

Proceedings of the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine

7. Flamingo, *A shorter and truer advertisement by way of supplement to what was published the 7th instant or, Dr. Douglas in an extasy at Lacey's Bagnio, December 4th, 1726*, London, 1727.
8. *Lond. Mag.*, April, 1735.
9. Robert Nesbitt, *Human osteogeny explained in two lectures*, London, 1736.
10. Joseph Hurlock, *Practical treatise on dentition or the breeding of teeth in children*, London, 1742.
11. J. B. Winslow, *An anatomical exposition of the structure of the human body*, trans. from the French by G. Douglas, London, 1733.
12. Borge Holmberg, *James Douglas on English pronunciation (c. 1740)*, Lund, 1956.
13. James Douglas, *Catalogus editionum quinti Horatii Flacci ab an 1476 ad an. 1739, quae in bibliotheca Jacobi Douglas ad servantur*, London, 1739.
14. Royal Society, L.-P. 1, 69.
15. Aston Warner, *Observations on Dr. Littlejohn's proposal to the Right Honorable the Lords of the Admiralty for the effectual cure of such seamen belonging to the Navy as may have ruptures*, London, 1734.

THE SEVENTY-THIRD ORDINARY MEETING

The Seventy-Third Ordinary Meeting of the Society was held at East Kilbride where an address was given by Professor George Shepperson, and thereafter a visit was paid to the Livingstone Memorial at Blantyre. The following is a summary of Professor Shepperson's paper which was entitled:

DOCTOR DAVID LIVINGSTONE

The paper, read on the occasion of the centenary of David Livingstone's death in what is now the independent African country of Zambia, was divided into three sections.

The first part was devoted to Livingstone the doctor. He was, and is, invariably known as "Dr. Livingstone". Undoubtedly this usage owed much to Livingstone's medical abilities and reputation. It has been claimed that he was the first person to practise medicine in south central Africa, and only the second medical missionary in the whole of Africa. These features of Livingstone's career have been described by Professor Michael Gelfand (*Livingstone, the doctor*, Oxford, 1957; "Livingstone's contributions to Malawi: Some aspects of the medical factor", in *Livingstone—man of Africa*, ed. by B. Pachai, London, Longmans, 1973, pp. 175–190), and discussed by Professor Shepperson himself (*Br. med. J.*, 1973, ii: 232–234). But the "Doctor" element in Livingstone's remarkable story also owed much to its popularization by Henry M. Stanley after his famous first encounter with the great explorer on 10 November 1871, and to its role as an indication of social status.

The second part of the address was a general description and discussion of the significance of Livingstone's life. Drawing heavily on his already published works on Livingstone ("David Livingstone the Scot", *Scottish Historical Review*, 1960, 39: 113–121; *David Livingstone and the Rovuma*, Edinburgh University Press, 1965; "Livingstone and the years of preparation, 1813–1857", in *Livingstone—man of Africa*, op. cit., pp. 7–28; and "David Livingstone 1813–1873—a centenary assessment", *Geog. J.*, 1973, 139, 205–219), Professor Shepperson showed him as a man of

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many talents, amongst which the medical factor was a distinct but not predominant element. Livingstone was typical of the many-sided Scot of his period who gave so much to the world.

The third section of the address examined briefly the Livingstone legend. This had recently been given some hard knocks by Tim Jeal in his *Livingstone* (London, Heinemann, 1973). Although Professor Shepperson was critical of many aspects of Jeal's biography, he could not help wondering whether the essential toughness, dedication, technical and scientific sides of Livingstone's career, in and out of Africa, were not disguised by some of the over-sentimental and unduly sanctifying features of the Scottish National Memorial to Livingstone which was opened in 1929 on the site of his birth at Blantyre, Lanarkshire. Professor Shepperson, however, paid tribute to the Memorial's good work in preserving the old house where Livingstone was born and in assembling under one roof many important records and relics of the explorer's life which would otherwise have been lost. It was highly appropriate that the Society should visit the Memorial on this the centenary year of Livingstone's death.

The address was concluded with a reference to an unpublished letter by Sir Harry H. Johnston, first British Commissioner and Consul General in what is now Malawi, the African country to which Livingstone's life, example and legend have contributed so much, and which, through him and other Scots who followed in his footsteps, has close connections with Scotland. Writing on 31 March 1913, to a Mr. Hooper, Sir Harry Johnston declared, "David Livingstone was a man who viewed Africa with a Twentieth Century mind, who leapt seventy years ahead of his generation. He read God's writing in the greatest of all Bibles, the book of the earth itself. His aims, his work, his opinions, his dedications concerned themselves alike to the circumscribed faith and hope of the Nineteenth Century divine and to the judgement and the imagination and the religion of the Twentieth Century philosopher." The original letter is in the archives of the Royal Commonwealth Society, London.

This meeting at East Kilbride and Blantyre brought to a close the Society's session for 1972-73.

T. R. R. Todd, *President*. H. P. Tait, *Joint Honorary Secretary*.