BSM Newsletter
Winter 1988

The British Society for Mycopathology

BSM-Scandinavian Societies Joint Meeting

All Members of the BSM should have received by now the 'First Announcement' and preliminary registration form for the Joint Meeting of the British Society for Mycopathology and the Danish Society for Mycopathology and the Swedish Society for Mycopathology, 16-16 September, 1989 in Göteborg, Sweden. The registration fee of SEK 300 is payable by 1 February, 1989. After then it increases to SEK 600. Refer to the announcement for full details. If any member has not received this announcement (the organisers have based their mailing on the current address list) please inform the BSM Secretary, Dr. Malcolm Richardson.

Welcome to New Members

At the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 19 October 1988, the following were admitted to membership of the Society:

Dr. G.M. Gadd
Microbiology, University of Dundee

Miss Wendy Goad
Microbiology, University of Leeds

Mr. D. Tosh
Microbiology, University of Glasgow

New Address List

Enclosed with the Newsletter is a copy of a new members address list. However, we are well aware that this is already out of date so we are appealing to members who have changed address to please contact the Treasurer or the Secretary so that we can update our records. Because of the relatively low production costs we aim to publish a new list every year so it is important that we are informed of your movements.

Success of One-Day Meeting

Did you go to the one-day scientific meeting of the Society at St. Thomas's Hospital London? If not, a copy of the programme is enclosed with the Newsletter so that you can see what a varied and interesting day it was. The occasion was enjoyed by over 60 delegates, many of whom were guests of the Society. Professor Bill Noble must be congratulated for a successful and well organised meeting. The Committee would welcome ideas from members for future events of this kind.

For Sale

Complete set of Review of Medical and Veterinary Mycology. Contact Dr. Phyllis Stockdale, Bridge House, 5, Grove Park Gardens, Chiswick, London W4 3RY (01-994 0366).

British Society for Mycopathology
President: Dr. R. R. Davies

Registered Charity No. 291852

Secretary: Dr. M. D. Richardson, Medical Mycology Unit, Anderson College Building, University of Glasgow, 56 Dumbarton Road, Glasgow G11 6NU. Tel. no. 041-339 8855, ext. 4010

Treasurer: Miss G. Midgley, Department of Medical Mycology, Institute of Dermatology, St John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Lisle Street, London WC2H 7BH. Tel. no. 01-437 8383, ext. 252.
Queen's Birthday Honour for BSM Member


On Saturday, June 11th this Year, "The Times" under the headings - Queen's Birthday Honours, Prime Minister's List, Order of the British Empire - D.B.E. had the following entry: "Hurley, Rosalinde (Mrs. Gortvai), Chairman, Medicines Commission; Professor of Microbiology, London University".

Dame Rosalinde is not only a founder member of the British Society for Mycopathology but served as treasurer from 1970-1975, and on behalf of the membership and the Committee I have great pleasure in warmly congratulating Dame Rosalinde and expressing our delight that she has been so highly honoured by Her Majesty, The Queen.

Educated at the Academy of the Assumption, Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts and Queen's College, Harlem Street and the at Charing Cross Hospital and Medical School, she qualified M.R.C.S. Eng., LRPCP Lond., MB BS in 1955, and was House Officer Surg., Wembley Hospital, 1955; House Officer Phys., W. London Hospital, 1956; the Senior House Officer 1956-1957; Registrar 1957-1958; Lecturer and Assistant Clinical Pathologist 1958-1962 at Charing Cross Hospital and Medical School. Graduating LL.B in 1958, and appointed Consultant Bacteriologist, Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital in 1963.

In 1962, the MRC meeting for paper reading in Medical Mycology was held at two centres, the Stain and Gartne, Richmond and the Central Veterinary Laboratory, Weybridge, and her erudite contribution at Weybridge on the histopathology of Candida infection has been one that I have always remembered for excellence in presentation. This year saw the completion of her M.D. Thesis entitled "The Relationship Between Host and Parasite, Systemic Moniliasis. A Clinical and Experimental Study". The monograph Candida albicans by H.I. Winner and Rosalinde Hurley was published by J.A. Churchill in 1964 and gained rapid acceptance as a classical reference source. Over many years Dame Rosalinde extended her interests in Candida and candidosis and with the members of her Queen Charlotte's Group (including Barbara Leask, Valerie Stanley and Helen Buckley) was a regular contributor to the scientific sessions at our annual residential meetings. It was in those years that research on dermatophytes and tinea tended to diminish and became less fashionable, and Candida and candidosis was in!

