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### Abstract

The two earliest diplomas in the possession of the Royal Medical Society were both awarded to George Joseph Bell, BA Oxford. One of these diplomas was his Extraordinary Membership Diploma that was awarded to him on 5 April 1839. Very few of these Diplomas appear to have survived, and the critical introductory part of his Diploma is inscribed as follows:

Ingenuus ornatissimusque Vir Georgius Jos. Bell dum socius nobis per tres annos interfuit, plurima eademque pulcherrima, hand minus ingenii felicitatis, quam diligentiae insignis, animique ad optimum quodque parati, exempla in medium protulit. In quorum fidem has literas, meritis tantum concessus, manibus nostris sigilloque munitas, discedenti lubentissime donatus.<sup>2</sup> Edinburgi 5 Aprilis 1839.<sup>3</sup>

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# Two Diplomas Awarded to George Joseph Bell now in the Possession of the Royal Medical Society

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## Introduction

The two earliest diplomas in the possession of the Royal Medical Society were both awarded to George Joseph Bell, BA Oxford. One of these diplomas was his *Extraordinary Membership Diploma*<sup>1</sup> that was awarded to him on 5 April 1839. Very few of these Diplomas appear to have survived, and the critical introductory part of his Diploma is inscribed as follows:

*Ingenuus ornatissimusque Vir Georgius Jos. Bell dum socius nobis per tres annos interfuit, plurima eademque pulcherrima, haud minus ingenii felicitis, quam diligentiae insignis, animique ad optimum quodque parati, exempla in medium protulit. In quorum fidem has literas, meritis tantum concessus, manibus nostris sigilloque munitas, discedenti lubentissime donatus.*<sup>2</sup> Edinburgi 5 Aprilis 1839.<sup>3</sup>

Extraordinary membership of the Society was usually awarded to Ordinary Members of the Society who had diligently attended the meetings of the Society for at least two years, read a Dissertation and a comment on a case, and paid all of their outstanding debts. According to Gray,<sup>4</sup> in the early part of the nineteenth century they were also obliged to have delivered a second set of papers. On this occasion, Bell's Diploma indicates that he had been a Member of the Society for a period of *three years* when he was awarded his Diploma. While he delivered one Dissertation in 1839 that was bound into the appropriate volume retained in the Society's Library (see below), he also fulfilled the other requirements expected of an Extraordinary Member as required by the Laws of the Society at that time.<sup>5</sup> Such Members enjoyed all of the privileges enjoyed by Ordinary Members, but were not required to attend meetings. Substantial problems were encountered by the Extraordinary Members of the Society in March 1808, when a motion was passed at an ordinary meeting of the Society, that they should no longer be eligible to vote at the election of Presidents. It was suggested that as they did not regularly attend meetings of the Society, they were not adequately familiar with its activities. The Extraordinary Members immediately sought Counsel's opinion on this matter, and at an ordinary meeting of the Society held on 22 April 1808, and as a result of the advice they were given, the motion was subsequently withdrawn.<sup>6</sup>

The date of award of the *second* of these Diplomas is somewhat curious, because he was Senior President during the Society's 103<sup>rd</sup> Session (1839-40).<sup>7</sup> He was elected to this office by a majority of the votes at the meeting held on Friday 29 November 1839.<sup>8</sup> This presumably relates to the date that appears on his Senior President's Diploma. It is unclear on what evening the Annual Dinner was held that year, as this varied from year to year, as apparently did the venue for this event. Despite this, his *Senior President's Diploma* appears to have been awarded to him on 11 February 1842. One possibility is that he was unwell or was away from Edinburgh for some reason and was therefore unable to attend the Annual Dinner when he would normally have been expected to receive his Senior President's Diploma in 1839.<sup>9</sup> No mention is made of this episode in the Society's *Minute Book*.

Who was the recipient of these Diplomas?

The fact that he was named *George Joseph Bell* indicated that he might have been one of the sons of Professor George Joseph Bell, Professor of the Law of Scotland in the University of Edinburgh.<sup>10</sup> Professor George Joseph Bell was Charles Bell's mentor and older brother. They wrote to each other on a frequent basis and items from this correspondence between them were selected by Charles Bell's wife, Lady Bell, and published in

1870, long after both of them had died.<sup>11</sup> The fact that the recipient of these Diplomas was one of the sons of Professor Bell was confirmed when the Archives of the University of Oxford were consulted. These indicated that George Joseph Bell *junior* was indeed the *second* son of Professor George Joseph Bell, of Edinburgh.<sup>12</sup> He had matriculated at Balliol College on 25 February 1833 at the age of 20, having been born on 19 August 1812, and graduated with the Oxford BA degree in 1836. He subsequently obtained the Oxford MA degree in 1842. More interestingly, he also graduated with the Oxford BM degree in 1842.<sup>13</sup> Despite studying medicine in Edinburgh during the period between 1836-37 and 1840-41, there is no record that he was either awarded the LRCS Edin. diploma,<sup>14</sup> or graduated with the Edinburgh MD degree.<sup>15</sup> The fact that he graduated with the Oxford BM degree in 1842 suggests that he was probably obliged to pass their written and viva examinations in order to graduate with their degree.

