THE HARVEY MEMORIAL TOWER

BY

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On Friday, July 7th, at 3.30 p.m., Lord Dawson of Penn, President of the Royal College of Physicians, will lay the foundation stone of the new tower of Hempstead Church, Essex, which is now in process of reconstruction. This tower will in future be known as the Harvey Tower, and will be a visible and worthy memorial to the memory of William Harvey.

Hempstead and its church are closely and peculiarly associated with William Harvey and the Harvey family. The church is beautiful and of very considerable historical interest as an example of the Early Gothic building of the Middle Ages, dating as it does from the fourteenth century; but to members of the medical profession, and indeed to all workers in biology, there is surely a most direct and moving appeal in thus associating the memory and the name of the great exponent of the experimental method with the reconstruction of a tower that will in future be known as the Harvey Tower.

The Harvey family had many distinguished members in various walks of life, and their mortal remains lie in the vault under the Harvey Chapel built by members of the family who were landowners in the vicinity, and here in 1657 William Harvey was interred, and his body remained undisturbed until 1883.

In 1882 the church tower, after developing cracks in its upper parts, fell suddenly during the night of Saturday, January 28th. The collapse was due in all probability to some weakness in the upper parts of the tower, since the excavations recently made in the course of the reconstruction have revealed that the original foundations are

sound, notwithstanding their great age. The fall of the tower fifty years ago produced a result that it is to be hoped is not often to be seen, since the smallness and the comparative isolation of the parish of Hempstead were such that it was not possible to collect sufficient funds to repair the damage. It is difficult to describe adequately the scene of desolation in the churchyard, encumbered as it was with the accumulated debris of the fallen masonry and with the fallen great bells of the church, that most

fortunately were not seriously damaged. All that could be done, in addition to some urgent temporary repairs, was to collect and stack the stones and flints with the hope of some day rebuilding the tower.

The Harvey vault, with lapse of time, also fell into disrepair, and in 1883 the College of Physicians felt that it was not fit that the remains of the immortal Harvey should be so little cared for, and they removed the leaden shell containing his body from the vault and placed it in a marble sarcophagus in the Harvey Chapel of the church, where it now rests. Thus Harvey's remains have been treated in a dignified manner worthy of the greatness of the man.

During the last few years a committee representative of the medical profession and of the parishioners of Hempstead has striven to raise funds to restore the tower

as a memorial to Harvey, and has obtained altogether some £3,000 in cash and promises. This sum is insufficient to restore the tower to its full height, and the rebuilding of the ringing room and of the belfry will have to be postponed unless a further sum of £2,000 can be obtained. Nevertheless, the building of the tower up to the level of the ringing room floor will be a vast improvement on the existing conditions, and it is to be hoped that it will afford an inducement to others to make contributions to the fund, and so enable the committee to complete its work. Not only has the cost of the rebuilding

been much reduced owing to the fact that the great bulk of the masonry required has been provided through the care taken in the past to preserve the old stone and flints, thus avoiding largely the purchase of new stone; but in addition there will be the satisfaction that the restored tower will consist to a great extent of the old material.

The committee was fortunate in securing the services of Sir Charles Nicholson as architect, and his drawing of the restoration is exceptionally pleasing, and in complete harmony with the ancient church. In the course of the preparations for the laying of the foundation stone, not only have the old foundations been found in excellent condition, but in addition several interesting relics of a Norman church that stood on the same site have come to light, and have been examined by the Rev. T. B. Conyers Barker, the vicar of Hempstead, who describes "portions of Norman shafts with interlaced work, a cap which covered twin shafts, and two leopard heads inserted as labels over the doorway." Further, Mr. Conyers Barker mentions that six ornamental stones bearing heraldic shields will be replaced on each side of the doorway of the new tower and on the faces of the four buttresses. It is to be hoped that the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone will afford an opportunity for many to make donations and to enable the work to be completed.

THE CAMBRIDGE MEDICAL COURSE

AMENDED PROPOSALS

In the *Cambridge University Reporter* for June 17th (No. 2939) is published the amended report of the Syndicate on the Medical Courses and Examinations of the University. It will be remembered that in reviewing the proposals for a Medical Sciences Tripos at Cambridge we said: "Of the various proposals put forward exemption from the Second M.B. through the anatomy (modified for this purpose) and the physiology of the Natural Sciences Tripos would go far towards solving the main problem."¹ And this is, roughly, the conclusion arrived at by the Syndicate in its amended report.

