

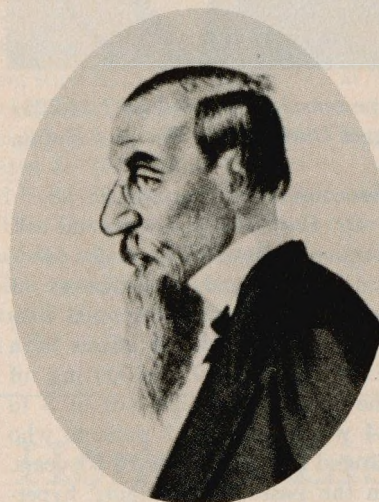
THE UNIVERSAL SPECIALIST

■ Sir William Osler once said: "When anything turns up which is anomalous or peculiar . . . I tell my students to turn to the volumes of Mr. Hutchinson's *Archives of Surgery*." The ten volumes of the *Archives*, called a "museum of rare diseases," were written single-handedly by Sir Jonathan Hutchinson, who was born on July 23, 1828, and earned the reputation of "the universal specialist." A dermatologist, venereologist, ophthalmologist, neurologist, and internist, he was professor at the Royal College of Surgeons and president of virtually every important medical society in England.

Chiefly remembered as a syphilologist, he examined more than a million luetic patients, published a comprehensive text on the disease, described the triad of pegged teeth, interstitial keratitis, and ear drum sclerosis in congenital syphilis and the mask-like expression often seen in patients with *tabes dorsalis*. Other "hutchinsonian" signs and disorders are the peculiar facies of patients with ophthalmoplegia externa, the unequal pupils diagnostic of meningeal hemorrhage, and several skin diseases. Hutchinson described sarcoidosis, which he named "Mortimer's malady" for a patient and was one of the first to cite tobacco as a cause of amblyopia. With Hastings Gilford in 1904 he linked the premature senility of progeria to a pituitary lesion.

Hutchinson founded the New Sydenham Society, serving as secretary for almost 50 years, and held appointments in his various specialties at Blackfriars Skin Hospital, Moorfields Eye Hospital, Lock, London Chest, Metropolitan, and London hospitals. As editor of the *British Medical Journal*, he published essays on hospital architecture, public health, medical reforms, over-population, malthusianism, pediculosis, and the arts. His work and 1200 publications covered such a wide range it was said

"his study was the whole of Medicine as Bacon's was the whole of Nature." Although famous for his prodigious clinical knowledge, Hutchinson was criticized for attributing leprosy to badly cured fish and for holding to his theory even after *Mycobacterium leprae*



Sir Jonathan Hutchinson

was shown to be the etiological agent.

Yorkshireman. The second son in the family of 12 children of an affluent Quaker flax merchant in Selby, Yorkshire, Jonathan Hutchinson received his early education from governesses and attended a local school. In 1845 he was apprenticed to surgeon-apothecary-preacher Caleb Williams and while assisting his preceptor the youth studied the classics and prepared résumés of sermons. In the last two years of his apprenticeship he attended lectures at the small York School of Medicine and Surgery and in 1849 he proceeded to London to study at St. Bartholomew's Hospital under James Paget.

By the time he was 24, Hutchinson published an unsigned description of gonorrheal and luetic iritis and after serving a clinical assistantship at Liverpool Chest Hospital he hung up his shingle in 1856.

Two years later, reporting on the teeth associated with "heredotrophic syphilitic struma" he said that he had only seen girls with the "taint" and suspected that "a larger number of male conceptions end in abortion."

Initially Hutchinson did not think that syphilis could be acquired through arm-to-arm vaccination against smallpox, but he was called to investigate when leucic symptoms appeared in 10 of 12 persons who were inoculated by a young student with material from an infant's variola vesicles. The baby seemed healthy but Hutchinson discovered a telltale condyloma and thereafter he vigorously insisted that vaccination should not be compulsory "unless we have done everything in our power to make it safe."

Known as the greatest generalist and most prolific contributor to medicine in his time, Hutchinson differentiated rheumatoid from osteoarthritis, recognized several types of lupus and the tendency of patients with Graves' disease to recover. He reported on psittacosis, constrictive pericarditis, esophageal varices in patients with liver cirrhosis and concluded that in herpes zoster infections the cornea and globe would escape injury if the nasal branch of the ophthalmic nerve was not involved.

In addition to his busy practice and teaching Hutchinson was active in London medical affairs and many professional associations. He was president of the Hunterian Society and one of the three annual addresses he delivered as president of the Royal College of Surgeons compared Hunter and Aristotle.

