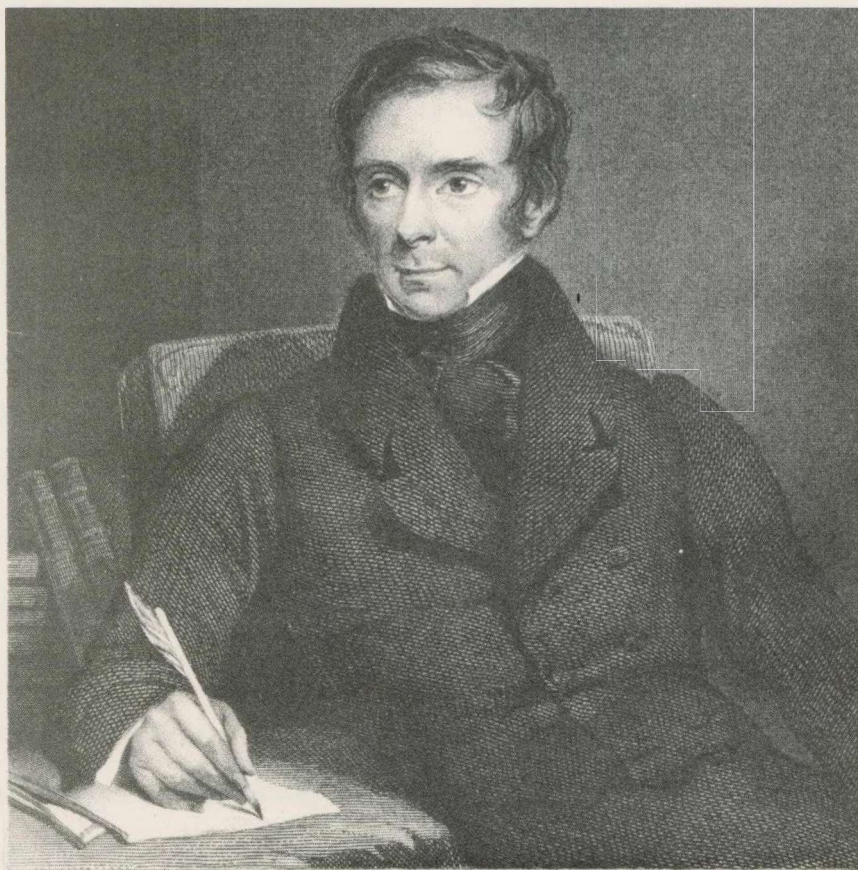


SIR BENJAMIN COLLINS BRODIE (1783-1862)

A leading figure of the medical profession in London for over thirty years, Benjamin Brodie gained distinction first by his physiological investigations. During 1810-1814, he produced several papers, significant at the time, on the influence of the brain on cardiac action, the toxic effects of certain plant products, and the influence of the nervous system on the production of animal heat. The period of physiological studies was followed by Brodie's investigations in surgery and pathological anatomy. He was particularly interested in diseases of the bones and joints. Two of the eponyms associated with Brodie refer to the articular system: 1) Brodie's abscess, a bone abscess, consists of a pus-filled cavity surrounded by a layer of dense fibrous tissue; 2) Brodie's knee, or Brodie's disease, is the chronic synovitis of the knee joint. Brodie's disease also refers to hysterical pseudo-fracture of the spine. In addition to his work on bone and joint diseases, Brodie described an operation for fistula in ano (Brodie's pile) and reported on chronic cystic mastitis (Brodie's tumor).

In 1819, Brodie became professor of comparative anatomy and physiology at the Royal College of Surgeons. He later served as president of this prestigious institution and as surgeon to the royal family. His long career was marked with a deep interest in hospital practice and clinical surgery. "During these thirty-two years the hospital, as far as my profession was concerned," he noted in his Autobiography, "was the greatest object of interest that I possessed.... My intercourse with the students, and, I may add, with the patients also, was always to me a source of real gratification;...."



H. RADE.

J. BARR.

SIR BENJAMIN COLLINS BRODIE, BART. F.R.S.

Surgeon-General to the Queen

B C Brodie