DE MOTU CORDIS. Roterdam, 1660

Engraved title page with the date altered to 1661; an allegorical design representing Truth led by Time.

THE FOURTH CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF WILLIAM HARVEY: DR. ARCHIBALD MALLOCH AND THE HARVEY COLLECTION*

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THE first of April 1978 marked the quartercentenary of William Harvey's birth. This was a great occasion in the history of medicine, and festivities around the globe recalled his contribution to world medicine.

In 1628, in his *De Motu Cordis and Sanguinis in Animalibus,* Harvey told the world of his great discovery: the motion and functions of the heart resulting in the circulation of the blood. Harvey's clear reasoning, based on accurate observations and precise measurements made during his purposeful experiments, prepared the way for all subsequent studies dealing with the cardiovascular system and was a model for future scientific procedure. The correct exposition of the circulation of the blood placed medicine on a firm basis and its discoverer will be revered as long as the art is practised.

The New York Academy of Medicine has every reason to take part in the celebrations. Its library dates from January 13, 1847, when Dr. Isaac Wood presented a three-volume set of Martyn Paine's *Medical and Physiological Commentaries,* 1840-1844, to the Academy. From that humble beginning, as a result of the enthusiastic striving of a long chain of highly unusual men, great individual collectors, and librarians, the Academy Library has developed into one of the most respected and distinguished medical research libraries in the world, widely known for its comprehensiveness and availability.

William Harvey was always cherished by our Friends and librarians, and a nearly completed collection of all his works and editions, and of books, papers, and texts written about him or against him has found a place on the shelves of our Malloch Rare Book Room.

*This article is based on a paper read at the *"Harvey 400" Conference* at London, August 25-September 9, 1978.

It was fortunate at the time for the Library and especially for the Academy's small rare book collection that a kind fate brought the right individuals and circumstances together at the right time. When, in 1925, the Academy was seeking a new librarian, it happened that a young Canadian physician was free and willing to make librarianship his life work. On January 1, 1926 Dr. Archibald Malloch entered upon his duties as librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine. He came not as a librarian by profession but as a physician filled with Oslerian enthusiasm for medical history and its written record. In his own words, he gave up "his vocation to take up his avocation as his profession." Before coming to New York Dr. Malloch had a successful career as a physician. Born in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1887, he grew up in medical circles and was fortunate in having two formative influences which shaped his early career. His father was a leading physician and surgeon of the region and a friend and disciple of Lister. In later years Dr. Malloch wrote: "I was brought up in a house where Lister was revered and often spoken of in terms of deepest affection." Dr. Malloch acquired his love of books and reading at an early age. His friendship with Sir Willian Osler dated back to childhood, for his father had been a friend of Osler since their early 20s. While still a student, Osler had come from Montreal to Hamilton to see a case of trichinosis with the older physician. A lifelong friendship followed, which was carried over to the son. In later years, in his address about Osler at the celebration of the silver jubilee of the Toronto Academy of Medicine in April 1932, Dr. Malloch said: "Osler is still a source of inspiration to us in our work and lives," and further on, "His life was so beautiful in all its aspects and in its actions that when we are placed in difficult or trying circumstances, we feel as if we should ask ourselves, what would Osler have done in our place?"

After receiving his B.A. degree from the Faculty of Arts of Queens University, Dr. Malloch entered McGill University Medical School. In September 1912 the "young Archie," then entering his last year at McGill, came with his parents to visit the Oslers at Oxford. During this visit Sir William introduced him to Fuller's *Worthies,* and the young medical student told him of his distaste for therapeutics. Soon after receiving his M.D.C.M. in 1913, Dr. Malloch's further training was interrupted by World War I. He was first assigned to the Friends Ambulance Unit at Dunkerque. He crossed the Atlantic in October, 1914, on the Lusitania's last trip before her sinking, and spent his Christmas leave with the Oslers.

