

Review of History session UKRC 2014 JUNE 10

Reviewed by Dr Arpan K Banerjee, Chairman Brit Soc for History of Radiology

In 2014 the British Society for the History of Radiology organised another successful Radiology History session at the UKRC (UK Radiology conference). The lecture theatre was full with over 65 delegates attending. Opening the session was Adrian Thomas's talk on Marie Curie and the First World War. Marie Curie's contribution to science is well documented but her contributions to the Great War is perhaps less familiar to the public. Curie realised the importance of radiography in a war setting and organised a mobile radiography service for field hospitals. Over 200 hospitals benefited from this and Marie Curie herself often performed the radiography examinations. In addition she set about teaching radiologists and technicians along with her daughter Irene.

The next invited talk was delivered by Arpan K Banerjee who talked about the Manchester radiology pioneer E W Twining. Twining started off his career in general practice but in 1916 found himself in charge of the electrotherapeutic department of the military hospital in Netley, Southampton. After studying for the new radiology diploma he was appointed to the Ancoats, Christie and Royal Infirmary in Manchester. He made major contributions to chest radiology, tomography and the radiology of the ventricular system. At the time of his death he was President elect of the Radiology Section of the Royal Society of Medicine in London and the Faculty of Radiologists, the precursor of the Royal College of Radiologists.

These talks were followed by proffered papers.

Francis Duck gave a presentation entitled electrodiagnosis in World War 1. The pioneering work of Duchenne, Erb and others led to the exploration of the use of electrodiagnosis in war allowing the diagnosis of nerve and tendon injuries to evaluate the potential for neurological recovery and to expose malingerers.

David Little gave a paper entitled A New Chapter : the end of the radiology textbook. A short survey seemed to suggest more and more people consult information on line but many still hold on to their reference tomes due to the more authoritative nature of the published book. Books do not seem to have been confined to the dustbin of history quite yet.

Michael Jackson delivered a well illustrated talk on the Art of Radiology- a historical perspective with illustrations from many art forms and schools throughout the millennia and the relationship between the artistic visual images and the application of imaging to medicine.

Maaz Ghouri delivered a nice overview of the history of contributions of interventional radiology in the care of oncology patients. The pioneering work of Dotter ,Baum, Seldinger, Bob White and Sideney Wallace and Mcgahan was reviewed and showed how this new branch has developed in 50 years.

The final presentation was given by Bhavin Rawal and titled ' the therapeutic and diagnostic value of lymphangiography should not be overlooked.' We were reminded of the early pioneers like Kinmonth and the early uses of this technique which has now been replaced by cross sectional imaging.

As usual the Society hosted its well-illustrated stand at the exhibition which generated interest from a wide range of delegates.