



## AUCKLAND MEDICAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2023

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Welcome to the Auckland Medical History Society for 2023. This is to let you know our plans for the year. We have arranged what promises to be an excellent series of lectures. (*See attached*). Please check the AMHS website regularly for up-to-date information about the programme and other activities of the AMHS. (See [www.amhs.co.nz](http://www.amhs.co.nz) / *Latest News*). From time to time there will be changes in the programme and these are best viewed on the website.

The format for the meetings will be the same as we have used in the last two years. Meetings will start at **6.15pm** with either an informal tour of the Ernest and Marion Davis Library looking at some of the newer acquisitions or there may be a talk on an object related to the title of the main lecture. The number of people who can be accommodated on the tour is limited, so if you wish to attend, please be sure to arrive early. The main lectures will start at **7.00 pm**. All welcome, there is no entry fee or booking required.

#### 2024 PROGRAMME

We depend on your suggestions for future lectures and we need to start collecting prospective speakers 12 months in advance. If you have a lecture you would like to give at a future meeting or you know of someone who could be a good speaker, please let Peter Stone or me know via [secretary@amhs.co.nz](mailto:secretary@amhs.co.nz). The length of the lectures can vary. Short presentations (e. 15-20 minutes) are especially welcome, but longer lectures of 30-40 minutes also can be accommodated.

#### DONATIONS

As mentioned at the 2022 Annual General Meeting, annual subscriptions have been suspended. Please note, however, that the Society does have running costs and I encourage you to make donations to help the Society function and to ensure the future of the history of medicine and medical heritage in Auckland. Donations can be made at the end of our meetings in the form of a koha or made electronically to:

Bank account: 02 0160 0237509 00

Reference: Donation. Your name:

Please email to the secretary to confirm your donation: [secretary@amhs.co.nz](mailto:secretary@amhs.co.nz)

A receipt is available on request.

#### AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

The 2023 conference of the ANZSHM will be held in Adelaide 12-15 July 2023. The link to the conference website is available on the AMHS website.

#### BOOKS

In the past the President has reviewed books that may be of interest to members. The following list is a selection of a few of the books that have been published during “lockdown” and immediately before.

**Michael Aminoff: *Victor Horsley: The world's first neurosurgeon and his conscience*.** Cambridge University Press, 2022. (An expensive but worthwhile biography of Horsley. Horsley will be the



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subject of **David Abernethy's lecture on Thursday 2 March**. David has unearthed information about Horsley that is not dealt with in this biography).

**Colin Averill and Geoffrey Rice: *The Life of Leslie Averill MD. First into Le Quesnoy. Battles, babies and boardrooms***. Dobincourt Press, 2018.

**Brian Barraclough: *A Partly Anglicised Kiwi. A psychiatrist remembers*** 2020. (Most members will know Brian Barraclough. He has written a memoir about parts of his life including his experiences at Otago Medical School, as a junior doctor in Christchurch and his training as a psychiatrist at the Maudsley Hospital in London. A candid, insightful and interesting memoir which I strongly recommend.)

**Earle Brown and Michael Klaassen: *Perfection. The life and times of Sir William Manchester***. Mary Egan Publishing, 2021. (A biography of well-known plastic surgeon, Sir William Manchester. Earle Brown and Mike Klaassen have given lectures at our meetings in the past.)

**Lindsey Fitzharris: *The Facemaker: one surgeon's battle to mend the disfigured soldiers of World War I***. Allen Lane, 2022. (The surgeon is Sir Harold Gillies. On sale in many bookstores at present).

**Lone Frank: *The Pleasure Shock. The rise of deep brain stimulation and its forgotten inventor***. Dutton, 2018. (Deep brain stimulation is now widely used for the treatment of a variety of neurological disorders, especially Parkinson's disease. This book describes how an American neuropsychiatrist, Dr Robert Heath, invented DBS for an entirely different and controversial reason. I recommend this book).

**Cherry Lewis: *The Enlightened Mr Parkinson. The pioneering life of a forgotten English surgeon*** Icon Books, 2017 (An excellent biography of James Parkinson, whose name will forever be associated with Parkinson's disease. He also was the first person to describe appendicitis).

**Simon Shorvon and Alastair Compston: *Queen Square. A history of the National Hospital and its Institute of Neurology***. Cambridge University Press, 2019. (A comprehensive and entertaining history of the National Hospital, Queen Square).

We look forward to seeing you at the first of our 2023 lecture series on **Thursday 2 March 2023**.

Neil Anderson

**President**

