

A TRADITION OF
MEDICAL EXCELLENCE
REFLECTING ON THE EARLY YEARS



EPSOM
COLLEGE





A MESSAGE *from the* CHAIRMAN *of* GOVERNORS

Since Epsom College, or the Royal Medical Benevolent College as it was once known, was established in 1855,



Sir Richard Thompson
(Propert 1954-58)

approximately 2,670 of our pupils have gained medical qualifications. Over half went on to become general practitioners, while others became consultants and specialists, professors or deans of medical schools. The medical careers of Old Epsomians have been varied and

distinguished. Sir Richard Thompson's election to serve as President of the Royal College of Physicians is a recent notable example. He is the third OE in the history of Epsom College to achieve this distinction.

A Tradition of Medical Excellence is our way of honouring Sir Richard's achievements and contributions to Epsom College. It is also an opportunity to honour those who forged the way in those early years and to inspire our future.

Dr Andrew Vallance-Owen (Fayrer 1965-70)
Chairman of Governors, Epsom College



*Sir Richard Thompson
(Proper 1954-58)*



Epsom College 1860



*Sir Alan Guyatt Parks
(Crawfurd 1935-40)*



The first term at Epsom College, originally called the Royal Medical Benevolent College, started on 10th October 1855 with a roll of almost a hundred pupils. Being a member of this first 100 was a matter of pride for these scholars and this fact is recorded in some of their obituaries. Among those who entered in 1855 and 1856, two went on to achieve high office as President of the Royal College of Physicians (Sir Frederick Taylor) and President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (Sir Henry Morris). From that time until today, Epsom College has produced a long line of eminent doctors, many

of whom maintained an interest in the College and have continued to support it throughout their lives.

Epsom College's distinguished medical tradition has been maintained through successive generations. A study of the lives of some of these early pupils will demonstrate how the standards of achievement, combined with service to royalty and Epsom College, were established from the start. These ideals have continued throughout the careers of such men as Sir Alan Guyatt Parks who entered the College in 1935 (Crawfurd), leaving as Head Prefect in 1940 to embark on an exceptional

career in surgery that culminated in a knighthood and Presidency of the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) and Sir Richard Thompson (Propert 1954-58), a former personal physician to the Queen, who was elected President of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) in 2010. Both of these men returned to Epsom to serve as Governors of the College.

THE NEED for a COLLEGE

In the 1840s and '50s education was an important object for Victorian philanthropy and founding schools became fashionable. Thomas Arnold had introduced sweeping reforms at Rugby in the 1830s to change the school portrayed in *Tom Brown's Schooldays* into a more humane establishment, which helped make a boarding public school education popular. Schools were established to support particular groups of society. The sons of "decayed clergy" were taught at Marlborough (established

in 1843), Rossall (1844), Radley (1847) and St John's Leatherhead (1851). In the same period, the Reverend Nathaniel Woodard raised an estimated half a million pounds in forty years to establish schools aimed at children of the middle and trade classes. He opened Lancing College in 1848 and Hurstpierpoint in 1849. However, prior to 1855, there was no school specifically for the sons of poor doctors.

During this period a sense of cohesion was growing in the medical profession. In 1832 Sir Charles Hastings founded the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association (PMSA) at Worcester. Although initially a local body, his goal was to persuade members of the different groups of medical practitioners to meet each other and foster a professional interdependence. This was especially important as both doctors and the government wanted medical reform and doctors needed an organisation to represent them. In 1857 the Society changed its name to the British Medical Association (BMA), a national



An M4 temporary classroom circa 1900

body, and its publication the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ) became influential in formulating and recording medico-political policy.

JOHN PROPERT 1793-1867

The PMSA had run a thriving Medical Benevolent Fund since 1836 which provided financial help for doctors and their families who had fallen on hard times. In 1844 it set up a committee to consider the possibility of founding “schools for the preliminary education for the sons of medical men”, but two years later it had to admit that they could not raise the necessary £10,000. It was not until 1851 that medicine found its ‘Woodard’ in John Propert, who always described himself as “a poor Welsh apothecary”. Propert left school at fifteen to become an ensign in a militia regiment (the Napoleonic Wars were then at their height), but later left the service to follow an apprenticeship in Cardigan. He later studied in London under John Abernethy at St Bartholomew’s and, after qualifying, set up a practice



Epsom College Founder, John Propert

at Portland Place in London’s West End which, with hard work, soon became distinguished and profitable. Propert had a wide circle of friends through his membership of medical insurance companies, London medical societies, the Freemasons, the PMSA and its Benevolent Fund, so was ideally situated to take up the challenge of starting a school and an ‘asylum’ for impoverished doctors and their families.

