

THE HISTORY OF DERMATOLOGY AT ST THOMAS'S HOSPITAL

By Dr W.A.D Griffiths *

Formerly Consultant Dermatologist at

St John's Institute of Dermatology

St Thomas's Hospital, London SE1 7EH



*** Andrew Griffiths sadly died on 26th September 2021**

HISTORY OF DERMATOLOGY AT ST THOMAS'S HOSPITAL

Accounts of how skin diseases were managed at St Thomas's before the emergence of dermatology as a specialty are sparse. There was a reluctance to admit skin cases because of the risks of infection spreadingⁱ. In the early years cases may have been treated by lay assistants. The minutes for the Court of Governors of 1558 record "it is ordained that John Brice 'one of the poor' shall have four nobles (£1 34p) paid to him for curing six children of sore heads and shall have a noble (34p) as a present". He is directed "to learn some woman of this house to understand his medysone...which took place as in 1559 for scalde heads"¹. In 1567 he was admitted as a surgeon for healing sore heads but he was described an empiric with no hope of succeeding to a full surgeon's post. In 1638 Thomas Hollyer was appointed surgeon for scald heads. Parsons states "it has been shown in Vol 1 (p189) how the treatment of this disease, like that of stone in the bladder, had got into the hands of ignorant quacks: and reputable surgeons for a long time would have nothing to do with either of them. It was therefore, a distinct advance that this young and keen surgeon should have been induced to take up the treatment of the disease, which was very rife in the hope that if he did so he might later become one of the surgeons of St Thomas's". In the 1660's "amateurs like Robert Moryce were no longer allowed to treat skin diseases"ⁱⁱ

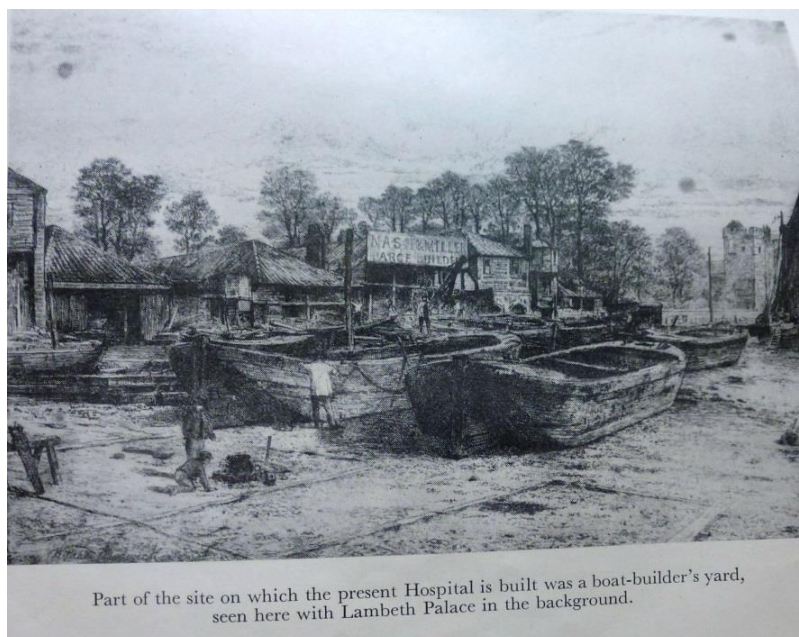
This continued to be a big problem as the Orders of the Hospital for 1752 state "2. Item. That no Person be received, who is visited or suspected to be visited with the Plague, Itch, Scald-Head, or other Infectious Diseases, and if any such be taken in, then to be discharged as soon as discovered"¹.

¹first take a pynte of Musterd, a pynte of stronge Vynegre, a quarter of a lb of Verdegrease, Two peneworth of oyle de spyke, an ounce of peper fynly beaten. Put therto a handful of sowte (salt). Boyle them together and stir them well, put in an earthen pot and so use it.

An ointment to correcte the same if it fortune to breake out again. Takke a lb of barrow hogges grease well toyed with an handful of goose dunge, one peneworth of oyle spike, one peneworth of honye, ii oz dimidium of peper, one oz of stavesacre (a species of larkspur) and when it is boyled Then strene it Thoroughe a Clothe. After the first medicyn take vinegre warm it and wash it. And so the scorfe shall be taken away'.

In 1814 a medical student Samuel Plumbe 1795-1837 entered St Thomas's as an apprentice to Mr Stephen Wentworth of Oxford, and after qualifying he became interested in skin diseases while serving in the East India Company's Navy. In 1824 he published '*A Practical Treatise on Diseases of the Skin*' which was an important early textbook on Dermatology, although he was never appointed to the staff of St Thomas'sⁱⁱⁱ. (www.ocotilloroad.com/geneal/plumbe1.html n.d.) Syphilitic rashes were under the care of Dr Williams in 1834 (South 1836)^{iv}

In 1861 St Thomas's received £296,000 for the sale of the land on which the hospital stood to allow the development of the Charing Cross Railway. As a new permanent site could not be found, temporary accommodation was established in a converted music hall in Surrey Gardens, London, Newington comprising 200 beds, outpatients and a dispensary. In 1865 the Metropolitan Board of Works sold the land opposite the Houses of Parliament on the new embankment on which to build a new hospital^v.

