

Histories of Healing



Celebrating 175 years of the Manchester Medical Society



Contents

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Histories of Healing: Celebrating 175 years of the Manchester Medical Society

14 January to 1 June 2009

The John Rylands Library

The University of Manchester

A profession in the making: The formation of the Manchester Medical Society

2

Hospitals

4

Surgery

6

Public & Private

7

Collections and Collectors

8

Battling Cancer

10

Bone Doctors

11

Mothers & Babies

12

What's wrong with me Doctor?

13

Timeline

14

Bibliography

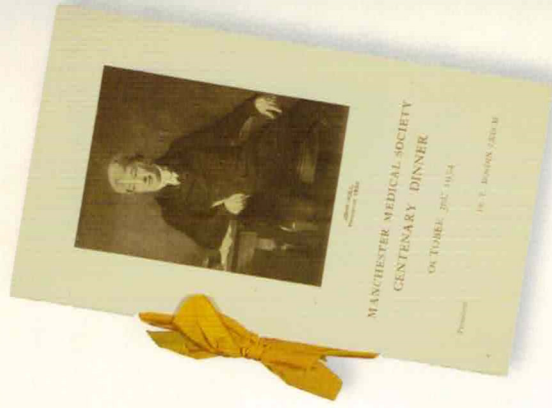
16

A profession in the making: The formation of the Manchester Medical Society

The Manchester Medical Society was formed at the York Hotel on 29 January 1834. Dr John Hull, a prominent surgeon specialising in midwifery, led the meeting. The purpose of the Society was to establish a library – thus allowing its members access to information and the latest scholarship concerning medicine in its widest sense.



Joseph Peel Catlow (1798-1861)
Manchester Medical Collection P/4



Programme for the Manchester Medical Society Centenary Dinner, 3 October, 1934
Manchester Medical School Museum

At this time Manchester was a growing industrial centre. Textile mills and engineering works dominated the local economy. Although industry created considerable wealth, many who worked in factories lived in poorly built homes with little sanitation. Infectious diseases were common and vast numbers had died in the cholera epidemic only two years before the foundation of the Medical Society. These new industrial towns offered wider opportunities for doctors, many of whom were campaigning for recognition as a skilled and learned profession.



Hospitals

Many hospitals were founded in the North West from 1750 onwards. These institutions provided care and medical treatment for the poor as well as a public arena for innovation in medical care.

The Manchester Infirmary, founded in 1752, became the foremost 'voluntary' hospital within the city. An appointment here as an honorary physician or surgeon indicated membership of the local professional elite. From the 1830s hospitals were also set up under the Poor Laws to provide medical care for individuals forced to enter the notorious workhouses.

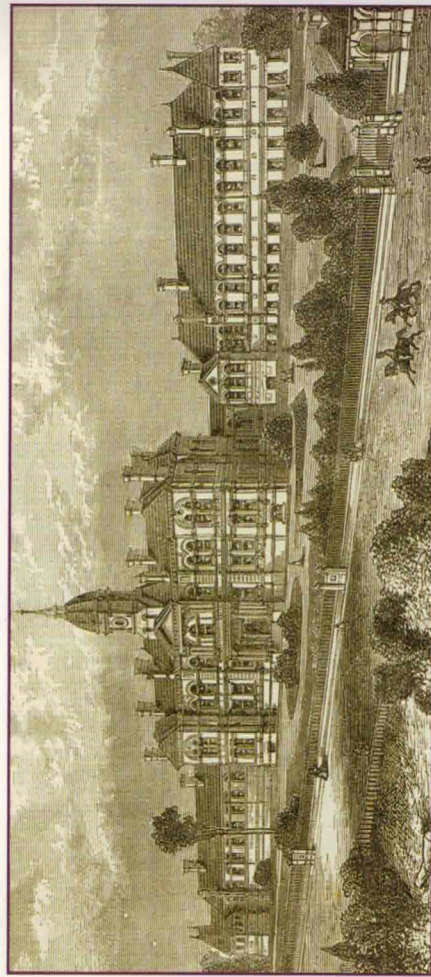
There were also several specialist hospitals in Manchester and their development focused attention on particular areas of expertise or certain categories of patient. For example, the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital at

Pendlebury was founded in 1829 to provide medical care for babies and children.

