

X.—NEWCASTLE—A STUDY IN LOCAL DENTAL HISTORY.

BY PROFESSOR JOHN BOYES.

The dental history of Newcastle upon Tyne occupies a worthy position in the history of dentistry in Great Britain.

The craft of the tooth drawer is one of the oldest surgical skills. There is evidence that it was practised by Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks and Romans and the evidence from the East is similar. Dental disease has therefore a long history, but despite this no real and sustained progress was made in the art and science of dentistry till the eighteenth century. In that great surge of medical and scientific activity dentistry took its part and developed so rapidly that in the nineteenth century it was an established profession. Dental Schools were founded, dental education organized and dental qualifications awarded on the results of examinations. During the first twenty-five years of the present century professional ambitions and goals had been reached. The highest academic recognition had been given to dental surgery by Universities and the position of dental practitioners in relation to the community was governed by Act of Parliament. Its history therefore covers a period of about 250 years.

In 1724 William Prior moved from Gateshead to Newcastle and set up business at The Sign of the Musical Instrument in The Side as a dealer in musical instruments as the advertisement in the *Courant* indicates. He said he sold all types of musical and mathematical instruments, music books of tunes and songs, bows, bridge ends and strings and he undertook any type of turning work at reasonable rates. He also "makes and sets artificial teeth so neatly as not to be dis-

covered from natural ones". When the *Newcastle Journal* was first published on April 7th, 1739, William Prior advertised in this number, and the dental side of his business had apparently taken precedence over the musical side, for he advertised as follows:—

"Artificial teeth set in so firm as to eat with them and so exact as not to be distinguished from natural. They need not be taken out at night as is by some falsely suggested; but may be worn years together: yet they are so fitted as to be taken out and put in at pleasure by the person who wears them and are an ornament to the mouth and greatly helpful to the speech. Also musical and mathematical instruments are made and mended and all sorts of turning done by William Prior at White Friars at the foot of Westgate, Newcastle."

Dentures which were made in that period were usually of walrus ivory and sometimes the block was carved to include the teeth, where at other times natural teeth of good appearance were fixed by a metal post into the ivory denture base.

Mr. James Coltman, the former Dean of the Dental School, has told me that he remembers the very large thickening on the thumb of the right hand of one of the dental mechanics with whom he worked as a student which was attributed to carving ivory dentures when he was a young man some forty years before.

We have no evidence that any of the ivory dentures in the collection in the Sutherland Dental School were made by William Prior.

What may well be the oldest Newcastle dental relics¹ are in the possession of this Society. I refer to the dental instruments in the Barber Surgeons cabinet which Mr. L. M. Markham has examined and Sir Frank Colyer commented upon in his book on dental instruments. These instruments are a double-ended pelican for the extraction of teeth, a pair of forceps and an elevator used in loosening root fragments. We can look upon them with equanimity, but there can be little doubt in our minds that only severe toothache would

¹ See above, pp. 77-80, and plate XI.

make them other than abhorrent to the patient. The surgery which depended upon the use of these instruments on unanaesthetized patients was crude and rough. Prince and pauper alike feared the toothache and its operative treatment.

From the earliest days non-operative methods have been available. In Christian lands prayers to saints were frequently offered and a number of these easily remembered rhyming prayers has been preserved. To others, black magic employing quite common objects in a set ritual offered a more attractive way of relief. Surely, it was argued, if the devil is appeased he will call off his tormentors, for all pain is the work of the devil. Amulets were worn as a method of protecting the teeth from decay and to others sound teeth could only be expected if the milk teeth were disposed of with an appropriate ceremony. Folk medicine takes a long time to loosen its grip and here are some of these customs which were actually used by those who have written to me on the subject.