The report states that the bulk of University opinion is against the introduction of a Medical Sciences Tripos, and that the Syndicate itself is of the opinion that it would be preferable if the necessary changes could be effected in the Natural Sciences Tripos. The Syndicate and the Natural Sciences Tripos Committee are now in agreement on the proposed changes, to which the Faculty Boards have given their general approval. If the Senate also gives its approval the introduction of a Medical Sciences Tripos will be unnecessary. The Syndicate remains unaltered in its conviction that the present duplication of courses and examinations for the Natural Sciences Tripos, Part I, and the Second M.B., Part II, must be abolished. The following proposals, whereby exemption of medical students from Parts II and III of the Second M.B. can be obtained through a modified Natural Sciences Tripos, have been formulated after consultation with the Natural Sciences Tripos Committee.

In the study of anatomy, under the existing scheme, the student spends his first two years memorizing the mass of topographical detail necessary for Part II of the Second M.B., and the last year in "getting up" the morphology and embryology required of him for Part I of the Natural Sciences Tripos. The Syndicate deprecates this artificial division, and holds that topographical anatomy and morphology and embryology should be taught together as one subject; and it advocates that the anatomy of the Natural Sciences Tripos, Part I, should consist of equal proportions of "scientific" (morphology and embryology) and topographical anatomy. Of the latter, less

detailed knowledge will be required, and teaching will deal chiefly with the general architecture of the body, with more exact treatment of certain important areas such as the nervous system. The scope of physiology is to remain unaltered, but the Syndicate recommends that the chemical part of physiology be taught in the Department of Physiology, and that some of the biochemistry which is more directly related to the education of the medical student should be taught in the Department of Biochemistry. It is proposed that optional questions on pharmacology shall be included in the physiology papers of the Natural Sciences Tripos, but it is not intended that pharmacology should be a subject in Part I of the Tripos. The Syndicate recommends that the present course of pharmacology held in the Lent Term and Long Vacation should continue, and that the student should not proceed to the Third M.B. until he has attended this course (or an approved course elsewhere) and passed a *viva voce* examination at Cambridge. It is also suggested that opportunity should be given to the student to study pharmacology in conjunction with the physiology for the Natural Sciences Tripos, Part II, and that he should be allowed to substitute one or, when possible, two papers and a practical examination in pharmacology for one or two papers and the corresponding practical in physiology. Evidence from many resident and non-resident members of the University strengthens the Syndicate's opinion that general pathology and bacteriology should form a half-subject in Part I of the Natural Sciences Tripos. The Syndicate does not suggest, however, that candidates should be required to take pathology in the Tripos in order to qualify for the Final M.B., as pathology forms part of this examination. It is opposed to a student's studying pathology in his first year. Owing to the increasing importance of biochemistry in scientific research and medical practice it is recommended, with the concurrence of the Natural Sciences Tripos Committee, that biochemistry should be a half-subject in the Natural Sciences Tripos, Part I, and that medical students should be advised not to take it until their second year. To encourage those medical students who wish to offer chemistry as a subject in the Tripos, the Committee for the Natural Sciences Tripos has now agreed, at the request of the Faculty Board of Physics and Chemistry, to propose the introduction of two half-subjects in chemistry—inorganic and physical chemistry, and organic chemistry. Each half would include general chemistry, and the two halves together form the whole subject. The Syndicate has also proposed a half-subject in zoology adapted to the needs of the medical student in Part I of the Natural Sciences Tripos. The Natural Sciences Tripos Committee agrees that zoology might be divided into two sections, Zoology A and Zoology B, the former being a half-subject suitable for medical students and the two together making the whole subject. While it is admitted that psychology is becoming of increasing importance in medicine, the Syndicate does not regard this as a suitable subject for Part I of the Natural Sciences Tripos. It proposes, however, that the student should be allowed to study psychology in conjunction with the physiology of Part II of the Tripos.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to proceed to the Final M.B. Examination via Part I of the Natural Sciences Tripos, the student who gets honours in the Tripos must have satisfied the examiners in anatomy, dissected the whole body, and have passed a series of practical tests to ensure that the dissection has been adequately carried out, and must also have satisfied the examiners in physiology. It may be noted that pharmacology and pathology are not compulsory Tripos subjects for such a student. The Syndicate allocates thirty hours a week to lectures and laboratory work in anatomy, physiology, and one other whole subject, or two half-subjects (twelve, nine, and nine hours, respectively); and this, it considers, will enable a "good" student who has passed the whole of his First M.B. before coming into residence to take the Natural Sciences Tripos, Part I, in three subjects at the end of his second year. The "average" student and the student who has done

¹ *British Medical Journal*, November 19th, 1932 (p. 936).