Nurses played an important role in developing effective and humane care within hospitals. Programmes of nurse training were elaborated in many hospitals from the late nineteenth-century. Nursing is now a graduate profession.



Manchester Infirmary, late nineteenth-century
Manchester Medical Collection MC/9/6/10/3/21



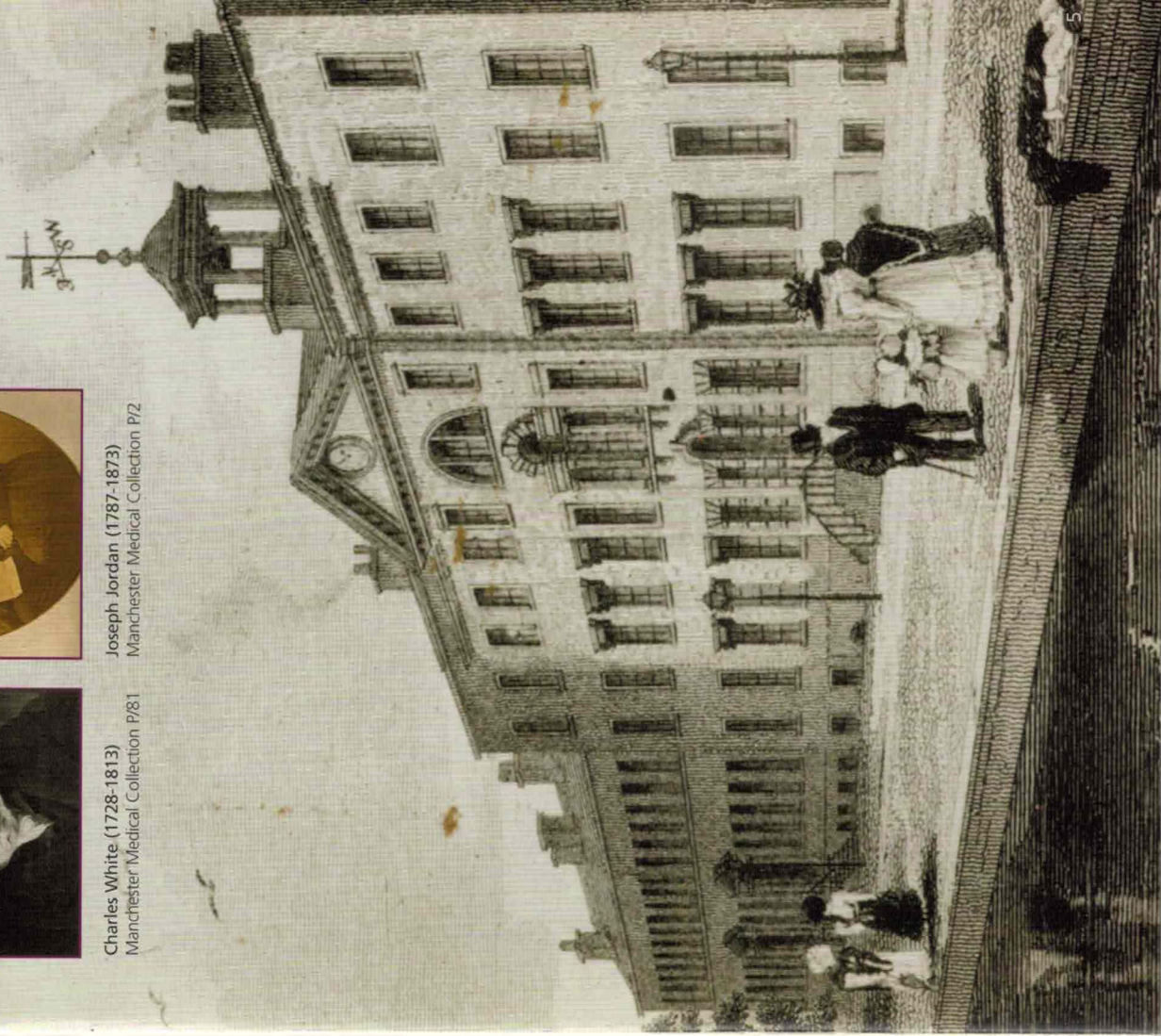
The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury. From an engraving of 1879
Manchester Medical Collection MC/9/9/1