A correspondent from Hexham recalls the following incident:—

“When a small boy (year 1893) after several sleepless nights through toothache my parents called in our family doctor and he decided an extraction was necessary, so in fear and trembling I watched him produce a pair of pliers, pattern as exhibited in ironmongers windows and wrapped in a clean handkerchief. After the ordeal was over my father said I must ask God to send me another tooth. I was told to cover it with salt and place it on the fire saying the following:—

Fire, fire burn tooth, God send me another tooth
Not a black one but a white one
Not a crooked one but a straight one.

I believe this custom was very prevalent at that time.”

A gentleman from Durham writes:—

“My mother aged 79 years has many memories of old customs and so-called cures for many ills prevalent in her childhood

days. She has related many of them to me including one which may interest you, that in her younger days it was a common practice for victims of toothache to carry on their person a nutmeg in the belief that it would cure toothache. Other curious practices were to carry a rat's tail for luck and if some unfortunate person should find themselves lost in a wood or while crossing a field road on a dark or foggy night, to turn some garment they were wearing inside out and replace it in the inverted position and the lost traveller would find the right track immediately."

I also received a letter from Mr. John Robson of Newcastle-ton, Roxburghshire, in reply to my request for information about the Elsdon gibbet. He says:—

"Although I have lived in Northumberland nearly all my life I am sorry I can give you no information about it. However, I am going to tell you of another preventative from toothache which I think may interest you. My grandfather who was a country shoemaker in North Tyne used an instrument for the prevention of toothache, the idea of which was to burn the main nerve going to the teeth. I have seen the instrument often and will do my best to describe it (I enclose sketch) from memory as it got lost many years ago. If you look at the sketch you will see what I mean when I say that the sheath was put firmly in the outer ear where the nerve was supposed to be, the blade was heated red hot and pressed down the sheath. The blade was about $\frac{1}{16}$ th of an inch longer than the sheath so it burnt in that depth and 'cut the nerve'. This was to prevent toothache for some time—I cannot say how long. But I remember my father telling me that in the days when country lads and lassies went to farm service it was quite a common thing for them to come to my grandfather's shop and get their ears burnt to prevent them from having toothache for the six months they would be away from home, perhaps hired in some remote farm many miles from a doctor. The instrument to my mind was well made and hardly looked like a crude blacksmith made article. This all took place before 1855 as my grandfather died that year aged 48 years, so that makes it roughly 100 years since this 'art' was practised. I suppose in those days people who were not lucky enough to obtain a piece of the Elsdon Gibbet and wanted to keep clear of toothache had no other option than to go to Robson the shoemaker and go through the ordeal of having their ears burnt."

From Ashington I learned:—

“It is a ritual used when a milk tooth has fallen from a child’s mouth for the child to be taken to the fireside and on throwing the tooth into the fire he repeats:—

Fire, fire burn bone
God send me my tooth again
Not a black one but a white one
Not a crooked one but a straight one.

My wife learned it from her father who was born near Ponteland some seventy-five years ago. We still carry on the ritual with our own boys as we find it an excellent way to make them forget the loss. . . .”

To-day children in Newcastle still put their recently shed temporary tooth under the pillow, or in a glass of water, and the member of at least one family puts the tooth under the carpet. The children are told that the fairies will change the tooth during the night into money. It seems that the fairies are aware of the rise in the cost of living for pre-war the penny was the accepted reward but to-day it is three-pence, sixpence or even a shilling.

Folk medicines were bound to fail and even those who had made the tedious pilgrimage from Stamfordham to Elsdon for a splinter of wood from the gibbet would have found the magic of the scaffold could at times be very weak. Into this field of uncertainty came the apothecary’s prescription. Chemicals were widely used in secret combinations to heal disorders of the intestine, skin, kidneys, heart and chest. Toothache being common, powders, solutions and tinctures were extensively made, each one capable of treating all the disorders of teeth and gums and each the secret of the prescriber. In the early newspapers of Newcastle one finds that the majority of the medicines advertised were prepared and sold by local medical men. As the century advanced a greater variety of medicines were advertised and these were made by London physicians and surgeons and sent north to recognized agents. These agents were newspaper publishers but some others had occasional agencies.

