Editorial

Issue 24 of the Medical Historian covers the 2012-2013 session of the Liverpool Medical History Society. The first meeting of the session marked the sesquicentenary of professional nurse training in Liverpool, with a talk from Chris Jones on the foundation of the Royal Liverpool Hospital Training School for Nurses (see pages 3-15), followed by the official opening of the Celebrate Nursing! display and the launch of the book Nursing in Liverpool since 1862 (available via the website www.liverpoolnursing150.org.uk). The book is reviewed by Diane Adams in this Issue (pages 75-77). Nursing in Liverpool and Merseyside has been an occasional topic in past Medical Historian articles.2,3

Two other anniversaries relevant to medicine in Liverpool which fell within the session were the bicentenary of the birth of James Newlands (1813-1871), and the centenary of the birth of Cecil Gray (1913-2008).

Dr Martin Gorsky’s article, From Poor Law Institutions to geriatric hospitals in the South West of England, 1930s-1970s (pages 35-36), revisits topics previously addressed in a 1999 special issue of the Medical Historian devoted to The Poor Law and After, particularly the articles by MW Royden4 and MA Crowther.5 These, and all the papers published in Medical Historian, are available on the Liverpool Medical Institution website (www.lmi.org.uk, follow link to Liverpool Medical History Society) along with listings of LMHS meetings in the current 2013-2014 session.

In addition to the papers based on talks given at LMHS meetings, this Issue contains other, unsolicited, articles related to the history of medicine in Liverpool. Chris Jones examines local newspaper responses to the Liverpool cholera outbreak of 1832 (pages 55-66), an article which

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1 M. Parkes and S. Sheard, Nursing in Liverpool since 1862 (Lancaster, Scotforth Books, 2012).
complements John Brooke’s piece, based on his talk to the Society, on the Leeds cholera outbreak of the same year (pages 37-54). Michael Moreton shares reminiscences on Lord Cohen of Birkenhead (pages 67-70), whilst Robin Agnew reflects on the Liverpool Central Chest Clinic (pages 71-73). (Readers may also be interested in an unrelated piece by Robin Agnew published recently in the Journal of Medical Biography.⁶)

Following discussions of a small LMHS subcommittee, a new format for the Medical Historian is being trialled. The old style “Bulletin” has been dropped in favour of “Journal”, and the year of publication has replaced the previous sessional dating which was felt to be cumbersome for citation purposes. We shall be interested to hear feedback on the new look.

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