

(Probably few since how much he did) The Royal Medical Society
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It is somewhat difficult to see where the essential things deserving of mention -
there were so many of them - in which Oates played an important role after
his transfer to England. His method also admits ^{of better things done when he saw the need} ^{was an admirable}
and indeed an enviable one. Few however have the firm imagination,
the ability to give the initial impetus, the knowledge of just the right
people whose interest should be enlisted at the outset, and the un-
selfishness to withdraw and to let others have the entire credit of
the feat accomplished. This of course is the great secret of getting things
done in the world and he not only knew it as many do but
he practiced it which many do not.

For many years the effort had been on foot to amalgamate ^{under a single organization} the
^{London} ^{of the Kingdom} the ^{various} ^{special} ^{medical} ^{societies}. The oldest
of them ^{split off from Fellowship Socy.} and finally the largest and most influential was the Medical
and Chirurgical Society founded in 1905 by a group of the leading
^{John Abernethy, Matthew Baillie, Astley Cooper and Pott} ^{rather}
Physicians of the time. This society had accumulated a large library
which found home at 20 Strand Square where it celebrated its
Centenary in 1905. Meanwhile special societies representing various
of the subdivisions of medicine had been formed and from time
to time unsuccessful efforts had been made to bring them together
under a single organization which would ^{in practice} be for the mutual benefit
of them all. However ~~there was never the opportunity of such fusion~~
~~and the domestic Institutes which often ^{domest} take part in their~~
work. Inherent in medicine as it would seem, and ~~this element~~ ^{these elements} jealousies
which arise therefore made such a fusion as was proposed most
difficult of accomplishment.

Mr (now Sir John) MacAlister the Secretary of the Medical and Chirurgical Society

Submitted a scheme of
~~had no other attempt to bring about an amalgamation~~ during the Presidency of Sir Andrew
Clark whose untimely death on the very day of the first meeting led to a
postponement of further action.

It was not until ^{Dr} O'Shea arrived in 1905 that Mr. MacAlister's O'Shea
arrangement gave by his venture to bring the matter again to a head and
a revised scheme was proposed. Probably few knew what an important
role O'Shea played in the ^{movement,} ~~negotiations~~. The meetings were held in
the Royal College of Physicians, a neutral ground. Committee were formed
and negotiations which were prolonged over a period of nearly two
years resulted in an agreement and a common constitution and

in June 14 1907 a Supplemental Charter was offered by the Comm. The
Royal Society ^{of Medicine} was thus formed and ~~eighteen~~ ^{eighteen} Societies representing
all the branches of medicine were organized as separate sections
with a joint library fund for all and suitable meeting
of the Central body, and a common centre, was thereby provided for
all the former separate Societies. ^{It was} ~~there~~ ^{was} nothing new in all this. We have seen that
he did the same sort of thing in Montreal, in Philadelphia and in Boston.
Central act was characteristic of him.

Dr. O'Shea was offered the first Presidency but he refused to let it be
submitted. Instead he organized a new section in the History of Medicine
and represented by any previous society and accepted the Chairmanship
of this department - and laid it the great labor and responsibility of
making ^{success of the} a new department.

He then himself ministered into the work of the Royal Society of Medicine;
was then constantly, was continually making suggestions, wrote countless letters to
his secretary about books, suggestions, enlarging the program, paper people to
invite, giving dinners to guests. New building in 1909

Small of the Med. Lib. ~~Donors~~ 1

Two, because list in relation to give MacAlister a copy of his. He said Med. was a man to "poke up the corners"
also something like a money game.

See the MacAlister Letters.