A survey of those advertisements is amusing; the extravagant claims make us rather curious to know at what intellectual level these advertisements were successful, for there must have been many who could not read and so we might be surprised if we were to know who accepted these wonder potions with hope of success.

We are also able to gather what type of dental diseases were common. Dental decay and pyorrhœa we can easily recognize; gingivitis and perhaps the disorder you may know as trench mouth is probably what is meant by bleeding of the gum. Toothbrushing seems not to have been a common practice for nearly all the cures say that they make the teeth as white as alabaster although they were as black as coal.

Let me quote to you what Dr. Lucas of Newcastle advertises in the *Weekly Courant* of February 4th 1720.

“Also for the further good of mankind is published the Doctor’s chymical preparations for curing the toothache without drawing and scurvy ulcer of the gum by giving immediate ease in the most tormenting pain and carrying off the sharp humour which falls upon the teeth and gums. Also it fastens loose teeth and causes the gums to grow afresh although eaten away with the very scurvy. And those that use it are seldom or never troubled with the toothache any more where it is applied. So that a person may by these methods preserve all their teeth fair and sound even to an old age. Price 1s. 0d. a bottle, with full directions at the Doctor’s House in Pilgrim Street over against Silver Street end, a ball being over the door.”

Some months later the doctor died, but this melancholy event did not cast despair over the toothache sufferers for we find the following advertisement headed:

“Late Doctor Lucas Remedies. These are to acquaint the public that the Doctor faithfully communicated every secret of his medical preparations to his spouse who had upwards of ten years’ experience in their preparation,”

and Mrs. Lucas goes on to say that the preparations are just the same

“as if the Doctor was now living.”

In 1734 we read in *The Courant* for the 1st June:—

“There is an excellent and pleasant dentifrice tincture which healeth ulcers in the mouth, cures the thrush in children, cleaneth and freeth the mouth from foulness and ill scents and sweetens the breath. It cures scorbutic putrid swellings and bleeding gums, prevents and cures the toothache, fastens the teeth and prevents them from rotting and renders teeth when grown foul, yellow or black, as white as ivory.”

This remarkable tincture could be obtained from Mr. Bullon, a bookseller on the Tyne Bridge. Other adverts include Dr. Ratcliff's tooth cure (1744), Dr. Day's mixture (1770).

- “Bennett's Dentilave Tincture an immediate cure for the most violent toothache proceeding from any cause whatever . . . by its antiseptic balsamic quality whereby it strongly resists putrefaction it eradicates scurvy from the gums.”

This laudatory advertisement September 30th 1780 was preceded by an advertisement in July 1779 advertising a book sold by Mr. Slack for a shilling entitled *A Dissertation on the Teeth* by W. Bennett, Surgeon, London. This is the first dental book I have noticed in booksellers' announcements in the Newcastle press. I feel sure that the announcement of the Asiatic tooth powder must have caused some stir in 1785. This was an interesting discovery on the part of J. Debraw “a medical practitioner and reader in chemistry from Fleet Street, London”. The author pledges his credit that the teeth however foul and discoloured by neglect will on a single trial acquire a beautiful whiteness without any injury to the enamel. It derives its name Asiatic, he tells us, from being prepared of an Indian earth called by the natives *Auora*, to the use of which is ascribed the beautiful set of teeth among the Asiatics. The preparation is still kept in India a secret among the Europeans but is discovered by the author in a chemical analysis. He goes on, “Its present rapid sale bears testimony of the approbation it meets and renders all advertised panegyrics unnecessary. Sold by S. Hodgson, printer, Newcastle. Toothbrushes from Indian hair 1s. 0d.”