Joseph Jordan (1787-1873)
Manchester Medical Collection P/2



Charles White (1728-1813)
Manchester Medical Collection P/81



Surgery

Until the 1880s, surgery involved huge risks for patients who inevitably suffered great pain. Many died from infected wounds or from shock resulting from the operation.

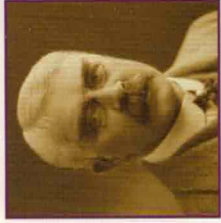
Following the introduction of ether and later nitrous oxide as anaesthetics, surgeons were able to undertake more complex procedures. As 'aseptic' techniques were developed, the success rate for many operations



The large operating and lecture theatre at Manchester Royal Infirmary, 1909
Manchester Medical Collection: MMC/9/6/10/3/23f



Archibald Donald
(1860-1937)
Manchester Medical
Collection P/11



William Fothergill
(1865-1926)
Manchester Medical
Collection
MMC/2/Fothergill/1/1

dramatically improved. By 1900, surgeons had established themselves as the 'princes' of the profession.

Many Manchester surgeons developed successful procedures which were adopted by other centres. For example, in the 1880s, Archibald Donald began developing the procedure that would become known as the Manchester Operation. He collaborated with William Fothergill in developing the technique for the repair of a prolapsed uterus. In 1908 this was described in a paper published by Donald and illustrated by Fothergill. The technique was used to treat chronic pain.

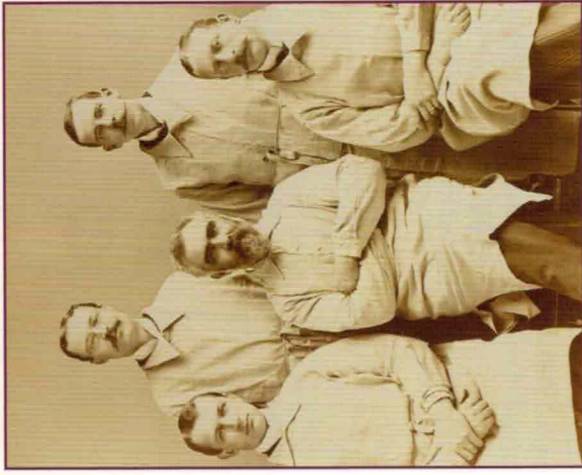


Harry Platt (1886-1986) performing an operation on an injured soldier at Grangethorpe Hospital in Manchester, c1920 Papers of Harry Platt PLA 11/1

Public & Private

Over the nineteenth-century, Manchester grew rapidly into an important industrial centre. Much of its growth was unplanned and resulted in unpleasant and unhealthy living conditions.

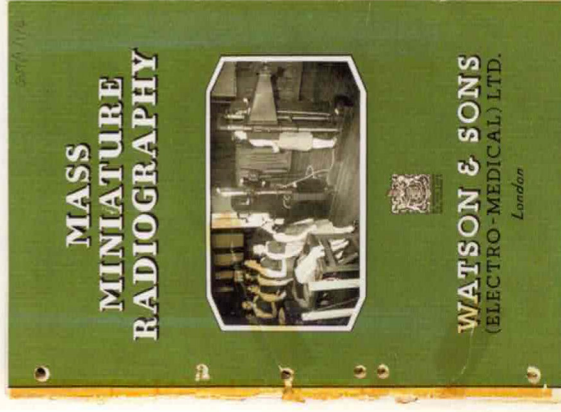
In the 1830s social reformers including James Phillips Kay (later known as Kay-Shuttleworth) became interested in the statistics of disease and the relationship between the health of populations and their environment. Despite their concerns and investigations, infant mortality rates in Manchester in the 1880s remained high and there was low life expectancy.