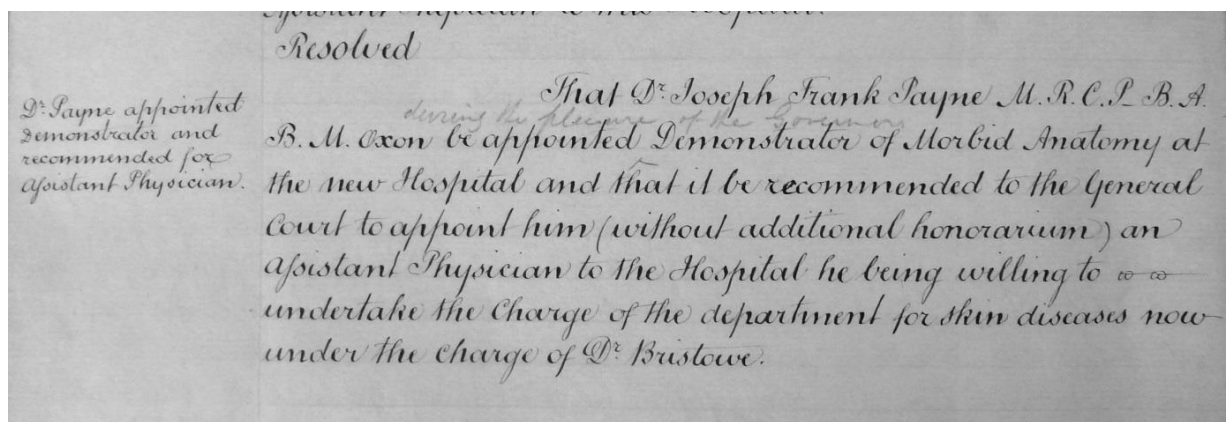


Part of the site on which the present Hospital is built was a boat-builder's yard, seen here with Lambeth Palace in the background.

The site of the new St Thomas's Hospital at Lambeth. Lambeth Palace is seen in the background

An account now follows of the staff who from the departure from near the site of Guy's Hospital to the new location at Lambeth looked after skin patients at St Thomas's.

John Syer Bristowe (1827-1895) qualified at St Thomas's in 1849 and was appointed a full physician in 1860. Although his interests were in morbid anatomy, material medica and neurology he had responsibility for the Department for Skin Diseases while the hospital was at Surrey Gardens^{vi}. The minutes of the Grand Committee of 15th June 1871 indicate that a Skin Department was established in the period 1862-1871.



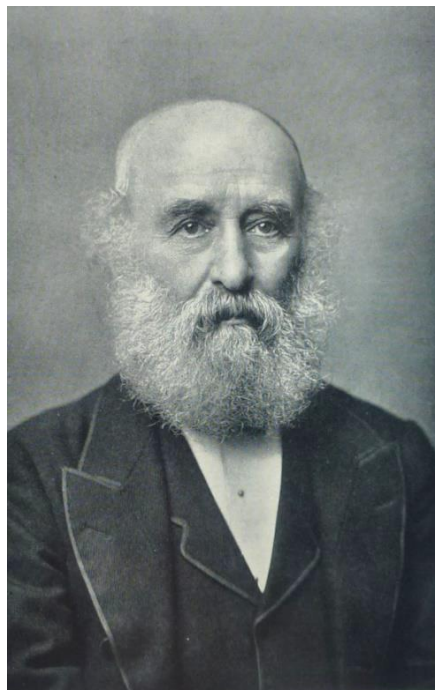
Minutes of the St Thomas's Hospital Grand Committee 15th June 1871

He wrote in the hospital reports '*On the Diseases of the Skin which are generally supposed to be due to the growth of vegetable parasites*' in which he quotes Hebra, Tilbury Fox, William McCall Anderson and Jonathon Hutchinson^{vii}. It is also clear from this article that Bristowe was active in treating skin diseases when the hospital moved from Southwark to the temporary accommodation in Surrey Gardens, London, Newington in 1862 and must be clearly regarded as the first Dermatologist at St Thomas's. When the hospital moved into the new Lambeth building in 1871 Dr JF Payne took on the care of the skin patients. The new hospital had a beautiful chapel at its centre with a fine organ by the firm of JW Walker. The brass plate recording the generosity of the subscribers to it includes Dr Bristowe.



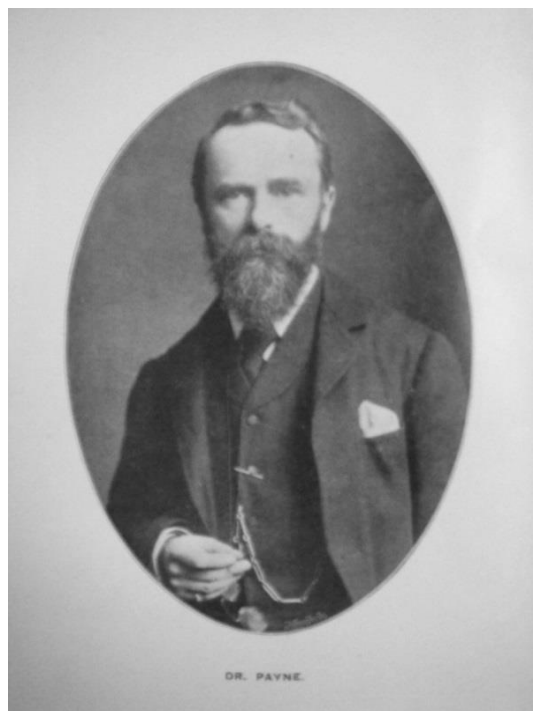
Brass plate of subscribers to the organ in the chapel of the new St Thomas's Hospital

He wrote in 1876 a '*Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Medicine*', and in 1888 '*Diseases of the Nervous System*'. After a most illustrious career and election as an FRS he retired in 1892. A subscription raised in his memory established the Bristowe medal for pathology.



John Bristowe

Joseph Frank Payne (1840-1910) was educated at University College London, Magdalen College Oxford and St George's. He studied also in Paris Berlin and Vienna. He was a lecturer in morbid anatomy at St Mary's before being appointed in 1871 to the new hospital as demonstrator in morbid anatomy and as an assistant physician to take the charge of the department for skin diseases then under the care of Dr Bristowe ^{viii}.