The improvement in transport which enabled drugs to be brought from London soon developed into a form of relatively comfortable travel and so doctors and dentists commenced to travel from London and elsewhere to the provinces. In 1761 Mr. Nathaniel Lee, an operator for the teeth, makes the interesting claim that he was present in Newcastle "by the King's authority and he sold a most excellent water for the teeth". Twelve years later an announcement in the *Journal* of January 30th 1773 addressed to the nobility and gentry indicated that "The famous Mrs. Bernard from Berlin and Brandenburg who is possessed of an infallible secret for cleansing the teeth and rendering them as white as alabaster notwithstanding they may be as black as coal remarkably done without the use of an instrument" had arrived in Newcastle and was to be inquired of at the Half Moon entry in the Bigg Market.

The next dentist to arrive on the scene was in 1774 and he was Charles Whitlock; Jacob Hemet paid a short visit in 1776, likewise, in 1778, Hemet Hart from Mannheim. A short stay of a few weeks was paid by Mr. Marks, dentist and operator for the teeth, 1780. In 1783 Mr. Crawcour, surgeon dentist, paid a visit here and treated patients. In 1790 Monsieur Le Sec, who was a pupil of Monsieur Burdet, dentist to the Queen of France, paid the first of a series of visits which covered a period of over 12 years. He was a pupil of one of the greatest French dentists of the time and France during the eighteenth century gave the lead to the world in dental surgery. I was disappointed not to find the name of Ruspini among the visiting dentists to Newcastle and while the search is not finished I feel that an old question is going to have a simple answer.

It is a source of great satisfaction to the graduates of dental surgery in our University that Dr. Lilian Lindsay was one of the first to receive the honorary degree of Master of Dental Surgery. She is the doyen of dental surgeons and I share the view held by many that she is the most distinguished dental historian in the world. During the celebrations in

1945 commemorating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Newcastle upon Tyne Dental Hospital, Dr. Lindsay gave a lecture on the history of dentistry and showed the picture of the "Town Dentist". This is a modification of a similar picture entitled "The London Dentist". The modification is in the view through the window. In the latter Carlton House is identifiable whereas in the former there is no doubt that the view from the window is of the lantern tower of St. Nicholas, Newcastle. The Chevalier Ruspini is the dentist operating. He married the daughter of Francis Ord of Longridge Hall, Northumberland, and it was a possibility that the St. Nicholas tower offered a clue that Ruspini practised for some time in Newcastle. Dr. Menzies Campbell, who has made a close biographical study of Ruspini, could find no trace that he ever visited Newcastle and I have come to a similar conclusion by my inquiries to date. The explanation may well be that the print was published by Dawson of Alnwick and a little piece of local architecture so distinctive as St. Nicholas Cathedral may have helped sales.

The first semi-permanent dentist in Newcastle was Charles Edward Whitlock who advertised in February 1774 and towards the conclusion he says the following:—

"Those ladies and gentlemen who please to honour him with their commands (during the stay of the Comedians) are requested to favour him with them at Mrs. Gale's, Newgate Street."

This reference to the theatre seemed to be interesting and I referred to the local play-bills and to my pleasure I discovered that a member of the Company performing at the theatre in the Bigg Market was Mr. Whitlock. He never seemed to take a prominent part but this might well have been that his dental practice occupied much of his time. During the first season he was given a benefit and the play that was selected was *As You Like It*. Mr. Whitlock appeared with the Company every year and in 1781 he managed the players. As will be known to those who had

studied the history of the local theatre, the Company had their ups and downs, including a burglary, as the result of which they lost 80 volumes of plays. In 1785 it was announced that the Company would only be there for a short time till April and it is rather surprising to find in the *Chronicle* of April 30th the following announcement:—

“ Mr. Whitlock, dentist, presents his respectful compliments to the ladies and gentlemen of Newcastle and its environs and begs leave to inform them that being under an indispensable necessity of quitting this place without a possibility of completing the various orders they have been pleased to honour him with, he intends to return about the middle of the second week of May in order to finish the business he is now obliged to leave undone as likewise to execute any such commands he may be favoured with in the interim. Those ladies and gentlemen whose orders he has received and which form a multitude of business he has not been able to comply with will be first attended to, others in the regular course. Mr. Whitlock embraces with deepest sense of gratitude this opportunity of returning his most unfeigned thanks to his friends and the public for the many favours conferred upon him and assures them that nothing shall be wanting on his part to meet their future commands and approbation.”