Encouraged by enthusiasm at the annual meeting of the BMA and a supportive editorial in the BMJ, Propert enrolled a powerful committee which organised the first public meeting in June 1851. Among the Vice-Presidents elected at this meeting were three bishops, three members of



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: *Marble bust of John Propert; Stained glass, Epsom College*



ROYAL MEDICAL COLLEGE, EPSOM.

ABOVE: *Early architectural drawing*
LEFT: *ProPERT was a consummate fundraiser and ensured the appeal would be country-wide*



parliament, and ten fellows of the Royal Society. ProPERT was a consummate fundraiser and ensured the appeal would be country-wide with the formation of local guilds, which stirred up enthusiasm and collected money; charity concerts and plays were organised, vicars were encouraged to 'sell' their pulpits to those who would preach in the fund's favour and, by networking, ProPERT encouraged those who could, to donate large sums of money. Within four years he had raised

over £30,000, mainly from the medical profession, which was enough to buy the land at Epsom, build, employ staff and fund Foundation scholars.

EPSOM COLLEGE
the early years

When Epsom College opened its doors in 1855, the first pupils ranged in age from six to fourteen years. They were divided by age into seven classes. At first there were just two masters but, by 1860 the Common Room had expanded to twelve and included masters who taught writing and drill. The Headmaster was the Reverend Robinson Thornton. His obituary in *The Times* described him as "an accomplished scholar and theologian, an excellent preacher; a remarkable linguist, a good botanist, courteous in manner; patient in argument, an indefatigable worker and withal singularly free of any thought of self-aggrandisement". No mention was made



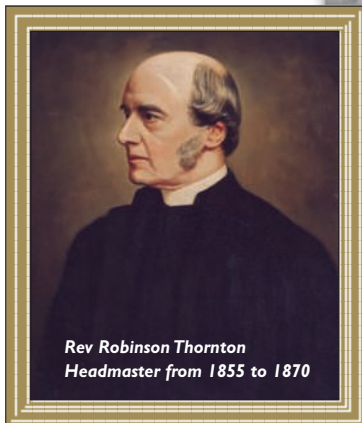
Earliest known
picture of Big School



Early Epsom pupil

that this paragon had any knowledge of the teaching and administrative skills necessary to run a new school, but under his leadership of fifteen years it flourished.

The pupils' day started at 6.30am in the summer and 7.00am in the winter, followed by prayers at 7.45am. School ran in the morning from 9.00am to noon, in the afternoon from 2.15pm to 5.00pm and twice a week there were lessons from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Evening prayer was at 8.45pm and bedtime at 9.00pm in the Lower School and one hour later in the Upper School. Saturday afternoon was a half holiday. There was a break of six weeks in the summer and three at Christmas with a few days off at Easter and Whitsuntide. In the Lower School the pupils had to study the classics, mathematics, divinity, history and a foreign language.



Rev Robinson Thornton
Headmaster from 1855 to 1870



Common Room circa 1860

However, in the Upper School there were two streams: the Academic Department prepared students for university entrance and the legal and medical professions, while those in the Civil Department studied natural philosophy, modern languages and higher mathematics.

SIR HENRY MORRIS
1844-1926

THE FIRST OLD EPSOMIAN
PRCS 1906-1909

Going away to a boarding school for the first time is always difficult, made worse when the school itself is new. Henry Morris, one of the first pupils, was the eleven-year-old son of William Morris, a general practitioner at Petworth in Surrey.

Reports show that Henry was always at the top of his class. In 1858 he won the form prize for classics and the next year he left Epsom College and went to University College, London where he graduated BA in 1863 with philosophy as his main subject, later converted to an MA.

Morris studied at Guy's Hospital Medical School, qualifying MB and MRCS in 1867. He then took junior hospital posts in surgery at Guy's and the Middlesex Hospitals before proceeding to FRCS in 1873. By this time he had already become interested in the surgery of cancer and had been appointed to run the out-patients cancer surgery department at the Middlesex. In 1879 Morris was made

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Morris".



full surgeon to the hospital with special responsibility for the cancer wards.

The development of anaesthesia and aseptic surgery meant that it became possible to work inside the abdominal cavity with relative safety and men such as Morris seized the opportunity to perform new and heroic operations. It is claimed that he was the first surgeon at the Middlesex to advocate early excision of the large bowel for cancer (1877), remove the pylorus of the stomach for gastric cancer (1885), perform the first total excision of the larynx (1885) and in 1899 he successfully removed a large part of a malignant urinary bladder. These were all bold, ground-breaking operations which gave him the opportunity to deliver many lectures on such subjects as *The Treatment of Inoperable Cancer*, *Cancer and its Origin* and *Cancer of the Breast*. He was among the first surgeons to postulate that cancerous tumours actually started from a matrix of