He signed the Obligation of Membership of the Royal Medical Society on 27 January 1837.<sup>16</sup> An analysis of the Society's Volumes of bound Dissertations revealed that he read his Dissertation before the Society on 4 January 1839. The topic of his Dissertation was "*On the spontaneous obliteration of arteries.*" By the standards of the day, it was a fairly lengthy Dissertation, covering 69 pages of hand-written text. Up to 1832, when the post was discontinued, an amanuensis, or semi-professional scribe, termed a "Transcriber" would have prepared the text of the Dissertation that was bound in the volume that was retained in the Society's Library. The author would then have signed the Dissertation. This was to confirm that it was a true transcription of his text. According to the 1823 *Laws of the Society* then still in force,<sup>17</sup> the Member had to present the Transcriber with the draft of his Dissertation some weeks in advance of the Meeting when the Dissertation was to be presented before the membership. The Transcriber then prepared two copies. One was presented to the Society and bound and retained in the Society's Library, while the other copy was circulated to all of the Members who had previously indicated that they wished to read a copy of his Dissertation in advance of its delivery before the Society. According to the *Laws of the Society*, their Porter only delivered these Dissertations to Members who lived within a short distance of the Society's premises. This was to allow them to prepare appropriate questions to be presented to the Member after he had delivered his Dissertation.<sup>18</sup> In 1839, the Dissertations that were bound and retained in the Society's Library were written by the Members themselves.

His *Extraordinary Membership Diploma* was almost certainly presented to him at a special celebratory Dinner held on 5 April 1839, although it is unclear how many others received Extraordinary Membership Diplomas at this Dinner. Bell's Diploma was signed by the four Presidents elected during the Society's 102<sup>nd</sup> (1838-39) Session. It is interesting to note that 20 of those who signed either his Extraordinary Membership Diploma or his Senior President's Diploma or both subsequently became extremely distinguished individuals, and abbreviated biographies of these men were later published in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Interested readers will find the relevant references to these biographies in the Endnotes section.

The four Presidents of the Society during the Society's 1838-39 Session, and who signed his Extraordinary Membership Diploma were: **Samuel Wright**, (Nottingham, signed Obligation of Membership on 14 April 1837, Senior President), MD Edin. 1840.

**Alexander Wood**, (Fifeshire, signed Obligation of Membership on 22 April 1836, First Junior President), LRCS Edin. 1838, MD Edin. 1839, FRCP Edin. 1840, founder Member of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society, 1840, Secretary RCP Edin. 1850-56, President RCP Edin. 1858-60.<sup>19</sup>  
**Randle Wilbraham Falconer**, (Bath, signed Obligation of Membership on 25 November 1836, Second Junior President), MD Edin. 1839, Honorary MD Queen's University, Ireland. 1879.<sup>20</sup>  
**Thomas Bazett Tytler**, (Edinburgh, signed Obligation of Membership on 16 December 1836, Third Junior President), LRCS Edin. 1839, MD Edin. 1839, FRCS Edin. 1841. He accidentally drowned a few weeks after he obtained his FRCS Edin. diploma in August 1841.<sup>21</sup>

What is particularly curious about George Joseph Bell *junior* is that he appears to completely disappear from the scene either in 1842 or some time after he gained his Oxford BM degree. In order to try to establish his fate, his father's Will was checked to see whether this might shed any light on the matter, as his father died on 23 September 1843. While his Will was registered in the Edinburgh Sheriff's Court on 17 February 1844, his last Will was, however, dated 14 February 1840. While his wife had died in 1827, all of their 10 children were still alive in 1840, and were all mentioned in his 1840 Will.<sup>22</sup> According to information supplied by Balliol College, Oxford, George Joseph Bell *junior* died in 1847, but no additional information regarding his premature death has yet been found.<sup>23</sup>

The two principal guests when Bell was presented with his Extraordinary Membership Diploma, who were probably also invited to speak after the Dinner were:

**Professor Sir Charles Bell**, FRCS Edin. 1799, Honorary Member of the Royal Medical Society, 24 February 1826, Extraordinary Member of the Society, FRS London 1826, KH 1830, Professor of Surgery, Edinburgh, 1836-42. He died on 28 April 1842 at Hallow Park in Worcestershire.<sup>24</sup> It is of interest to note that the recipient of this Diploma was one of Sir Charles Bell's nephews.