This seemed to indicate a rather hurried departure, the notice is dated April 15th and appears in the issue of the 30th. 1785 was an important year for him for he married Miss Elizabeth Kemble at York. She too was an actress and sister of the famous Mrs. Siddons and Mr. Stephen Kemble. Could this sudden departure have something to do with his marriage at York? Mr. Whitlock's wife acted in Newcastle and her first appearance was in February 1786. With Mr. Austin he took over the management of the new Theatre Royal opened in 1788, a great occasion on which the bells of St. Nicholas and St. John's were rung. He gave up the management of the theatre and about 1797 departed for a ten year visit to America. He returned and in the Directory of 1811 is found to be one of three dentists in practice in Newcastle.

Newcastle has been extremely fortunate in the calibre of

her medical historians and very little seems to have escaped Dr. Embleton, Mr. G. H. Hume, Sir William Hume, Dr. Arnison and Professor Grey Turner. However, two small adverts seemed to have slipped past their notice with regard to the first resident surgeon and dentist in Newcastle, Frederick Horn. Dr. Embleton gives us the main information about him. He was a surgeon in the Navy, was appointed surgeon to the Royal Infirmary in 1800, took part in a celebrated discussion with Dr. Clark and Dr. Fenwick with regard to the fever wards, was a surgeon to the Dispensary and took an active part in the local medical society of which he was the Vice-President for seven years, President in 1796; he contributed a number of papers and died in 1806 and was succeeded by his son in the appointment of surgeon to the Infirmary. In the Newcastle Directory for 1790 he is listed among the surgeons but in that of 1801 he describes himself as a surgeon and dentist. I was pleased to discover that he made the following announcement in December 1782:—

“ Frederick Horn takes this opportunity respectfully to acquaint the friends of his late uncle Mr. Henry Gibson that from some unavoidable circumstances (the ship of which he was surgeon being ordered to Gibraltar and etc.) he was prevented from addressing them sooner and soliciting the honour of their future favours in his professional capacity. As Mrs. Gibson is connected with him in the business he respectfully solicits the favours of her friends and flatters himself that his having attended the most eminent professors in London in the surgical and medical line and having been near six years a surgeon in H.M. Navy will have some weight in inducing those whom he has the honour to address and to give credit to his qualifications and assures them that his utmost abilities and attention shall be exerted to give satisfaction.”

In this interesting statement there is no mention of dentistry and I wondered what type of a dentist he in fact was. Imagine my delight when turning over the pages of the *Newcastle Courant* I found in the issue of July 29th 1786 the following:—

“Frederick Horn, Surgeon, acquaints the ladies and gentlemen of Newcastle and its neighbourhood that he has just returned from London where he has been completely instructed by an eminent practitioner in the business of a DENTIST. He scales and cleans and performs all the operations on the teeth, makes and fixes artificial and removes or prevents the irregularities which take place in the teeth of young people at the time of getting their second set.

Mr. Horn purposes being frequently at Durham, Sunderland, North and South Shields. He therefore requests that the ladies and gentlemen of these places will inform him by post of their intentions as the frequency of his visits will be in a great measure regulated by the number of those who want his assistance. Foot of Westgate Road, Newcastle.”

Dental lectures (in London) were started by William Rae and one wonders if Horn attended perhaps the last lectures given by him as he was killed by falling from his horse in this year.

The reference to the scope of Horn's work is of considerable interest to those of us who are dentists and of particular interest is the reference to children's teeth, as orthodontics is one of the most important branches of dental surgery to-day. Monsieur Le Sec who has already been mentioned also stated:—

“He cures all disorders of the mouth and deformities of the teeth when not standing in proper order; especially in children when their teeth are shedding.”