Staff of the public health laboratory, Manchester, in 1901. Back from left to right: A. Sellers, F.J.H. Coutts
Front from left to right: J.R. Carver, A. Sheridan Delépine, E.J. Sidebotham
Manchester Medical Collection MMC/5/7/13/11/4

A succession of dedicated and talented Medical Officers of Health, most notably James Niven (1851-1925) set about improving conditions through systematic programmes of public health reform. Niven focused his attention on improvements in housing, in the diagnosis of infectious diseases and in the treatment of the milk supply to reduce the spread of bovine tuberculosis.

From 1948, the Government placed more emphasis on the importance of nutrition and disease prevention through the newly-formed National Health Service.



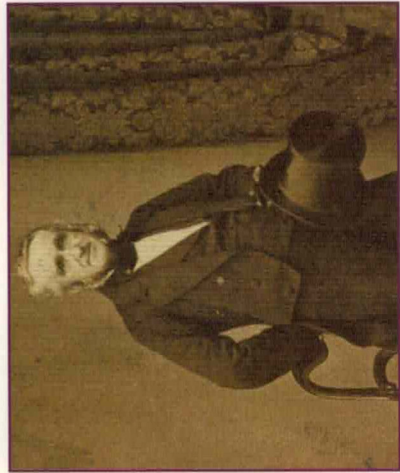
Screening by X-rays helped control the spread of diseases such as TB. This trade pamphlet from the equipment manufacturer, W. Watson dates from the 1930s Papers of Derek Guttery GUT/1/1/4

Collections & Collectors

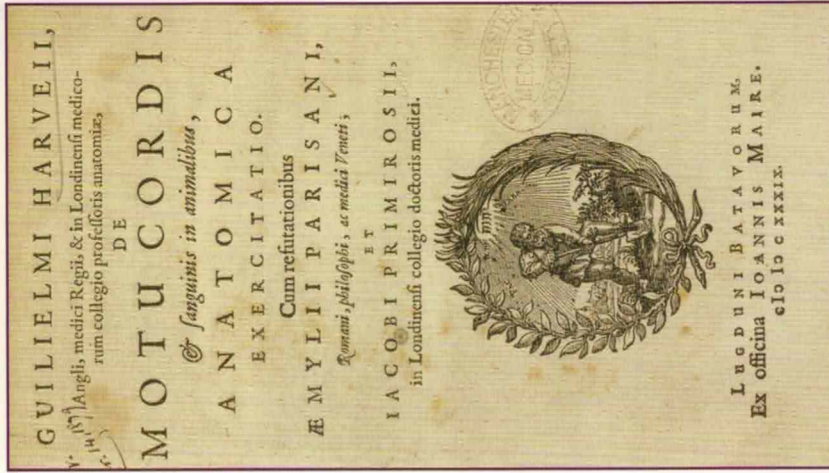
The Manchester Medical Society was founded to provide a library for the local profession. Through the skill and knowledge of successive librarians the Society built up an impressive collection in a relatively short period of time.

In 1875 the Society's library moved into Owens College's newly formed Medical School, providing an invaluable learning resource for undergraduates.

A number of notable clinicians either purchased books on behalf of the Society or donated their own considerable private collections. Thomas Windsor (1831-1910) served as honorary librarian for 25 years from 1858 and later collected on behalf of the Surgeon-General of the USA. The gynaecologist Charles Clay (1801-1893) donated 1,000 volumes in 1860. Many books bear the marks of ownership of these individuals as well as other leaders of the