Frank Payne

Parsons considered "that he was the most learned man that our staff ever held...and that he was an able physician, an accurate biographer and historian, a pathologist of the first rank as well as a skin specialist, and in his early days, a collector and connoisseur of old china". "Imagine a small, retiring man with a red beard and a nose of so curious a shape that it fixed the attention at once: short-sighted grey eyes before which the pince-nez were constantly being resettled whenever he blinked, which he did often and vigorously."^{ix} He was at the same time on the staff of the Blackfriars' Hospital for Skin Disease in Stamford Street^x. He was regarded as an excellent diagnostician and was

learned in many fields besides medicine. He was a founder member and President of the Dermatological Society of Great Britain and the Pathological Society of London. He led an International Commission of enquiry into the plague and later became President of the Epidemiological Society. He was a bibliophile and scholar who developed a great interest in medical history, especially Anglo-Saxon and Norman medicine on which he gave the Goulstonian, Harveian and the first FitzPatrick lectures in the Royal College of Physicians. He succeeded Munk as librarian to the latter and was one of its most significant benefactors. He contributed entries to the Dictionary of National Biography. He wrote in 1888 a '*Manual of General Pathology*', and biographies of Linacre and of Sydenham^{xi}.

Sir William Osler quoted Payne as saying "the basis of medicine is sympathy and the desire to help others and whatever is done with this end must be called medicine".^{xii}

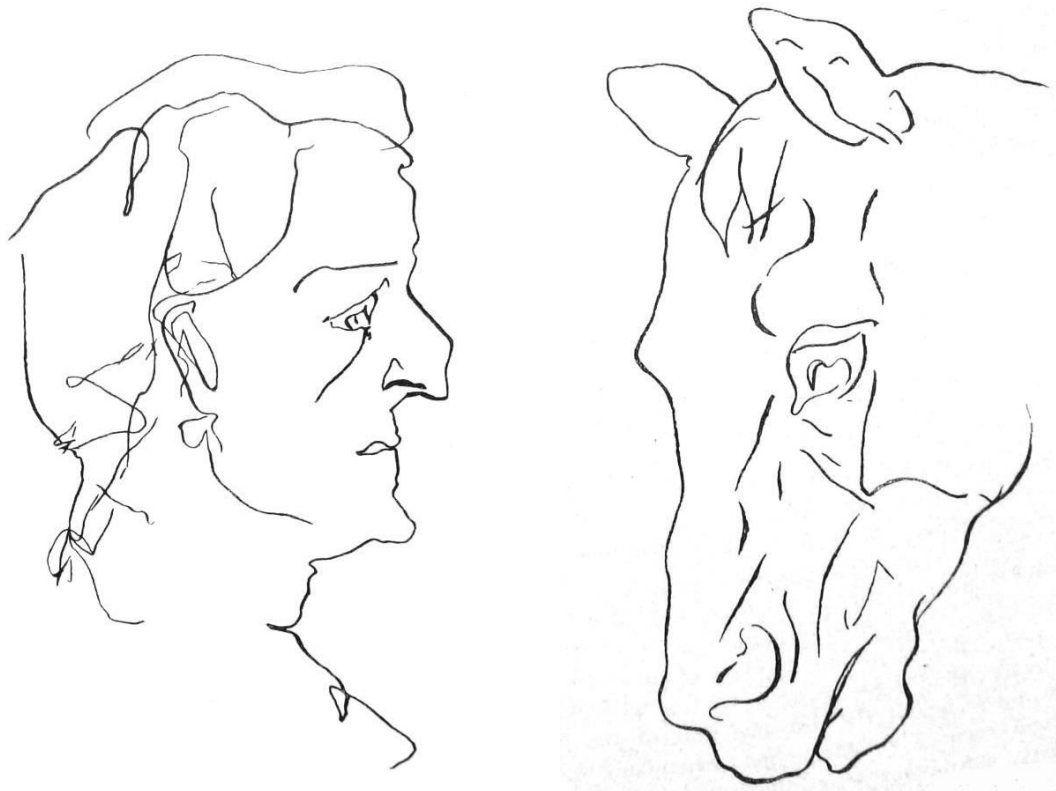
In Surrey Gardens in 1869 there had only been 6 skin in-patients 2 males and 4 females but on the surgical wards there were 40 patients and 27 leg ulcers.

In the new hospital the numbers increased in 1872 with 13 patients, erythema nodosum 4, prurigo 1, psoriasis 2, zoster 1, and eczema 5.

In a footnote to his report of 1883, he clarifies that these figures do not represent the total number of skin cases seen. A considerable number were treated among general out-patients, chiefly surgical, and a still larger number of slighter cases, especially eruptions due to pediculi, scabies and transitory forms of eczema etc. were dealt with in the Casualty Department.^{xiii}

By 1900 the dermatology outpatients had risen to 690 cases. Payne became a full physician in 1884 when he was put in charge of a new Department of Skin and Ear diseases. It was divided in 1885 into two separate departments.

William Anderson (1842-1900) was educated at the City of London School and then went to the University of Aberdeen. His first interest was art and soon after he entered Lambeth College of Art but changed in 1864 at the age of 24 to study medicine at St Thomas's. He was an extremely able student and won prizes each year culminating in the Cheselden medal for surgery. He qualified in 1871 and became a House Surgeon. He trained further at Derby General Hospital. In 1871 on the opening of the new St Thomas's at Lambeth he was appointed Surgical Registrar and Demonstrator in Anatomy. The latter enabled him to employ his artistic skills to the full, and was much appreciated by the students. He was able to draw simultaneously using both hands, which he did on a challenge from his friend Wagstaffe. The horse was drawn with his right hand and the head with his left.