After service with the Friends Ambulance Unit at Dunkerque and at Depage's Hospital at La Panne, he was sent to open a new hospital for convalescent officers in July 1915 at Burley-on-the-Hill, Rutlands. This was the ancestral home of the Finchs' and here, at the suggestion of Dr. Osler, he began work in his spare time on *Finch and Baines, The Story of a Seventeenth Century Friendship.*

When the book appeared in 1917, Dr. Osler wrote a note to Dr. Malloch's father about "the first serious product of Archie's pen—a bit of solid work well done." In the following years Dr. Malloch was in service at Alford House, London, and afterward joined the newly formed McGill Unit stationed at Canadian General Hospital No. 3, at Wimereux near Boulogne. In April of that year, Osler, writing to his nephew, W.W. Francis, who was with the unit, asked him to "Look after Archie Malloch—good lad and keen on literature." In November 1918 Dr. Malloch was mentioned by Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig for gallant and distinguished service.

After the close of the war, Dr. Malloch became a Beit Fellow doing research at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and Queens Square Neurological Hospital. He had become a member of the Royal College of Physicians in August 1918, and was made a Fellow in 1930. In later years he studied the pandemic of influenza in France and England. At the suggestion of Osler, in collaboration with Sir Arthur S. MacNalty, he wrote an article on influenza for *Nelson's Loose-leaf System of Medicine.* In December 1919 Dr. Malloch joined the Osler household at Oxford and stayed there as one of the attending physicians until Sir William's death.

In his will, Dr. Osler, perhaps the most famous physician of his time, and equally at home in Canada, the United States, and England, bequeathed his library of some 8,000 rare books illustrating the history of medicine and science to the Medical Faculty of McGill University in Montreal. He had laid down a scheme of classification, setting apart for the first time a special collection within his library of "the essential medical literature grouped about the men of the first rank, whether a great Aldine edition of Aristotle or a pamphlet of Roentgen." His own arrangement is well illustrated under "Harvey" and "Anaesthesia," the two subsections to which he had devoted most of his time. In memoranda written during his last illness, he desired that his catalogue might be finished, if possible, before the books went to McGill University in Montreal. At Lady Osler's request, Dr. Malloch became one of the editors

of the catalogue raisoné which was finally printed as the *Bibliotheca Osleriana*.

In 1920–1921 Dr. Malloch, under a grant from the Beit Memorial Fellowship, researched the different types of pneumonia in relation to their causative bacterial organisms.

Dr. Malloch began practice in Montreal, but returned to Oxford for four months to work on the catalogue. During this same visit he met his future wife, Katharine Elizabeth Abbott, a niece of Dr. Osler. They were married in Philadelphia on May 28, 1924. In 1923 he joined the British Medical Association and was vice president of the Section of the History of Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine at the annual meeting in London in 1932. When Dr. Malloch was appointed librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine, he resigned as demonstrator of medicine at McGill University, assistant physician at the Royal Victoria Hospital, and assistant editor of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. He entered upon his new duties just when the Academy was expanding its services and was about to move into its new building on 103rd street. It is astonishing to read the annual reports of the Library during the first few years of his administration and difficult to comprehend the rapid expansion and development. Dr. Malloch came into the library profession with the advantages of medical training and scholarship and with the belief that medical books, and especially medical journals, are the staff of life for progressive medical men and women. He added to these a practical approach to the everyday aspects of library procedures, and applied his concepts in developing what was at that time the second largest medical library in the country. In the first years of his tenure, the problems of moving and of expansion demanded his immediate attention, but did not prevent him from thinking about the possibility of developing the Library's holdings of early medical books into a useful historical collection. This aspiration of his was warmly and actively supported by the Academy's Fellowship, with whom Dr. Malloch had close bonds and many warm personal contacts. His door was always open to those who sought more than the catalogue could provide, and many profited from his wise and generous help. It was this attitude of friendly interest and enthusiasm that endeared him to the Fellows, who saw in him the symbol of their linkage to the Golden Age of medicine exemplified in Sir William Osler.