The other senior guest was **Professor Robert Christison**, (Edinburgh, signed Obligation of Membership on 17 December 1819, Extraordinary Member, Honorary Member 1843), MD Edin. 1819, President RCP Edin. 1838-40 and 1846-8, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, Edinburgh, 1822-32, Professor of *Materia Medica* and Therapeutics, Edinburgh, 1832-77, created Baronet in 1871.<sup>25</sup>

Seventeen other Members of the Society, or Guests of the Society, also signed the Diploma. Of these, it is possible to trace with little difficulty the following fourteen individuals:

**John Abercrombie**, MD Edin. 1803. He was never an Ordinary Member of the Society, but was elected an Honorary Member in 1831. According to Professor John Goodsir, he was a great physician and extremely rich.<sup>26</sup>

**John Hutton Balfour**, (Edinburgh, signed Obligation of Membership on 14 December 1827, First Junior President, 1830-31, Third Junior President, 1831-32), LRCS Edin. 1829, MD Edin. 1831, FRCS Edin. 1833, FRS Edin. 1835, FRS, Professor of Botany, Glasgow, 1841-5, Professor of Medicine and Botany, Edinburgh, 1845-79.<sup>27</sup>

**George Edward Day**, MA Cambridge, 1840 (Pensioner Trinity College, 11 March 1833, migrated to Pembroke College, 5 February 1834),<sup>28</sup> (Cambridge, signed Obligation of Membership on 7 December 1838, Senior President, 1840-41), Licentiate in Medicine of the University of Cambridge, 1843,<sup>29</sup> MRCP London 1844, FRCP London 1847, Chandos Professor of Anatomy and Medicine, St. Andrews, 1849-63, Honorary MD Giessen 1849, FRS London 1850.<sup>30</sup>

**Herbert John Giraud**, (Kent, signed Obligation of Membership on 10 November 1837), MD Edin. 1840.<sup>31</sup>

**Peter David Handyside**, (1808-81), (Edinburgh, signed Obligation of Membership on 18 November 1825, Senior President, 1828-29), MD Edin. 1831, FRCS Edin. 1833. For about 45 years, he was a surgeon and teacher of Anatomy and Surgery at the Extra-mural School.<sup>32</sup>

**Robert Jameson**, (signed Obligation of Membership on 10 January 1795, Honorary Member 1850), Regius Professor of Natural History, Edinburgh, 1804-54, Founded Wernerian Natural History Society, 1808, Founded Edinburgh Philosophical Journal, 1819.<sup>33</sup>

**Andrew Douglas MacLagan**, (1812-1900), (Ayrshire, signed Obligation of Membership on 27 March 1829, Second Junior President, 1832-3), LRCS Edin, 1831, MD Edin. 1833, FRCS Edin. 1833, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, Edinburgh, 1862-97.<sup>34</sup>

**George Paterson**, (Stockholm, signed Obligation of Membership on 13 November 1829, Senior President, 1832-33), MD Edin. 1833, LRCS Edin. 1833, MRCP Edin. 1833, FRCP Edin. 1837, founder Member of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society, 1840, Secretary RCP Edin. 1848-50.

**David Boswell Reid**, (Edinburgh, signed Obligation of Membership on 18 April 1823, Senior President, 1826-27), MD Edin. 1830, FRCP Edin. 1831.<sup>35</sup>

**John Reid**, (Linlithgowshire, signed Obligation of Membership on 4 April 1834, Third Junior President, 1835-36), MD Edin. 1830, Professor of Medicine, St. Andrews University.<sup>36</sup>

**James Young Simpson**, (Linlithgow, signed Obligation of Membership on 4 April 1833, Senior President, 1835-36, Honorary Member 1850), MD Edin. 1832, Professor of Midwifery, Edinburgh, 1840-70, President RCP Edin. 1846-8, created Baronet in 1866, the first given to a doctor practising in Scotland.<sup>37</sup>

**James Syme**, (Fifeshire, signed Obligation of Membership on 8 January 1819, Honorary Member 1843), MRCS London 1821, FRCS Edin. 1823, Hon. MD Dublin 1867, Hon. MD Bonn 1869, DCL Oxford 1869, Regius Professor of Clinical Surgery, Edinburgh, 1833-69.<sup>38</sup>

