

Catalogue of the papers and correspondence of

Edward George Tandy Liddell FRS

(1895-1981)

Mainly relating to

Sir Charles Scott Sherrington FRS

(1857-1952)

by Jeannine Alton and Peter Harper

CSAC catalogue no. 103/7/84

Title: Catalogue of the papers and correspondence of Edward George Tandy Liddell FRS (1895-1981), physiologist, mainly relating to Sir Charles Scott Sherrington FRS (1857-1952)

Compiled by: Jeannine Alton and Peter Harper

Description level: Fonds

Date of material: ca 1920s-1962

Extent of material: 2 boxes, ca 45 items

Deposited in: Library for the History of Neuroscience, Sherrington Room, University Laboratory of Physiology, Oxford

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INTRODUCTION

PROVENANCE

This small collection of material was received from Professor C.G. Phillips, FRS, author of the Memoir of Liddell (Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society, 29, 1983).

DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

As an undergraduate at Oxford during the First World War, Liddell fell under the spell of C.S. Sherrington, then Waynflete Professor of Physiology, and later began his research career as Sherrington's assistant. It is material reflecting the connection with Sherrington and the great admiration which Liddell had for Sherrington's contribution to physiology that predominates in the collection. The most substantial body of material relates to writings and lectures on Sherrington and his place in the history of physiology, which occupied Liddell in the years following Sherrington's death in 1952 and which culminated in the publication of The Discovery of Reflexes in 1960. There is correspondence requesting information from colleagues and others, manuscript and typescript drafts, often very heavily corrected, and Liddell's background notes drawn from classic nineteenth-century physiology texts.

There are two further groups of material of considerable interest: teaching material used in the Physiology Department at Oxford in the 1920s (lesson plans and instructions for practical classes, some of which are in Sherrington's hand) and a detailed record of the 1929-30 'knee-jerk' series of experiments on which Liddell collaborated with J.F. Fulton and D. Rioch.

The very small correspondence section includes one late (1946) letter from Sherrington.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are grateful to Professor C.G. Phillips for making the material available, and for information and help in identifying some of the documents and correspondence.

SUMMARY OF CAREER OF E.G.T. LIDDELL

b.1895	Harrogate
1914-18	Trinity College, Oxford
1918	Assistant, Serum Department, Lister Institute
1918	Senior Demyship, Magdalen College, Oxford
1921	B.M. Oxford
1921-40	Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford and University Lecturer in Physiology
1939	FRS
1940-60	Waynflete Professor of Physiology and Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford
1960	Professor Emeritus

For a detailed biographical account see the memoir by C.G. Phillips (Biographical
Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society, 29, 1983).

SECTION B WRITINGS AND LECTURES ON SHERRINGTON B.1 - B.36

- B.1 Note on Sherrington for British Medical Bulletin, 1952.

Brief correspondence and 2pp. ms. draft.
- B.2 'Cajal and Sherrington'. In Lectures on the scientific basis of
medicine, vol.6, 1956.

Ms. draft paginated 0-38, with intercalated pages.
- B.3 20pp. typescript draft written in 1957, Sherrington's centenary
year, probably for lecture or lectures.

The section titles are:

 'Histology 1800-1865'

 'Deiters, A Forgotten Histologist'

 'Golgi and Cajal: The whole structure of the nerve cell'

 'Sherrington: The Function of the Neurone'

Ms. draft of the same. The original title of the first section was
'Histology Before Cajal'.
- B.4 Article on Sherrington for Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1958.

Brief correspondence and 2pp. typescript draft.
- B.5-B.35 'The discovery of reflexes', 1960.
- B.5 Brief correspondence with the Clarendon Press, Oxford, including
initial request for Liddell to write on Sherrington's scientific
work (1954).

Folder also includes letter from reader (1962), commenting on the
published work.

Writings and lectures on Sherrington

- B.6-B.8 Correspondence, 1954-59, re information for book, arranged alphabetically.
- B.6 A - G
- B.7 H - M
- B.8 P - W
- B.9 Publisher's blurb and ms. and typescript drafts of preface, heavily annotated and corrected.
- B.10, B.11 Chapter 1
- B.10 Early ms. draft, paginated 1-24, with intercalated pages; heavily annotated and corrected.
- B.11 Typescript and ms. draft, paginated 1-43, with intercalated pages; heavily annotated and corrected.
- B.12 Chapter 2
- Ms. drafts, variously paginated; heavily annotated and corrected.
- B.13 Chapter 4
- 2pp. ms. and typescript draft, heavily corrected.
- B.14-B.29 Background material for book, arranged alphabetically by authority or source.
- B.14 Auerbach, L.
- Bell, C.
- B.15 Bence Jones, H.
- Bernard, C.
- B.16 Cajal, S.R.y.
- Clarke, J.A. Lockhart

Writings and lectures on Sherrington

- B.17 Deiters, O.F.K.
 du Bois-Reymond, E.
 Dutrochet, R.J.H.
- B.18 Ehrenberg, C.G.
 Forel, O.
 Foster, M.
- B.19 Galvani, A.L.
 van Gehuchten, A.
- B.20 Goltz, F.L.
 Grainger, R.D.
- B.21 Hall, M.
 Hannover, A.
- B.22 von Kölliker, R.A.
- B.23 Longet, F.A.
- B.24 Ludwig, C.
 Marey, E. J.
 Matteucci, C.
- B.25 Müller, J.P.
 Pflüger, E.F.W.
 Purkyně, J.E.
- B.26 Richet, C.
 Schiff, M.
 Setschenow, I.M.
- B.27 Sherrington, C.S.

Writings and lectures on Sherrington

- B.28 Stirling, W.
 Todd, R.B.
- B.29 Vulpian, E.F.A.
 Whytt, R.
- B.30-B.35 Background material for book, arranged alphabetically by subject.
- B.30 'Animal electricity'
 'Autonomic n.s.'
- B.31 'Brain'
- B.32 'Crossed effects'
 'Flexors and Extensors'
 'Muscle sense'
- B.33 'Nerve cell'
- B.34 'Peripheral nerves'
 'Reflex'
- B.35 'Seat of soul'
 'Spinal roots'
- B.36 Undated lecture notes.

 Ms. notes for lecture in which Liddell sought to place the advances
 made by Sherrington in their historical context.

 Ms. notes, on the back of two envelopes, for lecture on Sherrington
 and Cajal.

SECTION C CORRESPONDENCE C.1

C.1 Miscellaneous correspondence, various dates, 1946 - 60.

Includes letter from Sherrington, 1946, with advice about Belgian and French scientists in connection with a congress organised by Liddell, and letter from Sir Herbert Parsons to Sir Francis Walshe, 1957, re a memorial to Sherrington.

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