

**The 1,340th Meeting of the Brighton and Sussex Medico-Chirurgical Society took place on 8<sup>TH</sup> January 2016 in the Audrey Emerton Building:**

The new president Dr. Margaret Price started the evening proceedings with a vote of thanks to outgoing President Dr. Ruth Barker.

The inaugural talk had three aspects to it:

- 1] Excerpts from the early years of the Society.
- 2] How Dr. Price came to choose Dermatology as her eventual specialty.
- 3] An overview of the invited speakers for 2016.

Dr. Margaret Price delved into the Med-Chi Society archives and shared historical events that kept her audience listening intently. She mentioned that Dr. King chaired the first Society's meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 1847. Dr. Price then went on to focus on interesting papers and topics that were discussed in these early Society meetings. She talked about a paper that was read on the sequelae of measles, highlighting the restoration of the 'action of the skin' using warm baths and vinegar sponging! The second paper she mentioned was on the newly discovered effects of ether in anaesthesia, which was only pioneered a year earlier. Other topics discussed were Scrofula (TB of the cervical glands), health and culinary issues of the army during the Crimean War, and cholera treatment (a glass of wine at 1-5 minute intervals!). One unusual event she goes on to reveal was a live demonstration of the laryngoscope that was performed by the speaker Dr. Mackenzie in one of the meetings of 1864. Dr. Margaret Price aptly concludes by stating that the first female members of the Society were finally admitted in 1898.

Three pearls of wisdom were shared with the audience:

NEVER BORE A MEDICAL STUDENT  
ALWAYS TELL THE CLINICAL TRUTH  
THE VALUE OF MENTORS

Dr Price was brave enough to share her fears of different specialties, which ultimately lead her to choose dermatology as her specialty. She spoke about the attractive feature of dermatology, the fact that the pathological process was visible to the naked eye, and affected all ages with a combination of medical and surgical interventions. A memorable case (meriting the title to the talk) was presented, with a patient developing a recurrent itchy rash on the left side of his face and chest and impressively being diagnosed with contact dermatitis. This was due to the patient being allergic to his wife's dyed hair product, which had Paraphenylenediamine in it.

The value of role models was also highlighted as an important influencing factor in the making up one's mind in specialty selection.

Dr Price was President of the British Association of Dermatologists in 2004 and played a major role in establishing its London Headquarters.

Speakers and their talks for 2016 are:

February: Dr. Tim Chevassut, *A brief history of blood*

March: BSMS, *Student Elective Presentations*

April: Professor Melanie Newport, *From local to global, an overview of global health*

May: Dr. Malcolm Johnson, *The Lusaka/Brighton link*

June: Professor Malcolm Reed, *The future of Medical Education*

July: Society Social

October: Dr. Philip Thompson *Incredible changes and exciting horizons: The Brighton Stroke Unit 12 years on*

November: Dr. Paul Ransom *Aspects of emergency medicine and role of the Halo Trust*

December: Dr. Karen Walker-Bone *Advances in Rheumatology*

Mr. Charles Zammit gave a vote of thanks at the end of the presentation. After the meeting, some members enjoyed a meal at Ginger Dog hopefully restoring one of the objectives of the Society that of 'mutual communication'.