**Allen Thomson**, (signed Obligation of Membership on 21 April 1826, Second Junior President, 1829-30), MD Edin. 1830, FRCS Edin. 1831, Professor of Anatomy, Marischal College, Aberdeen, 1839-41, Professor of Physiology, Edinburgh, 1842-8, Professor of Anatomy, Glasgow, 1848-77.<sup>39</sup>

**Thomas Stewart Traill**, (signed Obligation of Membership on 4 December 1801), MD Edin. 1802, FRS Edin. 1819, FRCP Edin. 1833, President RCP Edin. 1852-4, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, Edinburgh, 1832-62.<sup>40</sup>

The fate of three additional individuals who appended their signatures to the Diploma has so far not been traced although at least one of these individuals attended the Dinner in his capacity as an Ordinary Member of the Society:

**Alexander Graham**

**Martin Roberts** (Carmarthenshire, signed Obligation of Membership on 7 December 1838).

**William Robertson**

George Joseph Bell Junior's Senior President's Diploma  
As indicated previously, although George Joseph Bell *junior* was Senior President during the Society's 103<sup>rd</sup> Session (1839-40), the date on his Diploma, that corresponded to when it was awarded to him, was 11 February 1842. It is now difficult to understand why there should have been such a delay between when he was Senior President of the Society and when he was awarded his President's Diploma, unless he was unwell, or was away from Edinburgh, during the interim period. The University's Matriculation Album for the years 1836-37, 1837-38, 1838-39, 1839-40, and 1840-41 was checked. This was to establish whether he was in Edinburgh and attended the requisite medical classes during these sessions. This indicated that he had paid the Matriculation Fees during four of these five Sessions. The exception was for the 1839-40 Session when his name did not appear in the Matriculation List. During 1836-37 (Matriculation Number 940), he signed up to attend *Anatomy, Practical Anatomy and Surgery*. During 1837-38 (Matriculation Number 137), he signed up to attend *Surgery*. During 1838-39 (Matriculation Number 318), he signed up to attend *Obstetrics, Materia Medica and Surgery*. In 1840-41 (Matriculation Number 266), he paid the Matriculation Fee, but (as was not unusual at that time) no classes were listed against his name. While no information is available to confirm this, he may also have attended other classes in the University, as was common at that time. Equally, he may have attended classes at one or more of the various Extra-mural Medical Schools that flourished in Edinburgh at that time.<sup>41</sup>

The critical introductory part of his Senior President's Diploma is inscribed as follows:

*Ingenuum ornatissimumque Virum Georgium Josephum Bell, ut qui nullis non ingenii opibus instructus primas apud nos merito sibi vindicaret, haud indignum judicavimus quem ad honorificum Praesidis annui munus, Comitibus ad id habitis, 29 Nov. 1839 eveheremus: evectum nec rebus nostris nec suae ipsius famae defuisse his Litteris, manibus nostris nostroque Sigillo munitis lubentissime omnibus testamur.*  
*Edinburgi, Anno Domini 1842. die Februarii 11.*

His *Senior President's Diploma*<sup>42</sup> was signed by three of the elected Presidents for the Society's 105<sup>th</sup> Session (1841-42). It was signed by the Senior President, and the First and Second Junior Presidents. These were: **John Goodsir** (1814-67), (Fifeshire, signed Obligation of Membership on 8 November 1833, Senior President, 1841-42, Senior President 1842-43), LRCS Edin. 1835, Professor of Anatomy, Edinburgh, 1846-67.<sup>43</sup> **Henry Lonsdale**, (Cumberland, signed Obligation of Membership on 27 November 1840, First Junior President, 1841-42, Third Junior President, 1842-43), MD Edin. 1838.<sup>44</sup> **Edwin Thorne Wait**, (Bristol, signed Obligation of Membership on 22 January 1841, Second Junior President, 1841-42), MD Edin. 1843.

The only President that did not sign this Diploma was the Third Junior President. This was initially **William Scott Carmichael**, (Edinburgh, signed Obligation of Membership on 14 December 1838), MD Edin. 1835. He had been elected to this post, but had resigned on 9 February 1842 and was replaced some days later by **William Mackinnon** (Aberdeen, signed Obligation of Membership on 8 January 1841). In the place where the Third Junior President usually inserted his signature, **Andrew Wood** (Edinburgh, signed Obligation of Membership on 16 November 1827, Second Junior President, 1830-31), MD Edin. 1831, Honorary Secretary of the Society, had appended his signature.