Monsieur Le Sec first visited Newcastle in 1790, four years after Horn was advertising that he corrected deformities of the teeth. In the Directory of 1811, in addition to the name of Whitlock there is the name of Mr. Summers who practised in Newgate and Charles N. Wawn whose address was Northumberland Place. Wawn was a man of culture and of deep religious feeling. Shortly after his arrival in Newcastle he was attracted to Methodism and joined the Wesleyan Society at Orphan House. He engaged upon this religious work with zeal and was an active worker among the youth

and a leader in the Sunday School. He presided over a meeting in Newcastle which led to the foundation in this town of a Sunday School Union. He was associated with the founding of the Religious Tract Society. He was interested in mechanical and scientific matters and helped George Stephenson in the controversy which he had with Sir Humphry Davy. He wrote many articles on subjects pertaining to social reform. It is a source of some pride to those of us who are dentists that early in the history of our profession Charles Wawn should take such a conspicuous part in endeavouring to improve the lot, spiritually and physically, of our less fortunate brethren. He wrote a small number of poems, some of which were incorporated in a volume of poetic studies, and a book on Tom Curry the poor keelman. Wawn's book of poems and his history of Tom Curry the keelman were illustrated by two vignettes by Bewick and it adds something to the lustre of a local dental history if something can be found to associate one of the most distinguished of the local figures. It was therefore with joy that I found a dental connection with Bewick. It will be known to those who have read *Men of Mark 'Twixt Tyne and Tweed*. Mr. George Atkinson was a great personal friend of Bewick's. I quote:—

“The year before he died, Bewick indulged his friend with a little bit of pleasantry, which is too good to be omitted. When I was with him one morning, after some conversation on different subjects, he said ‘Are you a collector of relics, Mr. Atkinson?’ Scarcely knowing to what this tended, I answered in the affirmative. ‘Should you like to possess one of me?’ I expressed the high satisfaction I should experience in a memorial of him, and he took from the drawer of the table he was engraving at a small packet of paper, which, on being unfolded, displayed—a tooth! The paper contained the following inscription: ‘I departed from the place—from the place I held in the service of Thomas Bewick, after being there upwards of seventy-four years, on the 20th November 1827.’ On the back was written—*Bewick's Tooth. November 1827.*”

During the 1850's the dental profession was divided in

opinion as to which was the best method of establishing the profession. There were those who wished to follow the main tradition of dentistry as a branch of surgery and they wished that the dental qualifications should be given by the Royal College of Surgeons. The other side held the view that dentistry would prosper better as a new and independent profession with its own college and a College of Dentistry was actually established by this group. It is natural that the main heat of the argument should have been felt in the south and none from this city was active in the discussions or in the happy agreement which was ultimately reached. The Royal College of Surgeons of England awarded the first dental diploma in 1859. In 1860 there were twelve dentists in Newcastle. In 1875 there were 18; ten years later there were 28 and by 1890 there were 30.

There is not much to comment upon during this period except that it was the habit of some practitioners to publish small books on dental surgery explaining their methods. Dental disease was considered quite fully considering the books were intended for lay people. Two of these books, one published by Messrs. Parker and the other by Ephraim Mosely, have come into my possession and I have no doubt that there are others. Perhaps another interesting association was the fact that J. C. Eno who made the world famous Health Salts had a Chemist's and Dentist's business in Newcastle for a number of years.