Simultaneous drawings done by Anderson with the left and rights hands

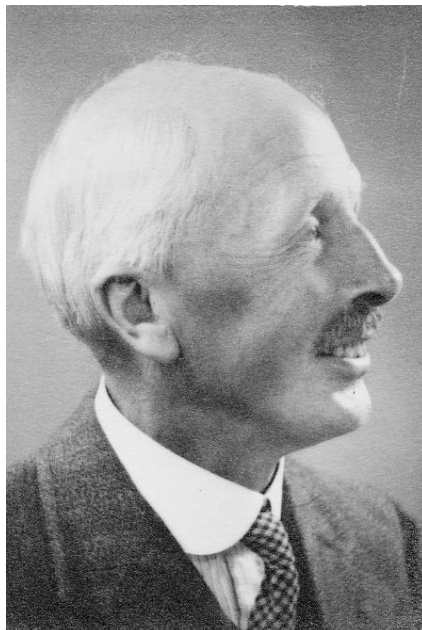
He took a post as Professor at the Imperial Naval College in Tokyo in 1873 where he remained for 7 years. While he was there, he learned to speak and give lectures in fluent Japanese. He furthered his interest in art by collecting a significant collection of over 3000 pieces of oriental art

which subsequently passed into the national collection in the British Museum. His authority in the subject was clear from his publication of *'A Descriptive and Historical catalogue of a Collection of Japanese and Chinese Painting's* and of *'The Pictorial Arts of Japan'* both in 1886, and in 1895 *'Japanese wood engravings'*. In 1892 he was a co-founder of the Japan Society in London, which he chaired until his death in 1900. The Japanese government elected him Knight Commander of the Order of the Rising Sun. In 1880 he was made assistant Surgeon and Joint lecturer on Anatomy at St Thomas's and he became a full surgeon in 1891. His inaugural lecture to the Medical and Physical Society of St Thomas's was a profusely illustrated masterpiece on art and medicine. ^{xv} In 1887 he took over the department of Dermatology from Dr Payne. He became much interested in the subject of Dermatology. He described in 1898 the syndrome for which his name is still recalled as Anderson-Fabry disease now known as Angiokeratoma Corporis Diffusum. This was to be the subject of an in-depth study by a later St Thomas's dermatologist, Dr Hugh Wallace. Mr Anderson was elected Professor of Anatomy at the Royal Academy of Arts in 1892. He wrote many papers in the British Journal of Dermatology and also wrote many surgical papers. He examined for the Royal College of Surgeons and for London University. He was of a shy and retiring disposition but was always charming and never irascible. Dr Payne in his obituary described him as "a man of high culture and refinement"^{xvi}

Edward Stainer (1869-1948). Son of the well-known Sir John Stainer, Professor of Music at Oxford, he was educated at Oxford and St Thomas's qualifying in 1893. In 1900 he became clinical assistant to the Skin and Electrical departments and in charge of the Skin Department in 1902 until he resigned in 1920 owing to deteriorating vision. With Sir Ernest Graham-Little who wrote his obituary in 1948^{xvii} he strove to build up The Dermatological Society of Great Britain and opened it widely to practitioners interested in Dermatology, as the older Dermatological Society of London was practically restricted to those who were heads of London Skin Departments. The former subsequently merged into the new Section of Dermatology of the Royal Society of Medicine. He was interested in hereditary disorders and in particular with Pearson and Nettleship he sought referrals

of pedigrees of Albinism. Being impressed by the rapid increase in the number of cases of Alopecia areata after the bombing raids on London in the First World War he suggested his views on the aetiology of this disorder to his students by coining the phrase “Alopecia Air-Raider”. In 1910 he wrote a book *‘The hereditary transmission of defects in man’*.

In 1907 he married in Westminster Abbey, Rosalind Flora, daughter of Sir Frederick Bridge the organist of the Abbey. He sang as a tenor in the choir for the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902 and maintained a life-long interest in music. He enjoyed all his life a settled income which made him independent of his profession.



Edward Stainer

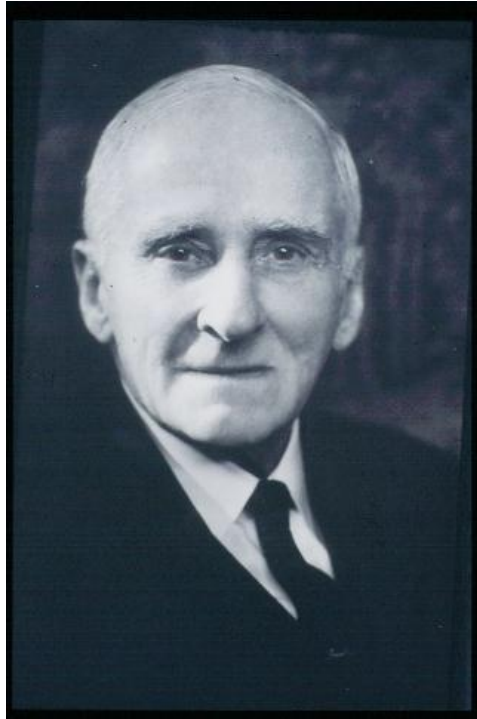
Samuel Ernest Dore (1872-1950) was educated at Mill Hill School, St John’s College, Cambridge and St Mary’s and qualified in 1898. He assisted Sir Malcolm Morris in Dermatology in the Skin Department until Morris retired. He was clinical assistant in Dermatology at the Great Northern Central Hospital, and Physician in charge at the Hampstead General Hospital and the Evelina Hospital for Children. He was clinical assistant to Dr Pringle at the Middlesex Hospital and then to Dr Colcott Fox until the latter retired, when he became Physician to the Skin Department of the Westminster

Hospital. In 1920 he was additionally appointed physician to the Skin Department of St Thomas's holding the two posts simultaneously until 1932. He also joined the staff of The St John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin. He was president of the St John's Hospital Dermatological Society, of the Section of Dermatology of the Royal Society of Medicine 1928-30 and the British Association of Dermatologists (1932-1933). He was assistant editor of the British Journal of Dermatology 1916-1918 a period when the editor Archibald Gray (later Sir) was largely away on war service. He was a corresponding member of the French Dermatology Association and a regular attender at their annual meetings. He translated from French Wickam and Degrais' book on Radium treatment. With Morris he wrote a book entitled '*Light and X-ray treatment*'. Another book in 1934 was entitled '*Diseases of the Skin – a handbook of Dermatology*' for Practitioners and Students. He developed the use of radiotherapy in dermatology and robustly defended the use of X-ray epilation against claims of brain damage. In 1941 he delivered the Malcolm Morris memorial lecture on '*Advances in Dermatology in the last 40 years*'. He contributed many reports to the dermatological literature. He retired in 1934 and was generally acknowledged to be a most learned man yet with a generous and equable temperament.^{xviii xix}