As on the Extraordinary Membership Diploma, the two principal Guests at the Dinner when he was presented with his Senior President's Diploma were Professors **Sir Charles Bell** and **Robert Christison**. Amongst the other signatories, a considerable number had previously signed his Extraordinary Membership Diploma in 1839. These were the following:

**John Abercrombie**  
**George Edward Day**  
**Robert Jameson**  
**Andrew Douglas Maclagan**  
**Sir James Young Simpson**  
**James Syme**  
**Allen Thomson**  
**Thomas Stewart Traill**

The other individuals who signed his diploma were:

**William Pulteney Alison**, (Honorary Member 1841), MD Edin. 1811, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, Edinburgh, 1820-21, Professor of Institutes of Medicine (Physiology), Edinburgh, 1821-42, Professor of Medicine, Edinburgh, 1842-55, President RCP Edin. 1836-38.<sup>45</sup>

**Sir George Ballingall**, (Honorary Member 1841), LRCS Edin. 1805, MD Edin. 1819, FRCS Edin. 1820, FRS Edin. 1820, President RCS Edin. 1836-38, Regius Professor of Military Surgery, Edinburgh, 1822-55, Knighted on the accession of William IV, 1830.<sup>46</sup>

**Hugo Francis Clarke Cleghorn** (1820-95), (Fifeshire, signed Obligation of Membership on 10 November 1837, Honorary Secretary, 1840, Second Junior President, 1840-41), MD Edin. 1841.

**Andrew Halliday Douglas** (Edinburgh, signed Obligation of Membership on 21 April 1837), MD Edin. 1840, he taught Medicine at the Extra-mural School from 1848-54, President RCP Edin. 1869-71.

**Robert Graham**, (signed Obligation of Membership on 8 November 1805, Honorary Member 1843), MD Edin. 1808, Professor of Botany, Glasgow, 1818-20, Regius Professor of Botany, Edinburgh, 1820-45, President RCP Edin. 1840-2.<sup>47</sup>

**Richard James Mackenzie** (1821-54), (Edinburgh, signed Obligation of Membership on January 11 1839, Third Junior President, 1840-41), MD Edin. 1841, LRCS Edin. 1841, FRCS Edin. 1844. He went to the Crimean War as a volunteer surgeon, and died there of Asiatic Cholera in 1854.

Abbreviations used in the text:

BA, Bachelor of Arts  
MA, Master of Arts  
BM, Bachelor of Medicine  
MB MS, Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery  
MB, Bachelor of Medicine  
Edin., Edinburgh  
LRCS, Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons  
FRCS, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons  
MRCS, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons  
RCS, Royal College of Surgeons

MRCP, Member of the Royal College of Physicians  
FRCP, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians  
RCP, Royal College of Physicians  
FRS, Fellow of the Royal Society  
KH, Knight of the Guelphic Order of Hanover  
DCL, Doctor of Civil Law  
LL.D, Doctor of Laws

Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> This Diploma is engraved on parchment-paper, and measures 21.25 inches in width x 28.75 inches in length.

<sup>2</sup> Somewhat surprisingly, the Latin text indicated here, as transcribed from this Diploma, while correctly spelled on the Diploma is incorrectly spelled, and inappropriately punctuated, in the 1823 *Laws of the Society*. See: Anon (1823). *Laws of the Medical Society of Edinburgh*. Edinburgh: printed for the Society, by Hay, Gall, & Co. [includes *General List of the Members of the Medical Society of Edinburgh (1823)*], 72.

<sup>3</sup> This date was a Friday, but there is no mention in the Society's *Minute Book* that relates to this event. The possibility exists that this might be the date that he was elected an Extraordinary Member. It must be assumed that he was awarded this Diploma on another occasion, as an ordinary meeting of the Society was held on that evening.

<sup>4</sup> Gray, J. (1952). *History of the Royal Medical Society 1737-1937*. Edinburgh: University Press, 104.

<sup>5</sup> He was also required to present two clinical case reports. One of these was on "*Rupture of the bladder,*" while the other was on "*Some points of the treatment of stricture of the urethra.*"

<sup>6</sup> See: Gray J (*op. cit.* ref. 3), 104-8.

<sup>7</sup> Gray J (*op. cit.* ref. 3), 320.

<sup>8</sup> According to the *Minutes* of the meeting held on the evening of Friday 29 November 1839, "...as the votes for Mr. Bell and Dr. Mackenzie were equal, which affected their rank in point of seniority, the Committee suggested that according to Law, a second Ballot for these two Gentlemen should immediately take place, when Mr. Bell, by a majority of votes, was declared first President." His first act as Senior President was to chair the Society's Public Business that evening, when Dr. Marr read his paper.

