

## CENTENARIES

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### Hollings, John (1683-1739)

JOHN HOLLINGS, a British physician, was born at Shrewsbury in 1683. His father was an M.D. Having attended the local grammar school, he joined the Magdalene College, Cambridge, in 1700 and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and of the Royal Society in 1726. He eventually became Physician-General to the Army.

Hollings was reputed to be a man of considerable culture and scholarship. His only book entitled *Status humane naturæ expositus in oratione corum medicis Londinensibus habita* was his Harveian oration of 1734.

Hollings died May 10, 1739.

### Davies, Thomas (1792-1839)

THOMAS DAVIES, another British physician, was born in Carnarthenshire in 1792. He was apprenticed to his maternal uncle who was apothecary to the London Hospital. While practising independently a few years later, he had symptoms of phthisis which made him go abroad. He prosecuted his medical studies in Paris and learnt the new art of auscultation from its inventor, Laennec. Having got his M.D. degree in 1821, he returned to London where he set up private practice and disseminated what he had learned from Laennec by delivering courses of lectures at his house. This brought him some recognition and led to his appointment as lecturer at the London Hospital.

His lectures on the diseases of the lungs and heart were first published in the *London medical gazette* and later as a book. This book gave a faithful exposition of the discoveries of Laennec.

Davies died of chest disease May 30, 1839.

### Graham, John (1805-1839)

JOHN GRAHAM, an amateur British botanist of India, was born in Dumfriesshire in 1805. He came to India in 1826 and was soon appointed Deputy Postmaster-General of Bombay.

He was also put in charge of the Botanical Gardens of Bombay. In this capacity, he

enriched the collections of that Garden to a considerable extent. He began a catalogue of Bombay plants which was completed and published posthumously by J. Nimmo, as Graham died suddenly at Khendalla May 28, 1839.

### Cooper, Thomas (1759-1839)

THOMAS COOPER, a British scientist of America, was born in Westminster, October 22, 1759. He was educated in classics while at Oxford. But later, while his father intended him for Law, he took a clinical course in the Middlesex Hospital and established practice at Manchester. He later practised as a lawyer. However, his scientific attainment warranted his nomination to the Royal Society by his friend, Joseph Priestley.

After involving himself in political matters for sometime, he got disgusted with the practical working of democracy and migrated to America. There he became a friend of Jefferson and after active political life for some years, he was elected to the chair of Chemistry in Carlisle and later in the University of Pennsylvania. In 1820 he changed over to South Carolina College. He was a prime factor in the establishment of the first school of medicine and the first lunatic asylum in the State.

The influence of Cooper on his generation was mainly through his versatile and prolific pen. He wrote much on law and political science. His *Lectures on the elements of political economy* (1826) was the first of its kind. His *Institutes of Justinian* (1812) and *Statutes at large of South Carolina* are monuments of his legal learning.

His scientific writings were also equally important and voluminous. He edited the *Emporium of arts and sciences*, published treatises on a variety of subjects like dyeing, calico-printing, gas lights, and edited several European text-books in chemistry. His description of the scientific discoveries of his friend Priestley (1806), his *Introductory lecture on chemistry* (1812) and his *Discoveries on the connection between chemistry and medicine* (1818) were justly famous and far ahead of the ordinary state of knowledge of his times.

Cooper died May 11, 1839.