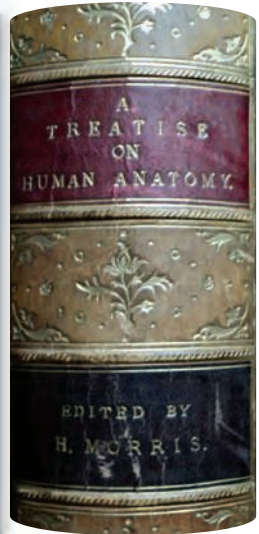
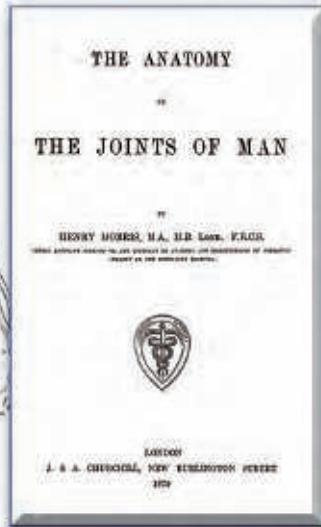
embryonic cells rather than being microbial in origin.

Under Morris's guidance the Middlesex opened its Cancer Research Laboratories in 1900 and the following year he was approached by Thomas Rudd, a wealthy businessman, who wanted to know how investment in research could help cancer treatment. From Rudd's gift and Morris's enthusiasm, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and its laboratories at the Royal College of Surgeons were born, the first meetings being held at Morris's house in London.

However, intra-abdominal diagnosis and post operative care had not kept step with technical improvements. In 1879 a nineteen-year-old servant girl 'Maria M' was admitted to the Middlesex for the fourth time, with loin pain and bloody urine, under the physician, Arthur Copeland. Morris examined her and concurred with the diagnosis of a renal stone and advised surgery, to which Maria M consented. On February 11th, under chloroform anaesthesia, Morris made a long sweeping incision from her loin almost to her pubis, later called Morris's incision, and exposed the kidney. The stone was palpable through



Stained glass, Epsom College



the kidney substance which Morris incised, a courageous thing to do at the time, and then removed an impacted triangular stone.

The post-operative recovery was stormy with recurrent bouts of severe infection and fears for her life. Maria passed urine both normally and through a sinus in the scar and by March, if she coughed, urine would spout one and a half feet out from it. Recovery was slow, but she was discharged at the end of April and when finally followed up in May 1881, the wound was closed and she was pronounced cured. Such was the reality for those who survived late Victorian major surgery. This

operation was another first for Morris and established him as the leading urinary expert, which improved his already lucrative private practice.

Throughout his life Morris took a great interest in education and at the Middlesex he lectured on anatomy and surgery in the medical school. He also wrote extensively – his *System of Anatomy* being the standard textbook for many years. Opinion on his *Anatomy of the Joints of Man* was divided. One authority claimed that it was poorly illustrated and written with redundant text, while another said that it was Morris's most original and important publication. His experience in renal and urinary surgery led to numerous publications on this subject.

Medical politics also interested him. He was a long standing member of the British Medical Association where he held office in the Section of Surgery in 1887 and 1895, as well as being President of the



Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) from 1910 to 1912 and for many years he was Treasurer of the General Medical Council. His involvement with the Royal College of Surgeons started in 1893 when he was elected to its Council. Ten years later Morris became Chairman of the Court of Examiners and, in 1906, was the obvious choice to be elected President, a post he

held for three years. During his term of office new examination halls were built and the Cancer Research Fund was consolidated. On his retirement he was given a baronetcy.

Always a busy man, Morris joined the Council of Epsom College in 1888 and became Treasurer in 1906 on the resignation of Sir Constantine Holman. His obituary in the *British Medical Journal* claimed that he “worked with untiring zeal for Epsom College”. During his term of office he was also Chairman of the Works



ABOVE: **Middlesex Hospital**
BELOW: **Middlesex Hospital**
Operating Theatre circa 1890
with surgeon Sir John Bland-Sutton



*The original Chemical
Laboratory at Epsom College*



Committee. In this position he was able to oversee the erection of the Markham Skerritt Laboratories, the provision of improved heating and hot-water systems, enlargement of the infirmary and the provision of new workshops, a gymnasium and a music block.

Morris was an imposing man with fixed ideas which were difficult to shake. In his latter years he wrote frequently to the newspapers and in 1918 advocated bombing the Germans and the need to exact stiff reparations after the war. The last few years until his death in 1926 were lonely, for his wife, a Spanish dancer, pre-deceased him. "Dogmatic and dictatorial in manner and long-winded in speech", "his regular visits to Epsom made him almost the Manager". He served the College well.