<sup>9</sup> According to the 1823 *Laws of the Society*, Chapter XXI, sections 6 and 7, "6. Every member, Ordinary or Extraordinary, when granted a Certificate or Diploma, shall pay to the President in the Chair the Sum of FIVE SHILLINGS. 7. Every Member, when granted a President's Diploma, shall pay to the President in the Chair the Sum of TEN SHILLINGS." See: Anon (*op. cit.* ref. 2), 71-72. The Presidents elected for the 1839-40 Session of the Society were as follows: George Joseph Bell (Senior President), Donald Mackenzie (First Junior President), William Henry Low (Second Junior President), George Atkin (Third Junior President).

<sup>10</sup> George Joseph Bell *senior* was born on 26 March 1770 and died aged 73 on 23 September 1843. He passed at the Bar in 1791, was elected Professor of the Law of Scotland in the University of Edinburgh in 1822, and was appointed Principal Clerk of Session in 1832. He married Barbara, *eldest* daughter of Charles Shaw Esq. of Ayr, by whom he had ten children. She was born on 9 December 1786, married him on 22 October 1806 and died on 27 March 1827. His children were: Cecilia (born 8 September 1807), Barbara (born June 1814), Charles William (born 12 December 1810), *George Joseph* (born 19 August 1812), Marion Jane (born June 1814), Margaret Morice (born 27 September 1816), Caroline (born 1 November 1818), John Robert (born 1820), Francis Jeffrey (born 10 April 1823) and John David (born 27 June 1825). See: Anon (1963-64). Bell, George Joseph (1770-1843). *Dictionary of National Biography*, 2 Oxford: Oxford University Press, 158-9. For further details of the Bell and Shaw families, see: Kaufman, M.H. (2005). Brief observations of the genealogy of John and Charles Bell: and their close relationship with the children of John Shaw of Ayr. *Journal of Medical Biography* (in press).

<sup>11</sup> Bell, C. (1870). *Letters of Sir Charles Bell, K.H., F.R.S.L. & E. Selected from his Correspondence with his Brother; George Joseph Bell*. London: John Murray.

<sup>12</sup> He was in fact the *fourth child* and *second son* of Professor George Joseph Bell.

<sup>13</sup> The information about his Oxford University qualifications, and his College association, was obtained from Mrs Alice Millea, Assistant Keeper of Archives, Oxford University Archives, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BG. For information from: *Alumni Oxonienses 1715-1886*, see: Foster, J. (undated, but believed to be 1887). *Alumni Oxonienses: the*

*Members of the University of Oxford, 1715-1886: their parentage, birthplace and year of birth, with a record of their degrees. Being the Matriculation Register of the University, alphabetically arranged, revised and annotated.* In 4 Volumes. Oxford & London: Parker & Co, Volume 1, 90. Curiously, and possibly because of the influence of his father, he also attended Lincoln's Inn, London, during 1835.

<sup>14</sup> Anon (1851). *Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Act of Parliament (13th Victoria, Chap. XXIII.) for enabling Her Majesty to Grant a New Charter to the College; Also, Royal Warrant for a New Charter, Dated 11 March 1851; Together with Chronological Lists of Members and Fellows, of Presidents and of Honorary Fellows, from the earliest record (August 1581) to the date of the Charter.* Edinburgh: Printed for the Royal College of Surgeons, by Robert Hardie & Co. [Supplement: List of Licentiatees, from 1 January 1815 to 1 January 1859].

<sup>15</sup> Anon (1867). *List of the Graduates in Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, from MDCCCV to MDCCCLXVI.* Edinburgh: Neill & Co. This volume provides the year of graduation and titles of all Edinburgh M.D. theses published between 1726 and 1866, as well as the year of graduation and titles of all Edinburgh MB MS theses published between 1862 and 1866, and all Edinburgh MB theses published in 1865 and 1866.

<sup>16</sup> In the 1845 edition of the Laws of the Society, the date that he signed the Society's Obligation was given as 27 January 1837, and it also indicates that he came from Edinburgh. See: Anon (1845). *Laws of the Medical Society of Edinburgh.* Edinburgh: printed for the Society, by James Gall & Son, 60.

<sup>17</sup> In this regard until this Law was withdrawn in 1832.

<sup>18</sup> See: Anon (*op. cit.* ref. 2), for the relevant sections, see: Chapter XVI "Of the Transcriber," 46-47; Chapter XVIII "Of the delivery of Dissertations," 51-53; Chapter XIX "Of the circulation of Minutes and Dissertations," 54-56. The Transcriber "shall receive one shilling for every folio page of the Records of the Society which he may copy, including a Copy of the Paper for Circulation." As Bell's Dissertation was written and bound into the volume retained in the Library after 1832 (see relevant section of the text), the Dissertation was written in his own hand.

<sup>19</sup> Anon (1963-64). Wood, Alexander (1816-1884). *Dictionary of National Biography*, 21. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 818-9.