Geoffrey Barrow Dowling (1891-1976) was born in Cape Town in 1891 where his father was organist and choir master at the cathedral.^{xx} He was educated at Cape Town Diocesan College, Dulwich School and Guy's Hospital, qualifying in 1920. In 1926 he was appointed as assistant in Dermatology at St John's Hospital and in 1927 to the Miller General Hospital Greenwich, West London Hospital Hammersmith and the Ministry of Pensions. These he gave up when he was appointed as Assistant Physician to Barber at Guy's until he resigned in 1932. At this time he was appointed to St Thomas's Hospital to replace Dore. In 1943 he was made civilian consultant to the RAF. In 1946 Hugh Wallace was appointed as a second dermatologist to the Department and KM Tomlinson and Prosser-Thomas as clinical assistants. Just after the Second World War there were many young doctors demobilised who required facilities for training at the same time producing a bottle-neck. St Thomas's were fortunate in having quite a number of these: Martin Beare, Bob

Bowers, Hugh Calvert, George Findlay, Alan Lyell, John Marshall, Arthur Rook, John Simpson, Douglas Sweet, Tommy Tomlinson, Renwick Vickers, Eric Waddington, Stephen Wight and Darrel Wilkinson. Alan Lyell has left a personal and fascinating account of the department and its senior staff^{xxi}. Dr Dowling “would peer at the skin through his binocular loupe, mutter to himself, rub the skin, rub his chin, write the diagnosis on the case sheet, cast it in the out-tray, and mumble ‘next sister’ ” This array of young talent around Dr Dowling provided a vibrant and confident atmosphere in the department. In 1951 Dowling was made Director of the Institute of Dermatology at St John’s Hospital. The following year the Eastern Fever Hospital in Homerton Grove provided space for beds and for the establishment of the first research departments, with Dr Arthur Tickner in Biochemistry and Professor Ian Magnus in Photobiology. He retired in 1956 but obtained support to continue working in laboratory research in Dr Paul Naylor’s laboratory under Professor EP Sharpey-Schafer. When the compulsory retirement regulation was repealed, he took on further clinical duties at Lewisham and Farnham. In 1955 he gave the Watson-Smith lecture of the Royal College of Physicians on ‘*Scleroderma and Dermatomyositis*’. In 1958 he gave the Prosser White Oration of the St John’s Hospital Dermatological Society on ‘*Concepts in Dermatology*’.

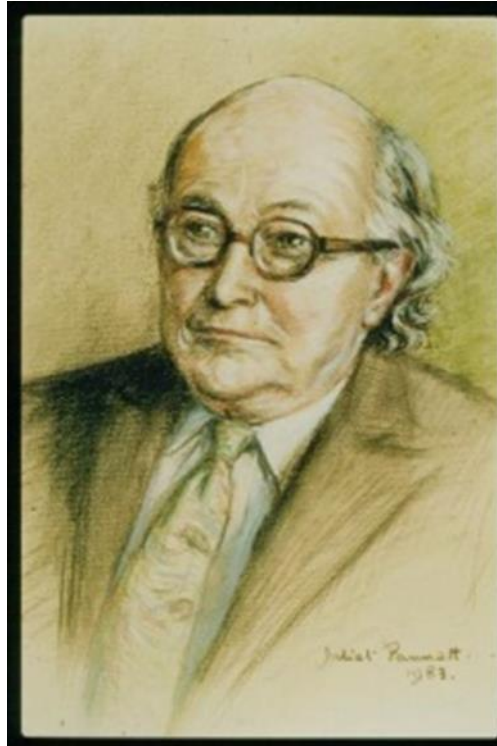
He wrote on many subjects but was especially interested in lupus vulgaris and the use of Vitamin D (calciferol) in its treatment. Noteworthy is his account of ‘*The History of the British Association of Dermatologists from 1920-1970*’.^{xxii} He is remembered for the eponymous disorders Dowling-Meara type of epidermolysis bullosa, Dowling -Degos disease which he differentiated from acanthosis nigricans. His biggest legacy was the founding of the Dowling Club originally the George club which is well documented elsewhere²¹. Although Dowling was considered to be a poor lecturer and teacher one has only to look at the literature from the 20’s onwards to see the high output he had compared to anyone else. It was inevitable that his knowledge and enthusiasm should make itself felt. He made every effort to encourage young people at an early stage in their careers; an attitude which I believe still obtains in Dermatology today. He died in St Thomas’s in 1976^{xxiii}



Geoffrey Dowling

Hugh John Wallace (1909-1985) was born in East Africa where he spent his early years. He was educated at Bedford School and King's College Cambridge before entering St Thomas's Hospital Medical School in 1932. Despite his physical handicap (kypho-scoliosis) he was a keen sportsman especially enjoying rowing. He qualified in 1936 and started work in the Skin Department of St Thomas's under Dr GB Dowling in 1939. With the partial evacuation of St Thomas's during the war Dr Wallace was put in charge of the country branch to provide continuity of undergraduate teaching in the old Southern Railway Orphanage at Woking, known as the Woking War Hospital. In 1946 he joined Dr Dowling as Honorary Physician to the Skin department at St Thomas's. He also conducted outpatient clinics at several hospitals in Surrey. He was appointed consulting Physician at St John's Hospital for Diseases of the skin in 1949 and to the King Edward VII Hospital, Beaumont Street. Dr Wallace had great admiration for Dr Dowling, with whom he built up a very active and influential department. Dr Wallace was full of charm and had a great sense of humour. He rarely lost his temper and when he did, he quoted Ephesians "*Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath* ", but most sensibly revised it to "*DO let the sun.*" He loved teaching