SIR FREDERICK TAYLOR
1847-1920

THE FIRST OLD EPSOMIAN
PRCP 1915-1918

Frederick Taylor, the son of a general practitioner in Kennington Road, London, entered Epsom College in 1856 at the age of nine, when friendships had already been made and some of the early teething troubles had been sorted out. He was academically brilliant and destined for high achievement. By the end of the summer term he was first in his class for French, arithmetic, classics, history and divinity and this was subsequently repeated. He went on to be a Prefect and on Founder's Day in his last year was awarded the Hodgkin Prize, the Brande Prize for Good Conduct



Sir Frederick Taylor

and the school Mathematics Prize. Before receiving these awards he had declaimed Juvenal in Latin in front of the Council, the school, the staff and guests.

Taylor graduated MB from Guy's in 1868, winning scholarships in forensic medicine and midwifery and gaining hon-

ours in medicine. He proceeded MD two years later and MRCP in 1872. The following year he was appointed assistant physician to Guy's where he had spent his junior training posts. At twenty-six his future was assured, at a speed which could hardly have been bettered. Within five years, through the death of his seniors, he became Senior Physician, a post he held until his retirement in 1905.

Taylor was the complete Guy's man. Living just outside the gates in St Thomas's Street, he always seemed to be about the hospital. James Stocker, the old hospital apothecary, had run the medical school since 1834 but under his gentle guidance it was in decline. In Stocker's old age, Taylor was appointed the first Dean in 1874, a post which he held for fourteen years with great enthusiasm and commitment. He reorganised the office, straightened the finances so that the medical school ran "like clockwork" and revised the curriculum.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION AT GUY'S.

The grounds of Guy's Hospital were thronged with visitors yesterday on the occasion of the annual prize giving. The Governors and medical staff had invited their friends to a garden party, and offered them as entertainment the ceremony referred to and an opportunity of inspecting the new buildings.

Mr. H. Cosmo Bonser, M.P., treasurer of the hospital, presided at the prize giving, and Lady Pembroke handed the prizes to the successful students. Lord Pembroke afterwards addressed them, and congratulated them upon their successes. He briefly referred to the services rendered by doctors in South Africa, and mentioned that nearly 100 medical men and nurses trained at Guy's Hospital were on active service there. He commented upon the growing demands made upon the resources of the hospital. He thought the British public were at last becoming alive to their obligations to medical men. In conclusion, he advised them to be thorough in all their work, and reminded the students who had not taken prizes that some of the most successful men had not distinguished themselves at school.

Dr. Frederick Taylor, the Senior Physician to the Hospital, and Dr. Stevenson, the Senior Lecturer to the Hospital, thanked Lord Pembroke.



Dr Frederick Taylor, Senior Physician



RIGHT: Countess of Pembroke distributing prizes

Upper First (Maximum 175)		Lower Second Year (Maximum 140)	
Taylor	128	Go	74
Goodhart	118	Kellock	71
Knox, H. F.	109	Shaw	69
Macklay, J.	95	Tove, W.	58
Hart	86	Love	57
Morris	85	Adams	56
Edwards, H.	80	Edwards	55
Tanner, C. H.	79	Barrett	54
Lins, D.	78	Barrett	53

Upper Second Year (Maximum 140)		Lower Second Year (Maximum 140)	
Cutfield	92	Stevens	77
Booth	87	Levy	69
Rowling	84	Stevens, L.	68
Nagler, H. F.	81	Adams, P. H.	58
Nagler, A.	80	Barrett	57
Chase	78	Tove, K. H.	51
Hart	78		

Upper First Year (Maximum 100)		Lower First Year (Maximum 100)	
Green	92	Kendal	62
Neary	91	Bell, A.	61
Scott	78	Dobson, J.	60
Rowland	71	Osborne	59
Ward	70	Mack	58
Wardle	68	Scott, C.	57
Boyce	67	Moss	56
Telford	66	Kellock	55
Walker	65	Lodge, A.	54
Osborn	64		
Tren, T.	63		

Handwritten note of voting for President of the Royal College of Physicians in 1915. The note lists names and their respective votes, including Taylor with 52 votes and James Goodhart with 14 votes. The date is March 19, 1915.



ABOVE: Christmas Examination results 1858
 ABOVE RIGHT: Taylor's preserved handwritten note of voting for President of the Royal College of Physicians in 1915. RIGHT: Stained glass, Epsom College

Outwardly austere, students were often afraid of him at first, as his teaching was focused on exacting standards of history-taking and eliciting physical signs. He never failed to attend his ward rounds punctually, although some of them lasted a bit too long for "the less enthusiastic of his followers". It was said that "to his junior clerk he was a critical and somewhat severe master; to his senior clerk an edifying and rather mystifying teacher but to his houseman he was a source of lifelong inspiration". When he had examined a case they knew his opinion through his facial expressions and a succession of inarticulate sounds.