On appointment to the Chair of Microbiology in the University of London at the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Royal Postgraduate Medical School in 1975, her responsibilities were extended to include not only bacteriology and mycology, but virology, cytogenetics and the human milk bank.

A Member of the Royal College of Pathologists, 1975 saw her admission to fellowship, and an active interest in the College led to her election to the Council in 1977 as Assistant Registrar from 1978-81, re-election to the Council in 1983 and service as Vice-President from 1984-87. She has acted as an examiner for the Royal College of Pathologists, universities here and abroad and as a member of the University of London Board of Studies in Pathology has chaired the Sub-Committee for Microbiology. She is a member of the Public Health Laboratory Service Board.

From 1978-83 she served on the Scientific Executive Committee of the Royal Society of Medicine, was "an other member" of the Council from 1982-84, appointed Honorary Secretary in 1984, and Senior Honorary Secretary from 1984-90. She was president of the Section of Pathology from 1979-81. She was the membership secretary of the Association of Clinical Pathologists from 1972-72, member of the Council and Meetings Secretary 1975-80, President Elect 1983-84 and President 1984-1985.

On 20th November 1981, Dr. Gerard Vaughan, Minister of Health, in response to a question in the House of Commons reported "I am pleased to announce the appointments by the Health and Agricultural Ministers of the U.K., of Professor Rosalinde Hurley as a member and Chairman of the Medicines Commission with effect from 1st January 1982. The Medicines Commission advises the Health and Agricultural Ministers on matters relating to the implementation of the Medicines Act 1968 and on general policy questions relating to the control of medicinal products for human and veterinary use. The Commission also hear applicants for product licences who exercise their right to appear before the Commission in connection with the licencing of their products."
Her connections with the Medicines Commission began in 1976 when she was appointed to the Committee on Dental and Surgical Materials and from 1980 served as Chairman. The task of the CDSM is to advise on the licencing of products implied in its title and intra-uterine contraceptive devices and other products for which the Committee on Safety of Medicines is not appropriately constituted, e.g. contact lenses and contact lens fluid.

In August 1984, an outbreak of food poisoning occurred at Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield which affected over half of the patients in the hospital and resulted in the deaths of 19 of them. The public disquiet led to the Secretary of State to appoint a Committee of Inquiry. The members of the Committee were J. Hugill Esq., Q.C., Professor Rosalinde Hurley, and P. Salmon Esq., Chairman, S.W. Surrey Health Authority; the Secretary to the Committee was Mr. A. McCulloch. The enquiry was public. Professor Dame Rosalinde Hurley was the expert microbiologist, and "The Report of the Committee of Inquiry into an Outbreak of Food Poisoning at Stanley Royd Hospital" was presented to Parliament and published by Command of Her Majesty.

"Roz" to her friends, shows a good memory and loyalty. When her Pathologist Colleagues at Queen Charlotte's held a reception in her honour to celebrate her award of DBE, The President and two former secretaries of the BSM were present amongst her distinguished guests and the only speech was one made by Professor H.I. Winner who had introduced her to medical microbiology and Candida. It is a tribute to them that the term candidiasis has been superseded by their term - candidosis.

For many years Dame Rosalinde was Assistant MOH to the Temple, and has a home in Temple Gardens. We hope we may see her with her Consultant Neurosurgeon husband Mr Peter Gortval FRCS, at one of our meetings in the near future.

Roland Davies

Postscript: We are honoured to have Professor Dame Rosalinde Hurley speak to the BSM at the Annual Meeting in Oxford on "The Work of the U.K. Medicines Commission".

NEW COLLEGE - VENUE FOR 1989
ANNUAL MEETING

The approach to New College is somewhat deceiving as this impressive complex is virtually invisible from the outside. Max Beerbohm spoke of "that grim ravine by which you approach New College". He was referring to New College Lane which runs between the blank outside walls of the Cloisters and the Warden's Barn. The main entrance in Holywell Street is via the new buildings which were constructed in the 19th century. These contain most of the accommodation and provide fine views of the old buildings. It is these old buildings that give the College it's unique appeal.

The Front Quadrangle was the first in either of the ancient English universities to be designed as a whole to contain all the main elements of a college: Chapel, Hall, Library, Warden's Lodgings, Muniment Tower and Fellows' and Scholars' chambers. It's scale and coherent plan far surpassed those earlier established which is possibly why, when founded in 1379, it was dubbed New College. Another explanation, however, is that there was an earlier college in Oxford dedicated to St. Mary (Oriel). Although the Front Quadrangle received some later alterations, it retains all the principal elements of Wykeham's original plan with most of them still in use today for the purpose for which he intended them.