<sup>20</sup> Anon (1963-64). Falconer, Randle Wilbraham (1817-1881). *Dictionary of National Biography*, 6. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1026.

<sup>21</sup> According to the Minutes of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Mr. Tytler was admitted an Ordinary Fellow of the College on 2 August 1841. The topic of his probationary essay was "Injuries of the spine," the same topic as his MD dissertation. At a Meeting of the College held on 24 September 1841, the President of the College noted "the untimely death of their youngest Fellow Member Dr. Thomas Bazett Tytler – an event which as they were all aware had occurred since last meeting under circumstances of a peculiarly distressing nature." No further details were provided, and no information has so far been located regarding the circumstances of his death. No notice of his death was published in the *Scotsman* newspaper between 4 August and 17 November 1841.

<sup>22</sup> His Will was registered in the Edinburgh Sheriff's Court on 17 February 1844, some months after his death. Its Reference Number is SC70/1/65, pages 59-61.

<sup>23</sup> Information from Dr. Jones, Archivist, Balliol College, Oxford. Neither his name, nor a death notice appears in the *London and Provincial Medical Directories* for 1847, 1848 or 1849, nor is there an obituary notice in any issues of the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* published during this period.

<sup>24</sup> Gordon-Taylor, G. and Walls, E.W. (1958). *Sir Charles Bell: His Life and Times.* Edinburgh & London: E. & S. Livingstone; Anon (1963-64). Bell, Sir Charles (1774-1842). *Dictionary of National Biography*, 2, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 154-7. Sir Charles Bell was born on 8 November 1774. He became a distinguished anatomist, surgeon, physiologist and artist. He was knighted with the KH (in the Guelphic Order of Hanover) in 1830 to celebrate the accession of William IV. In 1836 he was appointed Professor of Surgery in the University of Edinburgh. He died on 28 April 1842 at Hallow Park in Worcestershire. He married Marion, second daughter of Charles Shaw Esq. of Ayr, "and their marriage was one of perfect happiness." She was born in 1788 and married him on 3 June 1811, but there were no children of the marriage. She died on 9 November 1876.

<sup>25</sup> Christison was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. From 1868-73, he was President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. For additional information, see: Anon (1882). Obituary: Sir Robert Christison, Bart.,

M.D., LL.D., D.C.L. *The Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 27, 852-63; Anon (1963-64). Christison, Sir Robert, M.D. (1797-1882). *Dictionary of National Biography* 4, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 290-1.

<sup>26</sup> See: Anon (2004). Abercrombie, John (1780-1844), physician. *Dictionary of National Biography* 1. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 77-8 [Author: Hervey, N]; see also: Gray J (*op. cit.* ref. 2), footnote on page 166.

<sup>27</sup> Anon (2004). Balfour, John Hutton (1808-1884), botanist. *Dictionary of National Biography* 3. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 539 [Author: Omond, G.W.T., revised by Matthew, H.C.G.].

<sup>28</sup> See: Venn, J.A. (1944). *Alumni Cantabrigienses: A biographical list of all known students, graduates and holders of office at the University of Cambridge from the earliest times to 1900.* Part II (from 1752 to 1900). In 6 Volumes. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Volume II, 259.

<sup>29</sup> Tanner has suggested that some individuals did not take the full medical degree on account of the expense, but qualified therefor. Most of the Cambridge Degrees and Licences at that time were earned by study, residence, and examination. Day's Licentiate in Medicine must have been awarded in one of these categories. It is unclear whether the medical course he pursued in Edinburgh allowed him to receive this *Licence to Practice* without taking the Cambridge medical examinations. See: Tanner, J.R. (1917). *The Historical Register of the University of Cambridge: being a supplement to the Calendar with a record of University Offices, honours and distinctions to the year 1910.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 344-5.

<sup>30</sup> Anon (2004). Day, George Edward (1815-72), physician. *Dictionary of National Biography* 15. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 582-3 [Author: Anon., revised by Bevan, M].

<sup>31</sup> Anon (2004). Giraud, Herbert John (1817-1888) surgeon and botanist. *Dictionary of National Biography* 22. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 343 [Author: Bettany, G.T., revised by Reznick, J.S.].

<sup>32</sup> For further details, see: Kaufman, M.H. (2004). Peter David Handyside's diploma as Senior President of the Royal Medical Society. *Res Medica* 268 (1), 23-6.

<sup>33</sup> Anon (2004). Jameson, Robert (1774-1854), geologist and natural historian. *Dictionary of National Biography* 29. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 763-4 [Author: Dean, D.R.].