Taylor was also a committee man of great skill. He represented Guy's at the London University Convocation and for some time served on the University Senate and as the University's appointment to the General Medical Council. A

lifelong member of the Royal Society of Medicine, between 1914 and 1916 he was its 55th President. Outside London he examined medicine in five universities. As well as working at Guy's, Taylor held appointments at the Seaman's Hospital, The National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart, the Royal School for Deaf Children and the Evelina Hospital for Sick Children.

The pinnacle of Taylor's public duties arrived in 1915 when he was elected President of the Royal College of Physicians, having previously delivered most of the prestigious lectures there. Among his papers Taylor preserved a handwritten note of the voting. At the first ballot his school friend James Goodhart and William Osler each had fourteen votes while Taylor had twenty-four and Sir James Moore, a physician at St Bartholomew's, had thirty. At the next ballot Taylor was elected because increased support had given him

fifty-four votes. Moore fell short with only fifty-one but won his turn as President in 1918.



Taylor's Presidency was difficult, for it coincided with the austerity and anxieties of war. The first bomb attack by Zeppelins destroyed the Examination Halls in Queen Square. Taylor's opinion on the Central War Committee was important in mobilising the medical profession for active service both at home and overseas. It was a time when senior medical students were allowed to serve as doctors in the Royal Navy as part of their clinical studies.

In spite of all these time-consuming activities, Taylor had a flourishing private practice and with his work at Guy's, he developed an unrivalled knowledge of clinical medicine, which he used when he co-edited the *Guy's Hospital Reports* between 1874 and 1884. His bibliography notes one hundred and sixty-six papers published in medical journals, but the most important work was *A Manual of Practical Medicine*, the first edition issued in 1890

and the eleventh and last appearing posthumously in 1918. It was published by Churchill's whose founder had been an active member of the Epsom College Council. This was the standard textbook for about twenty years until William Osler's superseded it. Taylor's was appreciated for its balance of the descriptions of common diseases against the rare, the clarity of writing and the way in which the important facts about a disease stood out in a memorable way.

A colleague claimed that Taylor really enjoyed life. He worked hard and "his bright outlook, sense of humour, apt repartee and witty turn to a conversation made him a delightful companion". As a young man he enjoyed football, swimming, lawn tennis and racquets and he regularly climbed in the Alps. During the first ward round on his return from these expeditions, with a sunburnt face and peeling nose, he would recount some of the more exciting incidents. Taylor sketched in pencil, doodled during formal dinners and painted



ABOVE AND RIGHT: *Clippings and sketches from Taylor's private scrap book*

in water colours to a high standard, like everything he did.

As well as being a co-founder of the OE Club, Taylor joined the Epsom College Council in 1884, having been Consultant Physician to Epsom College for many years, where he served as Chairman of the School's Committee. In the same year he

married Helen Manby, the daughter of Frederick Manby, a Norfolk GP. Helen's brother, Alan, was a friend of Taylor's at Epsom College and later became Royal Apothecary at Sandringham. Frederick and Helen had two sons and a daughter.

In 1916, while Taylor was PRCP, labouring under the wartime anxieties that went with the job, their second son was reported missing and they were later informed that he had been killed. Helen's grief was insoluble and she died the next year. Taylor visited the Western Front in France and was deeply moved by the suffering of the troops. The baronetcy he was given meant little to him. He was crushed with sadness and despair as so many families were at the time. During the final two years of his life he withdrew from his friends and public life and died a lonely man.

SIR JAMES GOODHART
1845-1916

**ONE OF THE FIRST
FOUNDATION SCHOLARS
AT EPSOM COLLEGE**

James Goodhart's father, Alfred Harrington Goodhart, had been in practice in Brighton for twelve years when he died of tubercu-

James J. Goodhart.



losis in 1853 at the early age of thirty-four, before having the time and income to provide for his wife and five children. This destitute family was just the kind that Property had envisaged would benefit from a free education when planning his Benevolent College, so Mrs Goodhart applied for help. We have no more details about her, or of her other four children, but Brighton had an active group of doctors who regularly contributed to Epsom College, so it is likely that they were supporting one of their number who had fallen on hard times.

By subscribing ten guineas to Epsom College one became a Life Governor; which gave ten votes in the ballot for Foundation Scholars. An annual subscription of one

guinea produced one vote, but you could buy extra votes with higher donations. In the ballot of 19th July 1855 for the first twenty places, Richard Savage came top of the poll with 2,796 votes and Frederick Lever last with 1,116 votes. Half-way down came James Goodhart with 1,648 votes. Of the first twenty successful candidates, Henry Curling (2,409 votes) died within the year, George Bull (2,289 votes) did not attend the College and only two went into medicine – Goodhart and Frederick Lever. Henry Wardroper (1,359 votes), the son of the redoubtable reforming matron of St Thomas's, had such a bad academic record at the College that the first Headmaster's report said that he was not "sufficiently advanced in his studies to submit to a public examination". Wardroper was later employed by Pott's Vinegar Works in Southwark. Francis Oldaker (1,745 votes), an artist in stained glass, later returned to Epsom College as a founding member of the OE Club and a member of Council.