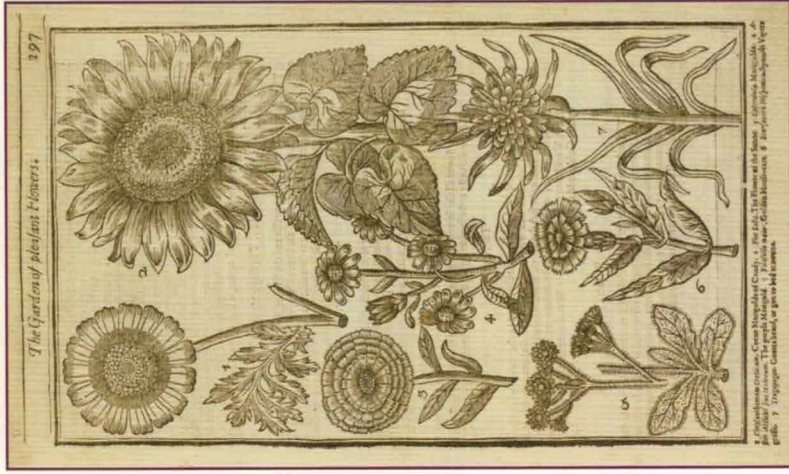


Charles Clay (1801-1893)
Manchester Medical Collection



Title page from William Harvey's *De motu cordis*, 1629 – inscribed by Thomas Windsor, April 14 1879 P1147

local profession including the obstetrician Thomas Radford (1793-1881) and the bacteriologist Sheridan Delépine (1855-1921). In the late nineteenth-century the collection was enriched by additions from the libraries of several local hospitals including Manchester Royal Infirmary and St Mary's Hospital. These books also bear ownership stamps.



Above: Folio 297r from John Parkinson, *Paradisus in sole paradisus terrestris*, London, 1629 P1829

Left: Title page from John Parkinson, *Paradisus in sole paradisus terrestris*, London, 1629 – inscribed by Charles Clay, 1843 P1829



Ernest Bosdin Leech (1875-1950)
Manchester Medical Collection

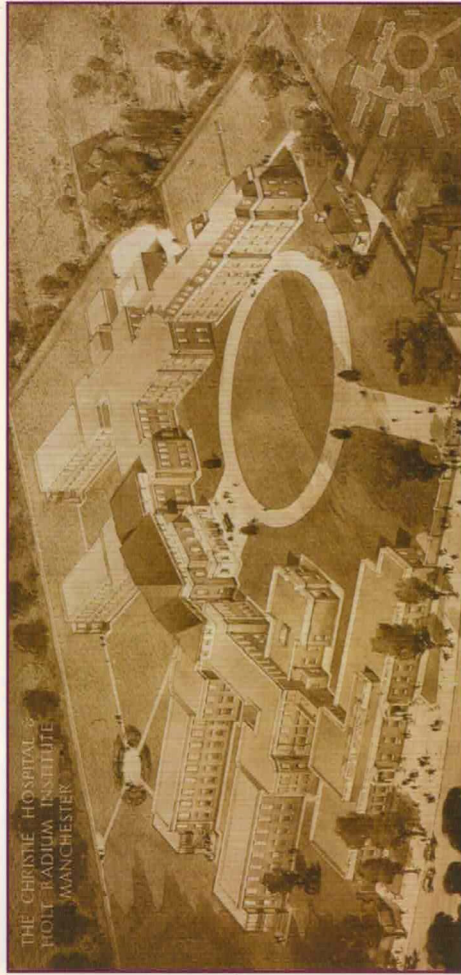


Edward Brockbank (1866-1959)
Manchester Medical Collection

The Medical Society continued to be actively involved in the development of the collections following the transfer of responsibility for the library to the University of Manchester (formerly Owens College) in 1929.

In 1934, Ernest Bosdin Leech (1875-1950), then President of the Manchester Medical Society, presented to the University his collection of material relating to the history of medicine in Manchester – the Manchester Medical Collection. This was further extended by Edward Brockbank (1866-1959) who was also chairman of the University medical library committee between 1930 and 1951. Through the work of George Wilson, Medical Librarian from 1930 until 1967, and his university colleagues the Medical Society collections became fully integrated with other sections of the University library system.

Battling Cancer



The Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Harry S Fairhurst & Sons – Architects. Edward Abrams, 1930
Manchester Medical Collection P/205

Until the twentieth-century, there were few treatments and no cures for cancer. Since the 1930s, Manchester has become an important centre for new techniques in the care and treatment of cancer patients.