undergraduates which he did very well, coming into the prefabricated hut in the forecourt of the medical school which served as the dermatology out-patients carrying a battered pile of ancient looking cards bearing illustrations of various skin conditions, which I think were by Jacobi and Pringle. He was naturally able to get things done and was a catalyst to many initiatives both in Dermatology and in St Thomas's. He collaborated with Professor Walter Holland and with Dr Mollie Newhouse from the department of Statistics and Public Health and together with Dr John White from the skin department they made a population survey of the inhabitants of Lambeth to determine the prevalence of skin diseases^{xxiv}. This was a most influential study and I think remains the only one of its kind. He attracted Dr Paul Naylor as a scientist to do research on the physiology of the skin, and Dr Ian Whimster for experimental pathology. His own interests were lichen sclerosus of the vulva, and Anderson-Fabry disease. He collected a considerable number of cases of both conditions and published his findings. He gave the Watson-Smith lecture of the Royal College of Physicians in 1972 on *Anderson-Fabry Disease*. He became President of the Section of Dermatology of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1969 and was made an honorary fellow of the Society, an honour accorded to very few Dermatologists. He was President of the St John's Hospital Dermatological Society in 1963 and the British Association of Dermatologists in 1974 which that year hosted a very successful Anglo-French reunion. He was a staunch supporter of the French school of Dermatology, as was Dowling, and he regularly attended the French Annual Meeting in Paris. When accompanying him and Dr Darrel Wilkinson the writer discovered the warmth of personality that they both possessed. Asked by some Nightingales (St Thomas's nurses) to attend a party to judge a "prettiest umbilicus" competition he enthusiastically agreed and arrived in a black gown, mortarboard and his large dermatological magnifying glass. Dr Wallace was a generous host and a great ambassador for British Dermatology, inviting people to his house in Chepstowe Villas every week if not more often. He was supported wonderfully by his wife Norah, herself a Doctor. He retired in 1974 and died in St Thomas's Hospital in 1985.



Hugh Wallace

George Crichton Wells (1914-1999) was the son of Sir Richard Wells MP for Bedford. George was educated at Bedford school where he excelled at rugby, swimming, diving and rowing. He went to Pembroke college Cambridge, where he rowed in the College eight, and then to St Thomas's Hospital, qualifying in 1939. He won the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley in 1935^{xxv}. He joined the RAMC but then volunteered for the paratroops where he served in a number of different theatres including Salerno, Greece and France. After the war he returned to St Thomas's and was advised by Professor George Prunty to spend some time in Chicago with Stephen Rothman where he developed an interest in the new subject of histochemistry. He became a senior registrar to WN Goldsmith at UCH but he returned to Rothman's department for a further year to work on connective tissue ground substance about which he wrote a chapter in Rothman's book *'Physiology and biochemistry of the skin'* in 1954. In the same year Dr Dowling who was the first Director of the Institute of Dermatology invited Dr Wells as senior lecturer with a view to his succeeding him as Professor on his

retirement. Dr Wells set up a laboratory at Lisle street, London where he introduced histochemistry and later enzyme histochemistry. When Dowling retired from St Thomas's George applied and was appointed thus frustrating the plans for the Institute of Dermatology, particularly of Sir Archibald Gray who was instrumental in founding the Institute of Dermatology^{xxvi}. The post of first Professor at the Institute of Dermatology was filled by Dr Charles Calnan. In 1959 Dr Wells was also made a consultant to St John's. He worked with Dr Henry Haber and later with Dr Edward Wilson-Jones who was also a St Thomas's man. The department became the leader in histopathology of the skin in this country and attracted a world-wide reputation. Dr Wells continued to work on histochemistry and had a particular interest in intraepithelial innervation and in the use of PAS stain in histology. Many publications appeared from the department including one which became known as Wells syndrome, eosinophilic cellulitis. In 1961 he gave the Parkes-Weber lecture of the Royal College of Physicians on '*Skin Disorders associated with malabsorption*'. With Dr Dowling he wrote the dermatology chapter in many editions of the well-known medical textbook Conybeare and Mann. George had a quiet personality which contrasted sharply with the ebullient character of Hugh Wallace but the combination together with that of Ian Whimster was a most felicitous one for both undergraduates and for junior staff training in the department. George's contacts with many influential American Dermatologists especially Richard Stoughton and Richard Winkelman was often of value to younger trainees at St John's and St Thomas's. His quiet manner belied a man of great intellect and refinement of character.

He married Margaret (Maggie) Wells who was an artist and celebrated wood block engraver. Together they enjoyed skiing and walking in Switzerland, where they bought a chalet in Anzère. Many of us were delighted to spend holidays in that delightful spot through his unstinting generosity. He often invited his junior staff to his charming home in Hereford Square. He was very musical and loved opera and playing his Spanish guitar. He regularly supported the St Thomas's music Society. He retired to Sibton in Suffolk in 1979, but when Maggie died he lost the will to live and followed her within six weeks in 1999.



George Wells

Ian Wesley Whimster (1923-1979) was an experimental Pathologist who became interested in the histopathology of the skin. There is little published information on Ian Whimster so I have drawn on personal recollections and from his son Rowan. He was born in Bath and educated at Lancing College, Brighton, Clare College Cambridge and St Thomas's Hospital where he qualified in 1946. After house appointments he became a lecturer in the Medical School. He soon developed a special interest in skin pathology which steadily increased over the years. He became MRCPATH in 1963 and reader in pathology of the skin in 1970 and FRCPath in 1978. Dr Dowling encouraged him in his research and enabled him to set up an animal laboratory in the skin department. His interest was on the nervous system and the skin. The patterns of rashes and of pigmentation fascinated him and so he acquired Chameleons, Geckos and enormous Rhodesian bull-frogs (one called Caesar and one Augustus, I recall) he was meticulous and humane in his management of his animals attending at weekends and Christmas day to feed them. He showed by transplanting the nerves in the skin that the pattern of pigmentation of some animals, and the ability of the chameleon to change colour were altered. His papers were models of clarity of thought and experiment and are even now worth