Although we do not know who Goodhart's sponsors were, he repaid them with a sparkling College career. Always in the top quarter of his class, he was awarded the form Classics Prize in his second year; he later became a prefect

and, in his last year, received the Brande Good Conduct Prize. His voice, as well as gaining a singing prize, was prominent in the school's popular dramatic performances. One year Goodhart sang as a "polished lady's maid" and in another, when his voice had broken, he was described as "a fine specimen of a country squire" in the farce, *London Assurance*.

Goodhart qualified in medicine from Guy's in 1868 where he won the Treasurer's Gold Medal and gained an MD from Aberdeen with the highest honours for his thesis on artificial tuberculosis. This university later awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Law. Always of an enquiring mind, in the early years of clinical thermometry, while Goodhart was a House Physician, he was found one morning during a spell of freezing weather lying in a cold bath to see what effect this would have on his body temperature. Junior training posts were held at Guy's where he was appointed physician in 1887, a post he held until his early retirement in 1898 and where Frederick Taylor and himself were close friends on the staff.



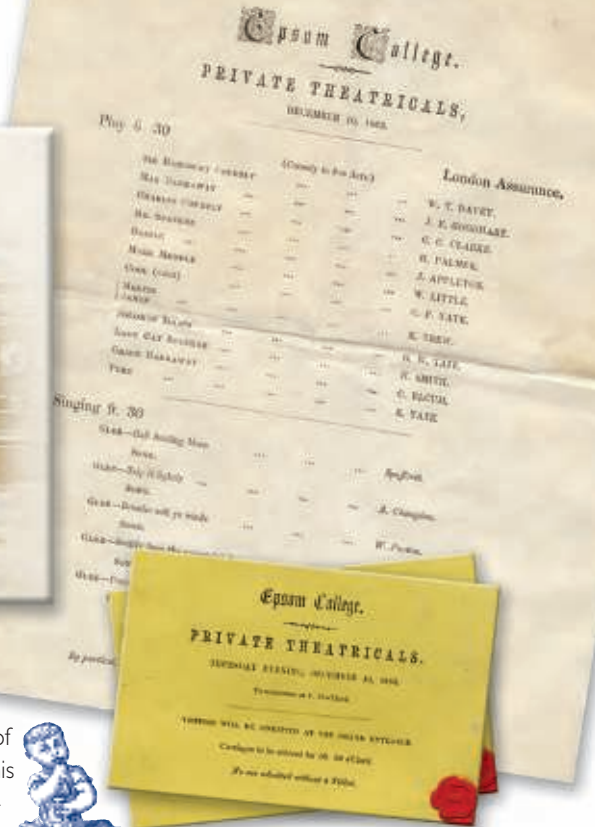
The connection of morbid pathology with the presentation of disease in life, a subject he demonstrated and taught at Guy's, was one of Goodhart's special interests. He regularly attended the post-mortem examinations of his patients where he accurately forecast what abnormalities would be found. With the same interest he helped re-organise the museum at the Royal College of



Stained glass, Epsom College



ABOVE: **F.C. Cooper**, the first drawing master.
 RIGHT: "A fine specimen of a country squire"
 in the farce, *London Assurance*



Surgeons and became the curator of the one at Guy's. "The story of his professional life was one of continued success. His skill in diagnosis, his resourcefulness in treatment, and his candid attitude towards patients and professional colleagues alike" led him to be one of the most popular and well loved physicians. This reputation was not founded on expertise in any one field, so his width of interest and skill in diagnosis, associated with personal charm, gave him at one time the busiest medical consulting practice in London.

Goodhart extended this breadth of experience to the diseases of children and for many years he was on the staff of the Evelina Children's Hospital where it was said that he was at his best with a cross baby. However, he did not want to be known as a specialist and warned his juniors about the dangers of gaining



knowledge and a reputation in one small field of medicine. He cited a mother who had hesitated to bring her child to him because she had been told that he was a specialist in the diseases of children aged between six and seven.

In 1885 Goodhart used this experience to great effect in his book *The Student's Guide to the Diseases of Children* which soon became the current students' textbook. In it he took for granted that the reader already had a good knowledge of general medicine, so that he emphasised the features of diseases that were peculiar to children. Further editions followed in England, one was edited in the United States and it was also translated into French. The ninth edition in 1909 was



A Microscopy Laboratory
circa 1887

edited by Sir George Still, the first doctor to devote his life to paediatrics.

