great predecessor at St. Bartholomew's—William Harvey.

In the absence of Sir Geoffrey Keynes in Rome, his award was received by Sir Arthur Porritt, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, who expressed Sir Geoffrey's gratitude and appreciation of the honour accorded him and his regret that he was unable to be present.

Dr. Copeman then conferred the Fellowship on Professor Temkin with the following account of his services to scholarship:

In bestowing our Honorary Fellowship upon Professor Owsei Temkin the Faculty pays tribute to an erudite and modest scholar who has this year celebrated the 25th anniversary of his installation as Professor of the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. He is also Director of the Institute of the History of Medicine in that university and has shown himself a worthy successor to his distinguished predecessor, the late Henry Sigerist. Founded by William Henry Welch on the lines of Sudhoff's famous institute at Leipzig where both Sigerist and Professor Temkin received their training, the Institute at Baltimore has already produced many fine professional medical historians. It is also an inspiration to us to know that all medical students at Johns Hopkins attend a course in history given by Professor Temkin and his assistants.

Dr. Temkin's own contributions to the history of classical and mediaeval medicine have been many and his authoritative history of epilepsy entitled 'The Falling Sickness' is a model for all who attempt to trace the history of a disease. As teacher and as editor of the well known *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* he has always shown himself to be the counsellor and friend of the young aspirant in medical history. As an individual he exemplifies the Faculty's own ideals and objectives, and as a representative of all that is best in American scholarship in our field he has, in accepting our Honorary Fellowship, helped to forge yet another of the many links which bind our two countries together.

Professor Temkin's award was received on his behalf by Mr. S. Everett Gleason, the Cultural Attaché to the American Embassy in London, who read the following message from Professor Temkin:

I wish to express to the Faculty of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London my sincere thanks for awarding me its Honorary Fellowship.

The institution of this Fellowship for services to scholarship in the history of medicine will, I am sure, be welcomed by historians everywhere. It is my belief that scholarship, especially in the form of research, gives to the history of medicine the impetus needed for carrying it forward and preventing it from being an immutable reflection of a dead past. Research is born out of new questions and a willingness to find new answers, and at the same time it implies the scholar's responsibility for accuracy and truthfulness. New visions of medicine's position between yesterday and tomorrow, therefore, need the support of historical scholarship if they are to have our confidence. In the field of the history of medicine, which combines many

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tasks, the role assigned to scholarly research may well be stated again, if only to give us some assurance that even investigations without direct, pragmatic value may lead us in new directions and provide the basis for new convictions.

I hope you will forgive me for inflicting these general observations upon you, for they help to indicate my feelings in having been chosen the recipient of one of your first Honorary Fellowships. Such personal pride as may be pardonable is enhanced by the thought that in selecting me you have not minded crossing the ocean.

With my thanks I would like to send my greetings to this Inaugural Meeting. The First British Congress on the History of Medicine and Pharmacy will be acclaimed everywhere as an event of great significance. Though circumstances prevent me from being present on this illustrious occasion, I feel deeply gratified by the thought that my thanks and my greetings are to be conveyed to you by a representative of my country.

Please accept my thanks, my greetings, and my very best wishes for your endeavours.

## SECOND BRITISH CONGRESS ON THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

THE theme of the Second British Congress on the History of Medicine and Pharmacy, which is being organized by the Faculty in cooperation with The Chemical Society, will be 'Chemistry in the Service of Medicine'. The Congress will be held in London from 27th–29th September 1961. Further details and application forms for membership will be available shortly from the Honorary Secretary, Dr. F. N. L. Poynter, Wellcome Historical Medical Library, The Wellcome Building, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

## BRITISH NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

THE Council of the Royal Society has decided to set up a British National Committee for the History of Science with the following membership—Chairman: Sir Harold Hartley; Sir Gavin de Beer, Lord Fleck, Professor D. M. Newitt, Professor E. N. da C. Andrade, Professor D. McKie and Professor W. D. M. Paton to represent the Royal Society; together with representatives from the British Society for the History of Science, the Newcomen Society and the Faculty of History of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries.

The function of the new National Committee will be to maintain contact with the Division of the History of Science of the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science with the object of facilitating international cooperation, to recommend to the Royal Society proposals for scientific action or matters for discussion which it may be desirable to bring before the General Assembly of the Union, and also to select delegates to represent the adhering organization (the Royal Society) at the General Assembly of the Union.

Dr. W. S. C. Copeman has been nominated to serve as the representative of the Faculty of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Society of Apothecaries on this Committee for a period of three years from 1 January 1961.