Obituaries

SIR WILLIAM PATON
(1917–1993)

Sir William Paton, FRS, Honorary Director of the Wellcome Institute from 1983 to 1987, and a member of the Editorial Board of this journal for the past decade, died on 17 October 1993, aged 76.

Bill Paton’s principal career was in experimental pharmacology, and from his student days he was marked for distinction. He took first class honours at Oxford University and won gold medals during his clinical training at University College Hospital. He was a Reader at the age of 35, a Professor two years later, and a Fellow of the Royal Society before he was 40. He returned to Oxford as Professor of Pharmacology in 1959, retiring in 1984. His pioneering research on the drug therapy of hypertension, the pathophysiology and treatment of diving sickness, the pharmacology of smooth muscle relaxants and a number of other topics will ensure his place in the history of twentieth-century medical science. He also collected committees like some people collect postage stamps or old coins, sitting (by his own count) on seventy-two, as chairman of many of them. For much of his later career, he spent almost as much time in London as he did in Oxford, though he still managed to run a large and productive Department of Pharmacology in Oxford.

It was his appointment as a Wellcome Trustee in 1978 which led ultimately to his happy association with the Institute. Even before then, British historians of science and medicine had reason to appreciate him. He encouraged the Royal Society to take seriously its responsibilities in the history of science, editing (with Professor R. V. Jones) Notes and records of the Royal Society for more than two decades and serving on the British National Committee for the History of Science, Medicine and Technology for almost as long. As chairman of the BNCHSMT, he worked effectively to increase representation on it of professional historical groups and to encourage high standards in the discipline.

His own historical interests were manifested in his superb library, choice volumes from which have come to the Wellcome Institute; in his generous endowment of historical funds in the Physiological Society and British Pharmacological Society; and in several papers and lectures and the historical sense which permeated his last book, Man and mouse, the second edition of which appeared shortly before his death.

Although his brief period as Honorary Director of the Wellcome Institute was marred by his declining health, it was a happy time in the Institute’s history. He identified with the Institute and its staff and aided its development. During the “Paton years”, the daily running of the Institute was the responsibility of a trio of Eric Freeman, Steve Emberton and Bill Bynum. When Bill Paton was too unwell to come to London, committee meetings were held in his house in Oxford, where the high point was tea with Bill and Phoebe.

W. F. Bynum
Veteran Palestinian peace negotiator Saeb Erekat dies at 65. Saeb Erekat, a veteran peace negotiator and prominent international spokesman for the Palestinians for more than three decades, died Tuesday, weeks after being infected by the coronavirus. He was 65. The American-educated Erekat was involved in nearly every round of peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians going back to the landmark Madrid conference in 1991, when he famously showed up draped in a black-and-white checkered keffiyeh, a symbol of Palestinian nationalism. Maria Sklodowska Curie died in 1934 from radiation sickness. Her laboratory notebooks still retain a high level of radioactivity. In honor of the Curie spouses, an artificially obtained chemical element with the serial number 96 was named - Curium Cm. Born in Warsaw (1867â€“1934). She graduated from the University of Paris (1895). Since 1895, she worked at the School of Industrial Physics and Chemistry in the laboratory of her husband P. Curie. In the years 1900-1906, taught at the Sevres Normal School, since 1906 - professor at the University of Paris. Since 1914, she headed the chemical department of the Radium Institute in Paris, founded with her participation in 1914. He is editor of the journal Communisme, which he cofounded with Annie Kriegel in 1982, and part of the Cercle de l'Oratoire think tank. As a student, from 1968 to 1971, Courtois was a Maoist, but he later became a strong supporter of democracy, pluralism, human rights, and the rule of law.[4]. YouTube Encyclopedic. Andrzej Paczkowski (Professor of Political Science and member of the board of the archives for the Ministry of Interior). Courtois himself was the co-author of an article on the Comintern. Content. How to calculate in an unbiased fashion the numbers of disparate victims who died in civil wars, economic crises or even common criminals on five continents by various regimes for more than 70 years, was also discussed. Journal Information. Staff Editors. Editorial Board. Section Editors. Advisory Groups. Though the situation has improved considerably over the past decade, the lack of article-level indexing for the majority of OA journals still poses a challenge for researchers. The fact that aggregated metrics are not readily available has been a major consideration in, and motivation for, the labor-intensive research design of this study. Previous studies have dealt with this lack of data through a variety of different data sources and collection methods. This section summarizes relevant earlier studies and their major findings, placing the study in a line of existing scientific contributions.