With his knowledge of morbid anatomy and the presentation of disease, Goodhart understood that many symptoms had no pathological basis. In 1891 he delivered the Harveian Lectures at the Royal College of Physicians entitled *Common Neuroses, or the Neurotic Element in Disease and its Rational Treatment*. The lectures were published in *The Lancet* and a year later as a book. This readable text is full of human interest, common sense and practical advice and one reviewer commented that it “carried the reader captive by his helpfulness and enthusiasm”. Goodhart understood the difficulties of treating patients with functional diseases and always tried to treat the underlying cause. He was definite in his advice against

giving drugs just to relieve bodily symptoms in such cases.

The Royal College of Physicians heard his Bradshaw Lecture on *Morbid Arterial Tension* in 1885, five years after he was elected a Fellow. He was an examiner in medicine at the RCP, served on its Council and as Censor but, unlike his friend Frederick Taylor, Goodhart was not elected President of either the RSM or the RCP. They were very different people – Taylor the more academic and distant while Goodhart had the warmth of the common touch. He was the archetypal popular, general physician.

Goodhart retired from Guy's at fifty-three to devote himself to his private practice, where he worked until his death in 1916. For his achievements he was



awarded a baronetcy by King George V in the Coronation Honours. Although the election of Foundainers was decided on votes that were bought, rather than on the potential of the student, one wonders whether Goodhart would have had the opportunity to achieve what he did without the free education he received at Epsom College.

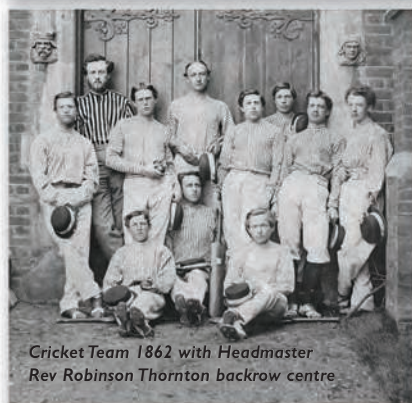
**WILLIAM WARWICK
WAGSTAFFE 1843-1910**

**SURGEON AND A FOUNDING
MEMBER OF THE OLD
EPSOMIAN CLUB**

William Warwick Wagstaffe (Epsom College 1855-1859), another of the first hundred pupils, was a founder of the OE Club and served on its committee until 1884. At Epsom College he excelled both academically and at sport. As Captain of Cricket he was a skilful wicket keeper and he led the football team with vigour. Training for surgery at St Thomas's, he won prizes and was appointed to the staff as a bold and innovative abdominal surgeon and, just like Morris, was destined to rise to the top of the profession. Wagstaffe advocated early surgery for intussusception rather than using the old method of administering enemas while the patient was upended, head down. Popular with the students, he kept the medical school together while the hospital, having left its old home in the Borough, was in temporary accommodation at the Surrey



William Warwick Wagstaffe



*Cricket Team 1862 with Headmaster
Rev Robinson Thornton back row centre*

Gardens music hall site while its new home was being built on the Embankment. It was said that as a lecturer he was lucid and fluent, "holding the attention of his class, which was always orderly and well behaved at a time when the lecture



Stained glass,
Epsom College



St Thomas's Hospital



theatre occasionally tended to degenerate into a bear garden".

In 1878 John Bristowe, the senior physician at St Thomas's, saw Wagstaffe walking down the corridor with a 'tabetic gait' and prescribed, much to Wagstaffe's disgust, potassium iodide, the treatment for syphilis. Although it is worth noting that several other diseases exhibit similar symptoms from which he might have suffered, Wagstaffe became increasingly incapacitated and eventually died from pneumonia, totally paralysed, in 1910. Clearly, Wagstaffe would have achieved even more had he benefited from better health.

ROYAL SERVICE

The dual strands of excellence in medicine, and service to the Royal Family and Epsom College, have been present from the start and continue to this day through the career of Sir Richard Thompson. Sir John Forbes, one of Propert's staunchest supporters and physician to Prince Albert, was able to arrange for the Prince to lay the foundation stone at Epsom College, a duty he was then unable to perform because of an attack of measles. Forbes was also able to persuade Queen Victoria to make the Medical Benevolent College 'Royal'. Sir Edward Sieveking, Epsom College's first Treasurer, was Physician in Ordinary to Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII. Initial support of the College as Vice-Presidents included the names of five royal doctors and seven Fellows of the Royal Society.



Sir John Forbes



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: **Sir Alan Reeve Manby**; **The Prince of Wales laying the foundation stone of the Lower School**; **Albert, Prince Consort 1860**; **Queen Victoria**; **Osborne House**.
INSET: **John Hoffmeister (Epsom College 1865-1868), the brother of William, who served as Apothecary to the Royal Family at Osborne House**

Among the early pupils two held royal appointments. Sir Alan Reeve Manby (Epsom 1859-1864) lived at East Rudham in North Norfolk where his father was GP and Apothecary to the Prince of Wales at Sandringham. When Alan qualified he joined his father. In 1871, the Prince of Wales nearly died of typhoid at Sandringham and although Sir Francis Laking, the Prince's personal physician, was in constant attendance, the Manby practice was on call for the staff and other members of the Royal Family. Alan was Apothecary in his turn and was later knighted for his services.