Other areas of New College worthy of note include the Garden Quadrangle and the Cloisters. The Garden was built mainly in the late 17th and early 18th century. Unfortunately, it was constructed in soft Headland stone and had to be entirely refaced in 1959. However, this has not detracted from its beauty and is well worth a visit if only to see the wrought iron screen at the end which has been described as "one of the most splendid achievements of English blacksmithery".

Finally, there are the Cloisters which were the last portion of the original fabric to be completed and it has survived substantially unaltered since the founder's time. Old members of the College are commemorated by tablets on the wall and include Alfred Milner, John Galsworthy, Hugh Gaitskell and Richard Crossman.

There is so much to see at New College so do take the opportunity to enjoy this venue to its utmost.
Professor Harry Smith is best known for his championship of the science of pathogenicity, of which he has long been a practitioner and advocate. The latter has been especially due to an excellent series of reviews, written over many years, which have fired many young biologists with enthusiasm for the rigorous scientific study of pathogenic microorganisms and their interactions with host species.

Harry Smith began his career in science as an analyst with the Boots Company, near his native area of the East Midlands. The scientific ability and determined application which have marked his progression ever since soon enabled him to complete a first class degree in chemistry at London University, awarded in 1944 (he talks of bombs falling around the capital during his practical exams). This was followed by an academic post at the University of Nottingham, a PhD in 1947, and soon afterwards a post at the Microbiological Research Establishment, Porton Down. His interest in pathogenicity developed in the context of an integrated study of the role of basic pathological processes such as acute inflammation along with the properties of organisms responsible for exciting or evading these processes. The opportunity arose at Porton to investigate and analyse organisms obtained directly from infected tissues, and fundamental work on the virulence attributes of anthrax, plague and brucellosis agents resulted.

Harry Smith's work at Porton resulted in an invitation to a visiting professorship at the University of California, Berkeley in 1964, and appointment to the Chair in Microbiology at the University of Birmingham shortly afterwards. He continued his interest in pathogenicity, and developed paradigms for the host-pathogen relationship which covered colonisation, host and tissue specificity, growth in vivo, evasion of host defences, and damage to the host. These facets of pathogenicity and methodologies for their rational investigation continue to be of great value to students in this area.

Professor Smith has continued his work on pathogenicity at Birmingham, with major interests in the gonococcus and influenza. He has served widely on public service committees and in society and journal activities. Despite his recent retirement from the Headship of Microbiology at Birmingham, he remains active in research and has already secured substantial external support for continuation of a long-standing research project on gonococcal pathogenicity. His scientific stature has been widely recognised and honoured by the awards of a DSc in 1955, FRCP in 1968, FRS in 1979 and FIBiol in 1980, as well as a number of other distinguished Lectureships and visiting professorships.

Charles Penn

Candida and Candidosis, 2nd Edition

There can be very few persons interested in Candida who did not find the first edition of F.C. Odds's book invaluable in their particular work. The second edition of Candida and Candidosis is a timely published volume in a field that is experiencing an exciting transformation and where any review or monograph can hardly keep pace with the vast literature being produced. The second edition is almost completely rewritten and is almost twice the size. It includes 5796 references, many of which indicate the trends in Candida research since the publication of the first edition in 1979, and more recently recognised forms of disease. Many significant changes have been made to the content. New chapters include Candida genetics and Candida allergy and the coverage of many of the clinical manifestations has been expanded. Probably the most helpful change has been the markedly improved index - an essential requirement for such a detailed book.

As in the previous edition, Dr. Odds's writing style is concise and easy to follow and makes judicious use of tables to list specific studies and their key findings. The second edition is very up-to-date in many of the key topics and provides an excellent exposure to virtually all aspects of Candida and candidosis.

Malcolm Richardson

Retirement of Dr. Roland Davies

Dr Roland Davies retired from a long career as the medical mycologist at St. Mary's Medical School on 30 September, 1988. (A profile of Dr. Davies appeared in the "Summer 1988" issue of the "BSM Newsletter"). Nevertheless, he continues to take an active part in the BSM and we look forward to seeing him at future Society events. From all of us in the BSM and his friends and colleagues elsewhere we wish Roland continued health and happiness.