

CHRISTINE J. HILLAM (1941-2000)

Dr Christine Hillam, who died on 24 January 2000, served the Society as secretary or secretary/treasurer 1987-1992, as chairman 1994-1998, and as editor or co-editor of the *Medical Historian* – which she founded in 1988 – for most of the years up to her death. Her career began as a teacher of French and Latin, but after her marriage to David Hillam, a dentist, and their removal from Tyneside to Birmingham and then Liverpool, she developed an interest in the history of dentistry, a subject on which she became an acknowledged authority. Beginning by translating Latin theses which included references to dental and medically-related topics, she went on to publish, from 1977, more than thirty articles and notes, as well as editing half a dozen collections of pieces by others. In 1991 she published a full-length study of the first century of professional dental practice outside London, this being an update of her doctoral thesis, and thereafter, using her continental connections, she assembled and edited an international history of dentistry by various contributors, a work she completed while seriously ill. As an Honorary Research Fellow of the University of Liverpool Department of Clinical Dental Sciences, she threw her energies not only into the LMHS but served further afield, in the 1990s being vice-chairman, then chairman of the Lindsay Society, the historical society of the British Dental Association, and editor of its journal 1994-1998. She was at the height of her intellectual powers when she became ill, but was sustained to work on, up to the end, by her strong character and the devoted support of David.

In a wide range of social interests she was a kindly, thoughtful and supportive teacher, or adviser, or co-worker, or confidante. Within the society she set an example of quiet efficiency. For instance, before the annual conference, the speakers would be invited to a meeting where the boundaries of their talks would be briskly but cheerfully considered, ensuring interaction but no overlapping. She was always at hand to assist and encourage colleagues, and those who worked closest with her held her in affectionate respect, as a friend. At the regular meetings she went out of her way to give a warm welcome to all attending, both members and newcomers, and to inquire about their concerns and interests. We deeply regret her passing.

J.H-J.

P.E.H.H.