William Hoffmeister (Epsom 1855-1860) joined the family practice in Cowes, where his father was Surgeon to Queen Victoria and the Royal Family on the Isle of Wight and Medical Attendant to the Royal Establishment at Osborne House. William held the appointments in his turn and was on duty when the Queen died there in 1901. In the strict hierarchy of the Royal Household he did not attend the Queen himself; this was the unrelenting job of Sir James Clark, later a member of the Epsom College Council. However, William was allowed to look after the rest of the Household and anyone of 'blue blood'.

THE CREATION *of the* OLD EPSOMIAN CLUB

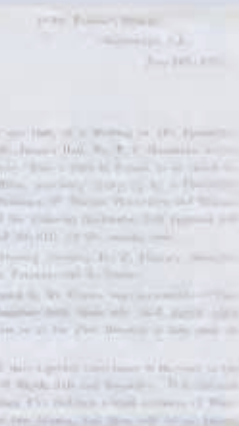
EPSOM COLLEGE.—Old EPSOMIANS are INVITED to attend a MEETING at St. James's Hall, Regent-street, on SATURDAY, June 2, at 8 P.M., for the purpose of organising a club, which has for its object the occasional meeting of those who have been educated at the school. (Signed)
F. MARSHALL, FREDERIC TAYLOR,
H. MORRIS, W. W. WAGSTAFFE.

Starting together in a new establishment in 1855, where nobody knew their way, remembered the daily routine, or knew what was out of bounds, gave a stronger feeling of companionship than is normal among schoolboys. Morris and Taylor, although at different hospitals and working in different specialties, maintained a strong friendship throughout life. In 1877, together with Francis John Marshall (Epsom 1856-1861) and William Warwick Wagstaffe, they called a meeting at St James's Hall, Piccadilly "for the purpose of organising a club which has as its object the occasional meeting of those who have been educated at the College". More than one hundred Old Epsomians attended and it was decided to hold dinners in March, July and December which should not cost more than five shillings a head exclusive of wine, and that there should be an entry fee of one guinea with no annual subscription. Morris was elected Treasurer, a post which he only gave up at the fortieth meeting in 1919, and Taylor served as Secretary until 1886. The dinner, which soon became biannual, was chaired by a different member and Goodhart, a regular attendee, took his turn in 1880.

The OE Club flourished with a regular influx of new members, although they declined to admit College masters in 1882, to their great annoyance, and like all clubs it has had difficult times. In 2000 Dr Paul Knapman (Wilson 1958-1963) founded the OE Medical Society. The vision of these founders started an organisation which has become an institution of great benefit to Epsom College and its members.



Dr Paul Knapman
(Wilson 1958-63)



CONCLUSION



Most of the money Propert raised came from the medical profession, which from time to time through the commentary of the BMJ, wondered whether it had been well spent. In the first five annual intakes of the College, out of three hundred and thirty six pupils, a quarter went into medicine, many of these early pupils reaching the top in their medical specialties. There can be no doubt that the foundation of Epsom

College, springing from Propert's vision, with the backing of individual doctors and the BMA, has filled an important place in the history of education and the development of the medical profession. Students have gained high achievement in many other areas, not just medicine, but the careers of the men noted here show that the academic excellence initiated by the Reverend Robinson Thornton, the enthusiasm for games and extra-curricular activities and the duty of service was present from the start. Epsom College has given pupils the basis to develop in their own way, in their own lives and in their own careers. Many, such as those who became GPs, have had little public acclaim but have been the backbone of medicine. The first few years produced some remarkable men but then, so has each successive generation of scholars.



ABOVE: *OE Medical Society Dinner 2010 attended by 6th Form pupils considering medical careers.* ABOVE TOP: *Epsom laboratories today*



SPECIAL THANKS *from the* EDUCATION TRUST

The Education Trust thanks Dr John Ford (Fayrer 1950-55) who proposed and wrote this publication in honour of the President of the Old Epsomian Medical Society, Sir Richard Thompson (Propert 1954-58).

The Trust also acknowledges the editorial contribution of the Epsom College Archivist, Alan Scadding and history teacher, Henry Meier.

Thank you to all members of the medical community whose financial support is so important to the future of Epsom College. Charitable support established Epsom College and will drive its future. Annual fee income funds running costs and limited enhancements, but major development of bursary support and the expansion of facilities can only come about through donor support.

To learn more about the Education Trust, visit www.epsomcollege.org.uk or call 01372 821042.



