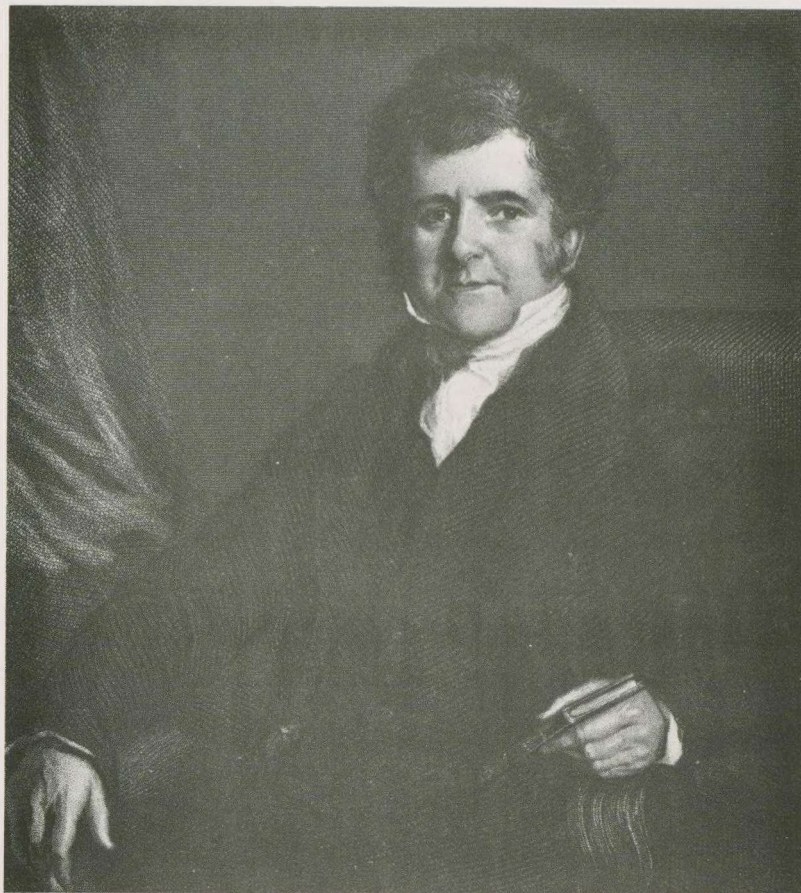


RICHARD BRIGHT (1789-1858)

The early nineteenth century was an exciting period in medicine. Owing to the works of French anatomists such as Xavier Bichat, J.N. Corvisart and R.T.H. Laennec, physicians began realizing the significance of pathological anatomy for clinical medicine. It is in this light that one can better appreciate Richard Bright's works in medicine. Educated at the University of Edinburgh, Bright accepted an appointment as assistant physician at Guy's Hospital in 1820. For the next two decades he engaged in extensive clinical research and pathological investigations.

Bright's best known contribution to medicine was his work on kidney disease. In his Reports of Medical Cases (1827), he identified a disease pattern that tied together albuminous urine, dropsy during life and anatomical changes found in the kidneys at postmortem. White clouds in the urine had been reported by Hippocrates; a fifteenth-century Italian surgeon, Saliceto, had associated dropsy with scanty urine and hardened kidneys; and W.C. Wells and J. Blacknall had linked dropsy with albuminous urine early in the century. But Bright was the first to correlate these symptoms with the glomerular lesion which he found in many postmortems (Bright's disease).

Bright's investigations were not limited to the kidneys but embraced cirrhosis of the liver, chronic peritonitis, whooping cough, and various diseases of the pancreas and the nervous system. He was instrumental in popularizing the concept of bedside teaching at Guy's Hospital. Due to his efforts, the Hospital set aside special wards for clinical research. Bright could proudly declare in 1837 that the three months each student spent in the clinical wards were "the most profitable portion of his medical education."



T. R. Bay

H. Cook

RICHARD BRIGHT, M.D. F.R.S.

Physician Extraordinary to the Queen.

Richard Bright.

Moody Medical Library is the first medical library I've known to have such a monthly publication and I enjoy it very much.

I use it in teaching to demonstrate the type of publication which is useful and good P.R.

I particularly enjoy the cover designs--Jody Armand has done very well.

An outstanding publication. It is circulated to the Health Professions Office staff and then placed in our reference collection for student use. We particularly enjoy the historical articles and the magnificent cover illustrations.

In sum, the results indicate that the Bookman serves a useful purpose in acquainting the UTMB faculty members, other libraries and individuals with the sources and services available in the Moody Medical Library. The Library staff very much appreciates the high rate of return on the questionnaires, and the enthusiastic response shown by our readers. The publication will continue to appear in the same format. The numerous suggestions received will be given serious consideration, as the staff plans for the future issues of the Bookman.

Inci A. Bowman, Ph.D.
History of Medicine Department