In 1892 a home for patients suffering from cancer was set up in Stanley Grove, near to



Edith and Ralston Paterson together at a family celebration in the 1970s. Papers of the Paterson Family

the present site of Manchester Royal Infirmary. In the 1900s, treatments involving X-rays and radium were introduced. From the 1930s, the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute under the leadership of Ralston Paterson (1897-1981) became internationally famous. Paterson established radiotherapy as an independent speciality – encouraging doctors and radiographers in the North West region to refer patients diagnosed with cancer to the Christie Hospital. This co-ordinated management facilitated a systematic approach to research and treatment.

Early diagnosis, surgery, radium therapy and new combinations of medicines have combined to reduce the mortality rates of many forms of cancer. Research continues on the causes of cancer, its prevention and treatment. Much of this work is funded by charitable donations.

Bone Doctors

The North West has long been a centre for excellence in the care and treatment of patients with injured or diseased bones.



Sir Harry Platt (1886-1986). Portrait commissioned in 1966 to mark his 80th birthday. Papers of Sir Harry Platt

The first clinic in the United Kingdom devoted entirely to broken bones was established by Harry Platt at Ancoats Hospital, Manchester, just before the First World War.

Over following decades fracture clinics became a standard feature of orthopaedic departments in British hospitals.

The treatment of fractures involves skilful management of patients by orthopaedic surgeons as well as careful nursing and physiotherapy. The co-ordination of these services is essential for successful outcomes.

In the 1950s and 1960s John Charnley developed the modern hip replacement operation at Wrightington Hospital, near Parbold in Lancashire. This technique has become one of the most successful surgical interventions – relieving pain and restoring movement to patients suffering from rheumatoid and osteoarthritis.

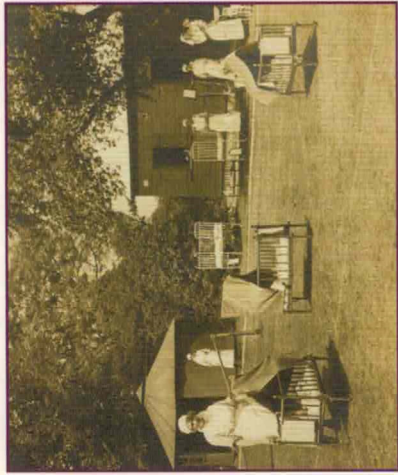


The Charnley hip prosthesis, introduced in 1962
Manchester Medical School Museum



A patient of Grangethorpe Hospital, Manchester, demonstrating movement in his legs and arms, 1920s
Papers of J S B Stopford

Mothers & Babies



The garden of Manchester Babies Hospital, c.1920
Papers of Sheila Guthrie

Until the eighteenth-century, the medical profession had little involvement in the management of pregnancy or the delivery of babies. From the 1750s, surgeons, known as man-midwives, began delivering babies.

In 1790, Charles White set up the Manchester Lying-In Charity later known as St Mary's Hospital. White had established a national reputation for his views on the management of pregnancy and childbirth, stressing the importance of fresh-air and cleanliness for both mother and baby.

In the early decades of the twentieth-century, the Duchess of York Hospital for Sick Children again placed great emphasis on the value of fresh-air in treatment. This hospital was important in providing professional opportunities for women doctors who were then a very small minority within the medical profession.



Catherine Chisholm
(1878-1952)
Manchester Medical
Collection P/53

Important work on human fertility problems including the treatment known as In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) was pioneered in Oldham. Patrick Steptoe (1913-1988) was appointed consultant obstetrician at Oldham General Hospital in 1951. He introduced the techniques of laparoscopy to treatments in gynaecology in the UK. He later collaborated with Robert Edwards, based in Cambridge, to develop techniques for fertilizing human eggs in the laboratory before re-implanting them in the woman's uterus. Lesley Brown, of Bristol, was the subject of the first successful full-term IVF pregnancy achieved by Edwards and Steptoe. Her daughter Louise Brown was born in Oldham on 25 July 1978.