When the Rosenbach Company acquired toward the end of 1927 the extensive collection of medical classics gathered by Dr. E. C. Streeter of Boston, Dr. Malloch was among the first to hear of it. Recognizing the

opportunity this offered to increase the Academy's nascent rare book collection, he had no difficulty in enlisting the support of the Committee on Library. Dr. Samuel W. Lambert, president of the Academy, was enthusiastic, and it was due to his strenuous efforts and those of the Academy's director, Dr. Linsly R. Williams, that the necessary funds ($185,000) could be collected, and the possession of the Streeter Collection assured. With its acquisition and the opening of the new Rare Book and History Room in 1933, one of Dr. Malloch's most cherished hopes was finally realized. From that time on he gave unstintingly of his knowledge, time, and energy to this important collection. Dr. Malloch had already in 1929 secured Miss Gertrude L. Annan as curator for the historical collection. During her tenure of 24 years she devoted herself to shaping and building the collection. Dr. Malloch's dream of a working library constantly seeking to serve the scholar and the student was thereby realized. In recognition of Dr. Malloch's great interest and contributions to the history of medicine, the Rare Book Room was named in his honor in 1953. In 1932, in collaboration with Dr. Samuel W. Lambert, Dr. Malloch played a large part in the establishment of the Library Publication Fund, which has been the source of the volumes in the History of Medicine Series. He was instrumental in the formation of the "Friends of the Rare Book Room," organized by a group of Fellows whose aim it is to collect adequate funds for the purchase of rare books and to stimulate gifts.

Dr. Malloch's activities in library work were not confined to the Academy alone. As honorary consultant, he spent time and energy for several years on the disturbing problems of the Army Medical Library. He served the Medical Library Association as president, 1927-1929, and later as chairman of the Publications Committee. A book lover himself, in his presidential address, *Books and Medical Men,* he said:

> Our greatest men have known the value of books and of libraries when the volumes on their own shelves were not sufficient for their needs. In reading about William Harvey and in perusing his notes for his anatomical lectures and his other writings, I have been struck with the large number of authors ancient and contemporary, quoted by him, whose ideas he had made part and parcel of his own. There is an idea current amongst a considerable number of doctors, that one who reads a great deal cannot be a practical man. It is true that he was first and foremost a great discoverer in physiology, but he was also a field biologist and practicing physician and obstetrician. We have the word of one of his contemporaries, Dr. Percival Willoughby telling us how much he owed to Harvey's "directions and methods" and truly he has been rightly called the "father of modern midwifery."

Numerous papers in his bibliography attest Dr. Malloch's concern with library matters. He was a consulting editor to the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* and for many years an officer of the British Bibliographical Society. He wrote papers on clinical medicine, medical history, bibliography, and biography. Dr. Malloch was an enthusiastic Harvey admirer. He considered the first edition of *De Motu Cordis* the greatest physiological classic of all times. In 1929 he wrote a biography of Harvey. In the introduction he stated that a tercentenary address delivered at a joint meeting of the Harvard Medical Society and the Boston Medical History Club gave origin to this book. He expressed his hope that medical students, doctors, and others would welcome a sketch of the life and work of one of the greatest scientists and physicians, and that this short biography will provide an incentive toward further reading of the history of science and the biographies of its great men. In the book he then attempted in his informal and crisp style to explain clearly and emphatically the significance of Harvey's work. The book included a great deal of personalia—that Harvey's parrot died in childbirth, the relations of Harvey to the famous Thomas Parr, his heroic method of treating his gout, and his conversations with the wonder-working Sir Kenelm Digby.

Dr. Malloch's last book was entitled *Medical Interchange Between the British Isles and America Before 1801*. This was to have been an expansion of the two Fitzpatrick Lectures he had planned to deliver at the Royal College of Physicians when World War II intervened. The book was published by the Royal College of Physicians in 1946 as an important contribution to medical history in general and Americana in particular.

Dr. Malloch was a scholar and bookman. He brought to us a rare combination of the practical physician and the scholarly student of medical history in its broadest sense. His own extensive library reflected the wide range of his interests. It was the working library of a scholar rather than a bibliophile. He was not entirely free of the collecting instinct, for he had a fine collection of medical portraits and a very complete collection of Osleriana.