reading. Symmetry in Dermatology interested him and he observed that for a disease such as vitiligo some pathology must be taking place either near the spinal decussation or more centrally placed in the nervous system. This is worth recalling in the current climate of emphasis on the role of the immune system in this disease. Another thoughtful paper was '*An experimental approach to the problem of spottiness*'²⁷. With the surgeon Norman Browse he made a detailed study of Lymphangioma circumscriptum. He ran weekly histopathology reviews and teaching sessions for the skin department which we all found fascinating. He always tried to visualise the histopathological image as part of a dynamic process, and questioned what he saw. As an example, when showing us a slide of lupus erythematosus panniculitis he demonstrated an adipocyte with a ring of single lymphocytes around its periphery and asked "why are those lymphocytes so interested in that cell?" In 1961 he gave the Dowling Oration of the St John's Hospital Dermatological Society on '*Morbid Anatomy and the Skin*', Geoffrey Dowling wrote of him to his friend and colleague Professor George Findlay in Pretoria, South Africa "the absence of output is very disappointing: very rarely he is persuaded to speak to the dermatologists and when he does, he more or less shakes the foundations of the building, and then is quite happy about it all for a little while. I don't understand the reticence and anyway it doesn't pay. I like Ian and admire his talents very much. He was dismissive of the tendency to rush into print with not much to say which he considered all too prevalent.

He married and had three children. He was subject to depressive episodes. Perhaps the fact that he was part of the medical team first to enter Belsen concentration camp had a great effect on him. He was a gifted artist and under the pseudonym of Frank Breech he contributed cartoons to the St Thomas's Hospital Gazette. He had a great sense of humour and was companionable. He was sadly killed by a car after attending a dinner at St Thomas' Hospital.



Ian Whimster

Paul Francis Dorian Naylor (1924-2009) was educated at Rotherham Grammar School, Gonville and Caius College Cambridge and St Thomas's Hospital where he qualified in 1949. Paul was House Physician to Professor EP Sharpey-Shafer who was to be a major influence on his research career. From 1949-1951 Paul performed his national service in the Royal Army Medical Corps and was posted to the Army Operational Research Group under Dr John (later Lord) Butterfield who became Regius Professor of Medicine at Cambridge. He worked with OCJ Lippold on neuromuscular physiology in relation to soldiers carrying loads. In 1951 he returned to St Thomas's as an assistant to the Department of Dermatology, and research fellow at the Institute of Dermatology with Dr Dowling. In 1955 he became a lecturer at the Medical School working on the mechanisms of friction blistering to attempt to find out why some soldiers could walk only short distances before blistering. This led to the elucidation of Epidermolysis bullosa simplex. This topic formed the subject of his MD thesis for the University of Cambridge in 1954. He rose steadily through the academic ranks strongly supported by Dr Hugh Wallace, becoming a Professor in 1975. He worked on the structure of keratin with Dowling and latterly on oxygen tension in the skin and tissues at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith with Noel Evans. In his early years he did a lot of teaching at St Thomas's and ran a weekly staff clinic for nurses and doctors. He was a meticulous history taker and

offered sensible advice to his junior trainees when asked. He was rather diffident and did not engage much with the world of clinical dermatology preferring the milieu of academic physiology. He was very musical and supported the Music Society of the Hospital which at that time was very active and had as conductor Jeffrey Tate who was working as a surgeon at St Thomas's before taking up conducting permanently. Paul was much involved in the medical school and was a Thomas's man through and through. He and his wife spent many holidays walking in Switzerland. He retired in 1983 and was replaced by Dr David McGibbon. He died in 2009.



Paul Naylor

John Duncan Everall (1917-1997) was educated at King's College School Wimbledon and Guy's Hospital, initially as a dental student but transferring to medicine. He went to Leeds under Professor John Ingram and then spent two years at the skin and Cancer Hospital in New York on a Fulbright scholarship. He was appointed a Dermatologist to the London County Council having sessions at St James Hospital, Balham, the Lambeth Hospital and the Metropolitan Hospital. He was appointed consultant to Ealing General Hospital and the Royal Marsden Hospital. He was interested in malignant melanoma and stimulating an immune response in cutaneous metastases by inoculation of cowpox vaccine or BCG and the industrial problem of 'pitch warts'. However, his views were often

at variance with the main stream of Dermatology. For most of his life he eschewed the use of topical steroids and preferred magisterial preparations such as Ung. Hydr. Ammon. et Picis Carb. or Paté à l'eau (lime-water paste). These were however often very beneficial and it gave his trainees a valuable insight into the traditional treatments of a rapidly disappearing era of dermatology. St Thomas's Hospital absorbed the Lambeth Hospital so that Dr Everall became *de facto* a member of the staff. He had a successful private practice in his house at 122, Harley Street where he placed many fine antiques so arranged that nothing resembling a consulting room was visible to the patient. When he retired from the NHS he opened cosmetic clinics both here and abroad.

In his youth, he was a keen rugby player representing both Guy's and Middlesex County. He was a generous entertainer to his junior staff whom he would wine and dine at expensive West End restaurants, often ending up at the roulette table in the Bunny Club at the Hilton Hotel! Dr Everall died in 1997.



