



The BMJ is 150 years old on 3 October 1990

Why not share in the celebrations by enjoying some of the special events and publications that the journal has produced to mark its anniversary?



Mirror of Medicine: A History of the BMJ by P W J Bartrip. From its beginnings in Worcester as the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal to the mid-60s in Tavistock Square as a leading international journal. Through rows, editors' resignations and dismissals, battles with the BMA and royal colleges as well as through growing success and authority. The historian P W J Bartrip provides a shrewd and perceptive commentary on the BMJ's progress as well as placing its history in the context of contemporary events. Published jointly by the BMJ and Oxford University Press; BMA members' price UK £29, overseas £33, including postage. Obtainable from the Publishing Manager BMJ, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE. Non-members UK £35. Obtainable from OUP Distribution Services, Saxon Way West, Corby, Northants NN18 9ES.

Dr Phillips: a Maida Vale Idyll by Frank Danby. One of the *BMJ*'s most outstanding editors, Ernest Hart, is purported to be the basis for the character of Dr Phillips. With a special introduction by Stephen Lock, present editor of the *BMJ*, and illustrations by Tabitha Salmon, this Victorian rarity has been brought splendidly back into print by the Keynes Press. Limited edition; UK £45, overseas £49, including postage. Obtainable from the Publishing Manager, *BMJ* (Keynes Press), PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE.

Apollo. Edward Lowbury, a distinguished doctor-poet, has compiled this collection of poetry by doctors from Nicias of Miletus (fl 250 BC) to Alexander Rosenbaum (b 1951) and including Rabelais, Sir Thomas Browne, Goldsmith, Schiller, Ronald Ross, William Carlos Williams, and Dannie Abse. A beautifully produced limited edition under the Keynes Press imprint, which to celebrate the anniversary is being sold at the special price of UK £20; overseas £23 including postage. Obtainable from the Publishing Manager, *BMJ* (Keynes Press), PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE.



Symposium on the history of medical journals. Presented jointly by the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine and the *BMJ*, this unique symposium takes place at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albermarle Street, London W1, on Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 October. Speakers include Roy Porter, Professor Michael Shepherd, and Sir Christopher Booth. Details and registration form from Dr W Bynum, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9GL.

Poetry reading. On Tuesday 2 October there will be readings from *Apollo*, the Keynes Press collection of poems by doctor-poets (see above) at the Poetry Society, 21 Earls Court Square, London SW5 (7. 30 pm; admission free; cash bar). This will also be repeated at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham, at 7. 30 pm on Wednesday 17 October.

Exhibition. From 2 October to 2 November an exhibition, *Mirror of Medicine*, will be on display in the Hastings Room, BMA House. A visual guide to the *BMJ* then and now; how it has developed and how it works. 10am-5pm Monday-Friday; admission free.



A new lithograph by David Gentleman marks the *BMJ*'s 150th anniversary with a view of the inner courtyard of BMA House, the journal's home since 1925. Only 125 copies have been produced for sale, price £155 including postage, packing, and VAT. Obtainable from the Publishing Manager, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

Surgical Roots and Branches

by Sir Reginald Murley

When Sir Reginald Murley became president of the Royal College of Surgeons in July 1977 he was described in the *Daily Telegraph* as a "redoubtable standard bearer" and as "one of the dwindling number of old style 'surgical



characters'." In Surgical Roots and Branches he gives a lively account of the development of this character, from boyhood and studnt days at Barts to the six and a half years he spent in the "university of life"—as a medical officer in maxillofacial units in the second world war.

Sir Reginald has also been described as a "firebrand" with "political muscle." Not afraid to say what he thinks or to act on his beliefs, he has successfully fought many battles with the authorities over such issues as delay and inefficiency in



implementing hospital building programmes. He describes these campaigns not only in detail but with gusto, and throughout the book, whether recalling people, places, politics, or surgical practice, he keeps the promise that he makes in his introduction: to provide a narrative that is "as entertaining and informative as possible—not forgetting a little homespun philosophy."

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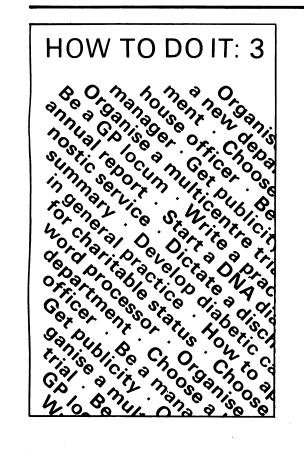
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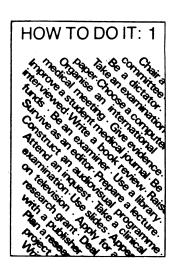


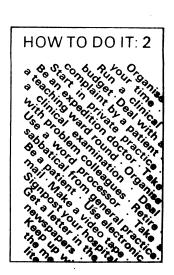
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OME THINGS APPEAR TO E, SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT

related to gastric acid; healing no longer seemed to be a major problem, except for the high relapse rates.1) In 1983 J.R. Warren and B.J. Marshall²⁾ unearthed another pathological factor: Helicobacter pylori*. Since their historic rediscovery, evidence of the connection between H. pylori in the gastric mucosa on one hand and histologically proven gastritis and peptic ulcers on the other has become stronger and stronger. Chronic gastritis and ulcer relapse are highly associated with H. pylori.3) De-Nol® is the only ulcer healer that is active against H. pylori. Therefore the relapse rates after termination of therapy are much lower than with acid-suppressant preparations.4) What is more: among patients in whom H. pylori was eradicated and who remained H. pylori negative in the year of follow-up, the relapse rate of peptic ulcers was only 0-10%.4, 5, 6, 7, 8) The pathogenesis and cure of peptic ulcers therefore appear to be slightly different from what was

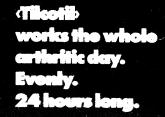
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* formerly known as Campylobacter pylori

assumed for years.

1) Marshall BJ et al. Lancet 1988, 2.1437.1442. 2) Marshall BJ, Warren JR, Lancet 1984, 1.1311.1315. 3) Goodwin CS. Lancet 1988, 2.1467.1469. 4) Smith AC, et al. Gut 1988, 29. A711. 5) Rause EAJ, Tytgat CAU, ISBN 90.9002988. 9. Amsterdam 1989. 6) Lambert JR, et al. Gastroenterology 1987, 92. 1489. 7) Borody TJ, et al. Gastroenterology 1988, 94. 43 (abstract). Bl. Coghlan CC et al. Lancet 1982, 27. 1109.1111.
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