The Harvey Collection in the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine dates to the early beginnings of the Library itself. Librarians and donors aware of Harvey's preeminence showed a special eagerness to collect his works. These endeavors contributed notably to the formation of our most distinguished and extensive collection of today. At the end of the 19th century the Society of the New York Hospital transferred its library to

the Academy. With it came also a few Harvey items, the most important being the English London translation of *De Motu Cordis*....of 1653. The Streeter Collection added 14 items, including the *De Motu Cordis* edition of 1660 issued in Roterdam and the 1651 Latin edition of 1653 and English edition of *De Generatione Animalium*. From this small nucleus the collection began to grow. In 1906 Dr. Walter James presented the Academy his copy of the first edition of *De Motu Cordis*. The copy lacks the errata slip and the final blank leaf. The book had been presented to him by Sir William Osler. In a postcard preserved together with the volume dated 27 February, 1906, Dr. Osler writes:

> Dear James, That's a nice De Motu Cordis is it not? I had it and another copy here last week to look over and take my pick. There has not been a copy offered in England since 1895 when an imperfect copy was sold at Sotheby's for 10 guineas. Then these two turned up together. My copy is from Milne Edwards' Library, Paris. It is an excessively rare book. Rosenthal tells me he has not had a copy offered in Germany for years.
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> Yours sincerely,
> William Osler

In the "*Bibliotheca Osleriana*" under Harvey-De Motu Cordis, 1928, there is another reference to our copy. The note reads:

> February 17, 1906, I had been looking for a copy for nearly ten years, Pickering and Chatto sent one today which they had bought for £30 at the sale of Dr. Pettigrew's library, though a Poor copy... I took it. February 19, two days later, they sent me another, this one from the library of Milne Edwards. I took it too, and passed on the other to Dr. Walter James, who gave it to the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine (August 23, 1906).

Throughout the next half century the collection benefited from the devoted work of our great librarians, Dr. Archibald Malloch, Janet Doe, and Gertrude Annan, who patiently and skillfully made a determined effort to secure much desired additions to our holdings. They succeeded in bringing together representative editions of Harvey's works, among them items of great rarity and value. The collection is particularly notable for its remarkable range of the most influential and important early editions.

In 1974 we acquired the distinguished library of rare books which the eminent New York cardiologist, Dr. Robert L. Levy, had willed to the Academy in 1960. In a group of 122 volumes, Dr. Levy conscientiously endeavored to bring together all noteworthy contributions of the past three centuries. His major interest was William Harvey. For the Harvey group, which is especially important in the collection, he had strived to secure a complete series of all editions, translations, and reprints. His collector's

joy culminated in 1933 when he was able to add to his collection a superb copy, complete with the errata slip of the first edition of *De Motu Cordis*... 1628, presented to him by his father-in-law, the Hon. Jesse I. Straus, U.S. Ambassador to France. The book was bought through the London firm of Maggs Brothers at the cost of £600 (its price when it was first printed was six German shillings and two pence). In a letter addressed to Dr. Levy in October the same year, they informed him that the *De Motu Cordis* copy "came from the ancient library of a member of the Austrian aristocracy and that they were not allowed to give more information than this." Included in the Levy group are 38 other editions of Harvey's writings, most of the early Latin editions, with the 1653 and 1673 English translations of *De Motu Cordis*. There are the early editions of *De Generatione Animalium,* with the English translation of 1653. Included also are works by Harvey's critics and followers with their accounts of the controversies aroused by the announcement of his discoveries.

The Levy Collection added to the Academy's holdings four rare and valuable items: the Roterdam editions of 1648 and 1671 of the *De Motu Cordis,* the Padua edition of 1689 published by Cadorinus and the 1649 Roterdam edition of *Exercitationes Duae De Circulatione Sanguinis.* In 1977 the library acquired additional Harveiana through the donation by Dr. Samuel W. Lambert, Jr., which included three copies of the *De Generatione Animalium,* the Latin Elzevir and Janssonian editions, and the English translation of 1653. The Library of the New York Academy of Medicine now possesses the most nearly complete collection of Harveiana. Of the 67 entries listed by Sir Geoffrey Keynes, 52 are represented in our collection in fine and handsome volumes, most of them in original bindings. Our holdings include 32 editions of *De Motu Cordis,* 24 of them, the most important early editions and translations, in duplicate; all the editions of *De Generatione Animalium* in duplicate, some in triplicate; and all the editions of *Opera Omnia.* Today as always one of the principal endeavors of our librarians is to seize the opportunities to complete our set.