A great admirer of Hunter, Hutchinson emulated his hero not only in studying the natural phenomena of a broad range of diseases, but also in rising early and collecting specimens. At "Inval," his beautiful estate in Haslemere, Surrey, he established a museum of stuffed

animals, birds, flowers, fossils, geological specimens, pictures of historic events and famous people and wrote long descriptive labels for each exhibit. He employed an artist to illustrate his texts and assembled a remarkable collection of drawings that he offered to the Royal College of Surgeons in 1891. Since the College did not have space for the collection, Hutchinson later gave it to the short-lived Medical Graduate College and Polyclinic, which he founded. After his death the 10,000 illustrations were purchased for £ 80 at auction by Osler for Johns Hopkins.

Homelife. Hutchinson, his wife, who was Jean Pynsent West before their marriage in 1865, their six sons and four daughters had a fine town house on Cavendish Square and their Haslemere estate included a working farm with barns, livestock pens, and a well-equipped dairy. On visits to Inval, the physician enjoyed riding, hunting, swimming in a cold pool, and

roaming the countryside. He was familiar with the local geology, wild flowers and birds, once noted a "stuttering cuckoo" in the area, called a guest's attention to the habits of spittle bugs and remarked that nature "is truly feminine... so variable, so varying."

He built or renovated several houses in Surrey and planted many trees and once told a friend that he had done the three things that Buddha said were best: "Build houses, plant trees and beget male children."

On weekends Hutchinson frequently gave talks to fellow Quakers at their meetinghouse. He had a lifelong friendship with his Yorkshire compatriot, neurologist John Hughlings Jackson, and he was often visited by Osler who was descended from the American branch of the Hutchinsons of Lincolnshire and may have been a distant relative of his medical colleague.

Elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1882 and knighted in 1908,

Sir Jonathan received honorary degrees from the universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Leeds, Cambridge, and Oxford. He was a corresponding member of the Paris Society of Surgery, an honorary member of the New York Dermatological Society, and president of the International Dermatology Congress in 1896.

After his death at Inval on June 23, 1913, Hutchinson's gravestone at Haslemere was inscribed, according to his wish: "A Man of Hope and Forward-Looking Mind." His son Jonathan followed his father as surgeon to the London Hospital; Roger Jackson practiced at Haslemere; Herbert became an architect; and Proctor, a laryngologist, predeceased his father.

Some modern physicians have said that Hutchinson has been neglected but others still turn to the distinguished generalist's *Archives* for guidance and in 1971 two volumes of *Birth Defects* were dedicated to "the universal specialist."

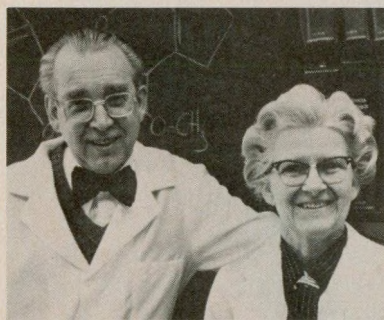
MD's Honors List

The 1978 Lilly Award for outstanding research in diabetes was presented to **Dr. Dennis McGarry**, professor of internal medicine and biochemistry at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Dallas, during last month's meeting of the American Diabetes Association. Dr. McGarry was cited for his studies on the mechanism of ketone production in starvation and in diabetes.

The International Academy of Chest Physicians and Surgeons at a world congress held in Kyoto, Japan, last week honored four physicians: **Professor Jiri Widimsky**, head of medicine at the Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine in Prague; **Dr. Dwight C. McGoon**, chief of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at the Mayo Clinic; **Dr. Henry Herzog**, director of the division of respiratory diseases at the University of Basel, and **Dr. Hamao Umezawa**, director of Tokyo's Institute of Microbial Chemistry.

Nobel laureate **Dr. Rosalyn Yalow** of the Bronx Veterans Administration Hospital recently received the Elizabeth Blackwell Medal.

The first annual Bristol-Myers



Award for Distinguished Achievement in Cancer Research was recently presented to **Drs. James and Elizabeth Miller**, professors of oncology at the University of Wisconsin's McArdle Laboratory. The husband and wife biochemists, who have been major contributors in the field of carcinogenesis for more than 30 years identified the mechanism by which relatively harmless

compounds are converted to cancer-causing agents and showed the influence of one carcinogen on the metabolism of another. The Millers have also found that the incidence of tumors in rats can be reduced by flooding the target cells of a carcinogen with chemicals that react with and inhibit "the ultimate carcinogen."

For his contribution to a better understanding of the body's absorption processes, **Dr. John M. Dietsch**, professor of internal medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, won the American Gastroenterological Association's Distinguished Achievement Award at the recent meeting in Las Vegas.

Dr. Paul Talalay, professor of pharmacology and experimental therapeutics at Johns Hopkins University and a pioneer in research on steroid enzymology recently received the 1978 International "La Madonnina" Award of the City of Milan.