John Everall

Martin Munro Black (1940-) was educated at Loretto School near Edinburgh which also numbered two other future Professors of Dermatology in the biology class (John Hunter and Ross Barnetson), and qualified MB. BS. (Dunelm) in 1963. He started Dermatology in Newcastle which had recently appointed Professor Sam Shuster from St John's and was a hot-house of enthusiasm and research activity. Martin carried out research into skin collagen and thickness in endocrine diseases acquiring his MD (Newcastle) in 1970. Martin then went to St John's as a senior registrar and tutor at the Institute of Dermatology. He went to UCSF in San Francisco in 1972-3 on a Dowling and a Fulbright scholarship to work with Professor Bill Epstein on monocyte cell cultures and experimental granulomas. On his return he was appointed a consultant at St Thomas's Hospital and St John's Hospital. He was appointed Honorary Consultant advisor in Dermatology to the Army. He was made Professor of Dermatological immunopathology in 1990. He was president of the Dowling Club in 1976 and of the British Society of Dermatopathology (1997-81) of the St John's Hospital Dermatological Society (1983) and the British Association of Dermatologists (1997-98). He was founder editor of Clinical and Experimental Dermatology in 1976 and was appointed to the boards of many other journals. He was President of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (2000-2002) and he sat on many international advisory boards. He was awarded many honours with honorary membership of many foreign dermatological societies and medals for achievement including the Sir Archibald Gray Gold medal of the British Association of Dermatologists (2004). The Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary awarded him a Special Degree '*Doctoris Honoris Causa*' in 2003. His interests were in histopathology, immunodermatology and especially in immunofluorescence (IMF) which he developed in his laboratory. The IMF laboratory became one of the largest of its type in the world. Using these new techniques he investigated auto-immune blistering diseases of the skin on which he published extensively. It was through this field that he became interested in the specific dermatoses of pregnancy which he classified. He was an excellent golfer and played with a handicap of four and became Captain of Hampstead golf club. He was also a keen gardener and talented in growing Bonsai trees. He married Aniko (Anne) Kobza-Black whom he

met while she was an SHO in Newcastle upon Tyne. Anne was appointed consultant at St John's and together they travelled the world to conferences where both made presentations.



Martin Munro Black

David McGibbon (1944-) was educated at Liverpool College and Liverpool University where he enjoyed sport, particularly hockey. His father had been appointed Dermatologist at the Liverpool Corporation Newsham General Hospital before the NHS was inaugurated and passed on his secrets both when David was an undergraduate and for six months before his formal training started at Newcastle. The emphasis was very much making a diagnosis by looking for patterns of distribution and evolution of the rash. At Newcastle David worked for Professor Sam Shuster whose mantra was to find a way to measure anything and everything. David was the first registrar to rotate through Durham where he came under the influence of Adrian Ive, one of the best diagnosticians in the UK. One look at a rash was usually enough for him. Adrian's advice was to learn dermatology through Lever's histopathology textbook. In 1977 he applied for a histopathology training post at St John's but lost out to Neil Smith; however, three months later he was successful at obtaining one of the general senior registrar posts. Clinical training at St John's was excellent, in

particular the Saturday morning meetings and Edward Wilson-Jones' histopathology sessions. After eighteen months David then moved sideways into the full-time histopathology training post. Performing three biopsy sessions per week and reporting the slides two days later was a superb way to learn clinical dermatology.



David McGibbon

In 1980 he was appointed Consultant Dermatologist to Greenwich District Hospital and Consultant Physician to the Skin Department at St Thomas's Hospital replacing George Wells and John Everall. At that time St Thomas' was one of the few skin departments reporting their own skin histopathology. He and Martin Black shared a weekly reporting rota which later included Phillip McKee, then a consultant histopathologist at St Thomas'.

His interests were in histopathology and in the management of the life-threatening acute skin reactions seen in general hospitals as well as HIV disease. In addition, he did a stint as secretary of the College Dermatology Training Committee and when St Johns' transferred to St Thomas set up new South Thames registrar training rotations and chaired the initial committee. At this time, he was Clinical Director for St John's.

He took a particular interest in the teaching and examining of undergraduates. For many years he was responsible for the setting of the London University Final MB MCQ exam in Medicine until individual Schools developed their own. He was then instrumental in rewriting the Final MB exam regulations for UMDS, changing the MCQ to single best response and providing marking and psychometric support when the OSCE was introduced. At that time, he and Val Wass initiated an OSCE as part of the Dermatology undergraduate teaching. This OSCE continues to this day and, according to undergraduate feedback, is one of the best regarded teaching opportunities throughout Medical School.

This expertise stood him in good stead to set up the exam for the Institute of Dermatology MSc in Dermatology course in 1990. As a result of this he chaired the King's Postgraduate Exam Committee for Taught Medical Degrees for five years but had to refuse the offer to be Chief Examiner for the GKT Medical School because of busy clinical commitments.

Although formally retiring in 2009, he was asked by Consultant Photobiologist Bob Sarkany to help with the setting up of the National Xeroderma Pigmentosum Service for two years at St. John's. He continues to attend photobiology clinics and also has helped set up a combined monthly tertiary referral Rheumatology/Dermatology clinic with Professor David d'Cruz at the Lupus Clinic at St. Thomas'. Lupus, and how photodermatoses and skin rashes link in to auto-inflammatory disease provide his main interest at present.

POST SCRIPT

Following Lord Flowers' report in the early 1980s which advised the government to amalgamate smaller postgraduate institutes and their associated hospitals into larger medical schools, St Johns gradually relocated to St Thomas' in the late 1980's. Inpatient wards and laboratories based at Homerton moved in 1987 followed by the closure of the out-patient facilities at Lisle St in 1990. The merger went well and the St Johns dermatologists were warmly welcomed by their colleagues at St Thomas',

In 1990, the St Johns' Institute of Dermatology renamed to include both the hospital and institute, was back on a single site for the first time in more than 50 years. In 1993 St Thomas' merged with Guy's Hospital to form a single (later Foundation) NHS Trust. The Medical Schools were incorporated into King's College, London. With continuing development of Guy's and St Thomas' sites, it was decided to combine and strengthen St Johns' Institute of Dermatology onto the Guy's campus. This process began in 2005 and was largely completed by 2015.

Through its merger with Guys' and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust it has entered a new era of multi-disciplinary medicine. St Johns' has forged close links with King's College London and has high class research laboratories on the 9th floor of the Guy's Tower.

Today the St Johns' Institute of Dermatology attracts a critical mass of specialists and research specialists which has put it right at the forefront of modern, multi-disciplinary medical care.

St Thomas' Hospital Dermatological Department can be equally proud that it has contributed to the development of the speciality, both nationally and internationally.

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⁶ Painting in London Metropolitan Archive.HO1/stph/B/02/00-1.

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