<sup>34</sup> Apart from his father, Dr. David MacLagan, he is the only individual to date to have been elected President of both the RCS Edin. and the RCP Edin. He was elected to these two offices in 1859-60 and in 1884-7, respectively.

<sup>35</sup> Anon (2004). Reid, David Boswell (1805-1863), physician and inventor of ventilation systems. *Dictionary of National Biography* 46. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 382 [Author: Millar, A.H., revised by Harrington, R.]. He supervised the installation of the ventilation systems in a number of public buildings, including the new Houses of Parliament, in Westminster. For additional information, see: Reid, H. (1863). *Memoir of the late David Boswell Reid M.D., F.R.S.E., etc.* Edinburgh: R. Grant & Son; London: Simpkin, Marshall, & Co. (35 pp.).

<sup>36</sup> Anon (2004). Reid, John (1809-49), anatomist and pathologist. *Dictionary of National Biography* 46. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 399 [Author: Pennington, C.].

<sup>37</sup> Anon (2004). Simpson, Sir James Young, first baronet (1811-1870), physician and obstetrician. *Dictionary of National Biography* 50. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 695-7 [Author: Nicolson, M.]; for a biography of both Simpson and Syme, see: Shepherd, J.A. (1969). *Simpson and Syme of Edinburgh.* Edinburgh & London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd.

<sup>38</sup> Anon (2004). Syme, James (1799-1870), surgeon. *Dictionary of National Biography* 53. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 576 [Author: Nicolson, M.].

<sup>39</sup> Anon (2004). Thomson, Allen (1809-1884), anatomist and embryologist. *Dictionary of National Biography* 54. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 486-8 [Author: Beaton, J.].

<sup>40</sup> Anon (2004). Traill, Thomas Stewart (1781-1862), physician and specialist in medical jurisprudence. *Dictionary of National Biography* 55. Oxford: University Press, 217-8 [Author: White, B.M.].

<sup>41</sup> For further details on the activities and locations of the various Extra-mural Medical Schools in Edinburgh at that time, see: Kaufman, M.H. (2003). *Medical education in Edinburgh during the 18th and 19th centuries.* Edinburgh: Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

<sup>42</sup> This Diploma is engraved on parchment, and measures 23 inches in width x 32.375 inches in length.

<sup>43</sup> Anon (2004). Goodsir, John (1814-1867), anatomist. *Dictionary of National Biography* 22. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 809-11 [Author: Baston, K.G.]. For the definitive biography and notice of his research and publications, see: Turner, W. (Editor) (1868). *The Anatomical Memoirs of John Goodsir F.R.S. with a Biographical Memoir by Henry Lonsdale, M.D.* 2 Volumes. Edinburgh: Adam & Charles Black [Biography, Volume 1, 1-203]. It is also of interest to note that one of the obituary notices for John Goodsir was written by John Hutton Balfour. See: Balfour, J.H. (1867). *Obituary Notice of Professor John Goodsir*. Edinburgh: Neill & Co. (11 pp., from the *Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh*, Volume 9, 1866-67).

<sup>44</sup> Anon (2004). Lonsdale, Henry (1816-1876), physician and biographer. *Dictionary of National Biography* 34. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 417 [Author: Goodwin, G., revised by Wallis, P.]. In addition to writing the biography section of Turner's volume on Goodsir, published shortly after Goodsir's death (see: Turner, *ibid.*), he also wrote, amongst other biographies, the definitive biography of Dr. Robert Knox. See: Lonsdale, H. (1870). *A Sketch of the Life and Writings of Robert Knox the Anatomist. By His Pupil and Colleague*. London: Macmillan & Co.

<sup>45</sup> Anon (2004). Alison, William Pulteney (1790-1859), physician and social reformer. *Dictionary of National Biography* 1. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 744-7 [Author: Jacyna, L.S.].

<sup>46</sup> Anon (2004). Ballingall, Sir George (1780-1855), military surgeon and medical writer. *Dictionary of National Biography* 3. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 596-7 [Author: Peers, D.M.]. For definitive information on his immediate family history and his date of birth, see: Scott, H. (1926). 'Robert Ballingall.' In: *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae: The Succession of Ministers in the Church of Scotland from the Reformation. No. 6. Synods of Aberdeen and Moray*. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd, 252. He was born on 2 May 1786, not in 1780 as indicated in the *Dictionary of National Biography*; see also: Kaufman, M.H. (2003). *The Regius Chair of Military Surgery in the University of Edinburgh – 1806-55*. Amsterdam: Rodopi B.V.

<sup>47</sup> Anon (2004). Graham, Robert (1786-1845), physician and botanist. *Dictionary of National Biography* 23. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 233 [Author: McConnell, A.].