This last ten years of the century have been called the gay '90's but as far as dentistry is concerned they were the energetic '90's, and before we pass to the events which led to the foundation of the Newcastle upon Tyne Dental School and Hospital and to the North of England Odontological Society, let us turn for a moment to the passing of a type who for hundreds of years, in a greater or lesser way, was a figure in this land. Sequah was the last of the great travelling quack doctors and I am greatly indebted to Mr. George Strong of Blyth, who gives me the most vivid description of

the appearance of Sequah at Blyth, and there is every reason to believe that the performance at Newcastle would be the same. I am told that in the '80's Sequah used to draw up his coach on what was a piece of grass land overlooked by Lovaine Crescent. Mr. Strong tells me that he had a gaily painted and gilded coach, drawn by a pair of horses. He had a brass band of four instruments in the main body of the coach—all had uniforms. One of his biggest draws of a large crowd was his extraction of teeth free of charge. He was an expert at this operation. Mr. Strong goes on—he was the first man I ever saw use an electric torch—he had it strapped to his brow by a band of elastic. It was to look into his patients' mouths when extracting teeth. He was very smart, for when he was extracting teeth his patients came up the steps of his coach on one side, could have as many teeth as they wanted out and then go down the steps at the other side. The only gas he used was from the brass band. Any protesting shouts were accompanied by the music of his band. He also demonstrated the virtues of his *Prairie Flower Medicine*. He invited cripples with crutches to come and be healed. They were helped up to the coach and his assistants applied and rubbed in the medicine to such an extent that the cripples discarded their crutches and walked home unaided. One of his bandsmen must have had merit as a musician, for at a later date he returned to Blyth to be coach and conductor of the brass band.

In the year 1906 I was walking towards the entrance gate at Wallsend Slipway, says Mr. Strong, with one of the officials, who remarked to me, "Do you know who that is standing on a box trying to attract the workmen as they are returning from their midday meal?" I said "No" and he replied, "That is Sequah."

Mr. B. R. Townend wrote an interesting article on *Sequah*, and it appears that there were several who used this name.

Sir John Tomes is universally recognized as the father of British dentistry, and when the British Dental Association

decided to hold their Annual General Meeting in Newcastle in the hope of forming a branch of the Association here, his son Charles Tomes was elected President for the ensuing year. This meeting was a great success for, although there were over 30 dental practitioners in the town, there was no Society or Club which would bring them together in their professional capacity. A reception was held in the Hancock Museum and scientific papers were read and many interesting subjects were discussed, which undoubtedly had a great influence on the future establishment of the Odontological Society. The meeting concluded with a trip down the Tyne to South Shields. It was a great scientific and social success with far-reaching consequences.

Mr. R. L. Markham, with the foresight and wisdom that will always be associated with him, was aware of the elements of antagonism to the Association but could see that there was room for a Society which was entirely scientific in character and in May 1894 he wrote to a number of the qualified practitioners in the North of England, and on May 23rd 1894 in the Douglas Hotel the North of England Odontological Society was formed. These meetings were greatly appreciated, members regularly travelling from as far as Carlisle to attend them. With the success of the Society established Mr. Markham wrote to the eight qualified practitioners resident in Newcastle and asked them to meet at his house, 9 Eldon Square, on the 19th December. Six were present at this meeting, Messrs. J. W. Daniels, J. C. S. Harper, J. T. Jameson, W. D. Moon, W. G. Routledge and Mr. R. L. Markham. Mr. E. Fothergill was unable to attend. These six gentlemen agreed to the establishment of the Dental Hospital. The following meeting the Ways and Means Committee had decided on how to raise funds and had looked at several houses. It was decided that a house which Mr. Markham had discovered at the corner of Nelson Street and Clayton Street at a rent of £35 a year should be taken for the purpose of establishing the Newcastle upon Tyne Dental Hospital. On 25th March 1895 the Hospital

was opened and by the end of the year 1,107 patients had been treated.

The story of the Dental Hospital and School from its founding till 1936 has been written by Mr. James Coltman. This gives the complete story in the greatest of detail and is a positive mine of information. The old building was in many ways unsatisfactory and in 1906 a move was made to Handyside Buildings in Percy Street. In 1910 the University of Durham instituted the Diploma in Dental Surgery, and this seems a convenient place at which to end a story which I have found interesting to put together and which is by no means completely told.

