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Catalogue of papers and correspondence of

JOSHUA HAROLD BURN FRS

(1892 - 1981)

Compiled by:

Jeannine Alton and Peter Harper

Deposited in the Library for the History of Neuroscience in the
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DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

The material was received from Professor Edith Bülbring FRS, author with J.M. Walker of the Royal Society Memoir of Burn (Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society, 30, 1984).

It consists of material assembled by her for the Memoir and includes biographical recollections by Burn, colleagues and friends, some originals, some photocopies from various sources. Many of the documents bear her annotations or editorial indications for use in the Memoir.

The correspondence, though unfortunately very scanty, is of interest for its scientific content.

OUTLINE OF THE LIFE AND CAREER OF J.H. BURN

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1892 b. | Barnard Castle, Co. Durham |
| 1903-09 | Barnard Castle School |
| 1909-14 | Emmanuel College, Cambridge (Scholar) |
| 1912 | Natural Sciences Tripos |
| 1912-14 | First research with Barcroft and Hopkins |
| 1914 | January-October. Research at Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories at invitation of H.H. Dale |
| 1914-17 | War service in Signals Corps |
| 1917-20 | Medical studies at Guy's and Cambridge |
| 1920-25 | Research at Department of Pharmacology, National Institute for Medical Health (MRC) at invitation of H.H. Dale. Work on biological assay, insulin, autonomic nervous system |
| 1926-37 | Director of Pharmacological Laboratories at the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, later (1937) incorporated as the School of Pharmacy of the University of London. Work on biological assay, sympathetic nervous system |
| 1931 | Founder member, British Pharmacological Society |
| 1933 | Dean of College of Pharmacy |
| 1937-59 | Professor of Pharmacology, Oxford. Work on sympathetic vasodilators, adrenaline, noradrenaline, sympathomimetic amines, autonomic nervous system |
| 1959-68 | Visiting Professor in Pharmacology, Washington University, St. Louis |

SECTION A OBITUARIES AND TRIBUTES A.1 - A.8

Typescript drafts and/or published versions, by colleagues and friends. In alphabetical order.

- A.1 H.K.L. Blaschko. 3pp. typescript, for an Oxford public.
- A.2 E. Bülbring. Memoir, in collaboration with J.M. Walker, Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society, 30, 1984, 45-89. Author's proof with a few ms. corrections.
- A.3 A.F. Huxley. Letter from Royal Society, 1981, with an additional ms. note by Huxley.
- W.D.M. Paton. 3pp. typescript, for B.M.J. Printed tribute in Balliol Annual Record, which also includes tribute by P. Phizackerley.
- Pharmaceutical Society and Pharmaceutical Journal.
- A.4 H. Raskova. 2pp. typescript draft.
- U. Trendelenburg. 5pp. typescript draft. Published tribute in TIPS, using some of same material in shortened form.
- A.5 J.R. Vane. 13pp. typescript copy of address given at Memorial Service. Published tribute in Br.J.Pharmac., using some of same material.
- A.6 M. Vogt. 9pp. typescript draft. Printed tribute using some of same material.
- A.7 J.M. Walker. 'J.H. Burn's Eightieth Birthday', Br.J.Pharmac., 1973.
- A.8 Miscellaneous unsigned obituaries.

SECTION B AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL B.1 - B.8

- B.1 Autobiographical account of his life and research prepared by Burn. 26pp. typescript, n.d.
- B.2 Shorter autobiographical notes, 7pp. typescript, n.d., probably contemporary with B.1.
- B.3 Material compiled by W.F. Bynum (Wellcome Institute for History of Medicine), 1980. Photocopies of originals held at Institute.
- Includes:
- 4pp. ms. and typescript autobiographical notes.
- 4pp. list of 'Workers in Oxford Pharmacology 1937-59'.
- 3pp. 'List of workers in Pharmacology(Oxford) 1938-69', and including 'J.H. Burn Fellows', 1961-74.
- B.4 Transcripts of recorded interview of Burn by E. Bülbring, pp.1-11, pp.12-24. With several corrections and many underscorings by Bülbring.
- B.5 Material relating to British Pharmacological Society.
- Burn was an 'Original Member', having been present at the first meeting of the Society at Oxford in 1931, reading a paper on 'Is cocaine a sympathetic stimulant?'
- Copy of 'A History of the British Pharmacological Society 1931-1981' by W.F. Bynum, sent with a covering letter to E. Bülbring, and with annotations by her.
- B.6, B.7 Material relating to Pharmaceutical Society.
- B.6 Miscellaneous photocopies, mainly relating to Burn's lecturing and teaching work during his period as Director of the Society's Pharmacological Laboratories.
- Includes Burn's preface to his book Recent Advances in Materia Medica, 1932 (based on lectures given at the Society); Burn's article 'The outlook for pharmaceutical students' (Pharm.J., 131, 1933); Burn's letter to Academic Board of the Society, January 1933, regretting

Continued

Autobiographical and biographical

- B.6 (Cont'd.) he has few opportunities to teach, and their reply; prefaces to various editions of *The biological standardisation of the vitamins*, by Katharine Coward, a long-term collaborator of Burn, in which she acknowledges his work on the subject.
- B.7 'Memoirs of a 20th century druggist', by C.W. Robinson, 1983. Miscellaneous typescript and printed extracts and reviews of book. Robinson came to work at the Pharmaceutical Society in 1933 when Burn had just been appointed dean.
- B.8 Annual Reports, Department of Pharmacology, Oxford, 1940-59.

SECTION C CORRESPONDENCE C.1 - C.4

- C.1 Büllbring, E. various dates 1964-75
- Letters, press-cuttings and miscellaneous information on miscellaneous topics of research, especially on 'cholinergic link' and release of noradrenaline and acetylcholine. Correspondence 1964 encloses copy of a letter to Dale; correspondence 1967 encloses copy of a letter to Kushinsky.
- C.2 Cannon, W.B. 1933
- One letter only.
- C.3 Dale, H.H. 1933, 1935
- Letter 1933 suggests research on sympathetic cholinergic effect. Letter 1935 discusses article by Burn on 'Ergometrine'.
- C.4 Linstead, H.N. 1975
- Account of the circumstances leading to the setting-up of the Pharmacological Laboratories in 1926, to which Burn was appointed as first Director. Appended is Burn's own ms. and typescript account using the material in Linstead's letter.