Manchester Babies Hospital at Christmas, c.1920
Papers of Sheila Guthrie

What's wrong with me doctor?

Since the end of the eighteenth-century, doctors have used instruments to aid observation about the body and increase their understanding of disease.

In Paris in 1819, René Laennec described a simple listening device, a stethoscope, which remains in use today. From 1895, images of the internal structure of the body were made possible through the use of X-rays. During the twentieth-century new imaging methods, including the Computed Tomography Scanner and the Magnetic Resonance Imaging Scanner, have provided doctors with more detailed information about the structure of



X-ray of a hand taken by the physicist, Arthur Schuster (1851-1934) in the late 1890s. A needle can be seen at the base of the first two fingers
Papers of Ian Isherwood

the body; including soft tissues. Research continues on diagnostic methods – with particular emphasis on emerging technologies.



Professor Ian Isherwood (left) with Sir Godfrey Hounsfield (1919-2004), inventor of the CT scanner, at the launch of the new NMR scanner, University of Manchester, 1991
Papers of Ian Isherwood

Histories of Healing

Celebrating 175 years of the Manchester Medical Society



1824-1845

1824

Manchester's first 'complete' medical school opened offering lecture courses in a range of subjects including anatomy.

1832

A major epidemic of cholera broke out in London and elsewhere. Manchester was seriously affected.

1834

The first meeting of the *Manchester Medical Society* was held at York Hotel.

1845

The *Manchester Medical Society* including its Library moved into the Manchester Royal Institution, now the Manchester Art Gallery.

1846-1875

1846

Ether was introduced as an anaesthetic in Boston, USA.

1851

Owens College was established to offer higher education for sons of the middle classes. It became the Victoria University of Manchester in 1904.

1858

The Medical Reform Act created the General Medical Council. Doctors now had to be on a professional register to be able to practice.

1875

The *Manchester Medical Society* Library was transferred to the newly formed Medical Faculty of Owens College.

1884-1899

1884

Owens College was given authority to offer medical degrees.

1890s

Surgeons began to adopt aseptic routines, scrubbing hands, wearing gowns and rubber gloves.

1898

The first women medical students were accepted at Owens College.

1899

The name aspirin was first used for acetylsalicylic acid. This became the first mass-produced, best-selling medicine.

1904-1941

1904

Women students were permitted to use the *Manchester Medical Society* Library. In 1908 women were allowed to join the Society as full members.

1911

The National Insurance Act provided free medical care for workers from general practitioners.

1930

The *Manchester Medical Society* Library was formally transferred to the Victoria University of Manchester.

1934

The *Manchester Medical Society* celebrated its centenary. The President, Dr Ernest Bosdin Leech deposited his collection of books and papers relating to the history of Manchester at the University.

1941

Penicillin was trialled in Oxford as a treatment for bacterial infections.

1948-1981

1948

The National Health Service was established to provide medical treatment free for all at the point of delivery.

1950

The *Manchester Medical Society* was re-formed incorporating Sections of Surgery, Pathology, Anaesthetics and Orthodontics.

1967

The first heart transplant was carried out in South Africa.

1979

The World Health Organisation declared smallpox eradicated.

1981

The *Manchester Medical Society* Library was transferred into the Main Library of the JRUL.

2003-2009

2003

Completion of Human Genome Project to identify all 20,000-25,000 genes in human DNA.

2009

The *Manchester Medical Society* celebrates its 175th anniversary.

1820

1830

1840

1850

1860

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

2000

2000

1900

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Current activities

The Manchester Medical Society was formed 175 years ago for the "cultivation and promotion of medicine and all related sciences". Today the Society organises scientific meetings and symposia providing training for doctors and those working in professions such as physiotherapy, nursing and radiology. The Society continues to take an active interest in the Library it created from the 1830s and which is now housed and cared for by the John Rylands University Library.

The Society consists of ten sections: Anaesthesia, Imaging, Medicine, Odontology, Paediatrics, Pathology, Psychiatry, Public Health Forum, Primary Care, and Surgery. Events cover a wide range of topics, spanning all medical disciplines.

