THE LIFE OF PROFESSOR ORLANDO CHARNOCK BRADLEY, (1871-1937): DIARY ENTRIES 1895-1923

PART 1

Colin M. Warwick and Alastair A. Macdonald

INTRODUCTION

Until now, anyone with an interest in the achievements of Orlando Charnock Bradley, Principal of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College in Edinburgh from 1911-1937, was first guided to the Obituary Notice written by his good friend and colleague, J. Russell Greig (1889-1963).¹ This contained a detailed account of Charnock Bradley’s accomplishments as well as a personal account of the man himself. Recently new insights into Charnock Bradley’s life and works have come to light. The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies (known locally as the ‘Dick Vet’) received the ten volumes of Bradley’s personal diary, a unique historical legacy, from his grand-niece, Mrs Frances Harrison.² This diary provides a detailed and personal day-by-day record of 41 years of his academic, public and private life. In this first of three summaries we largely present the years up to 1923, the anniversary of the establishment of the ‘Dick Vet’, with extracts from the diary in italics.

First some background information. Orlando Charnock was born near Chorley at Wheelton, Lancashire on 8 May 1871 where his grandparents, Thomas and Nanny Charnock, farmed the 42 acres of Roscoe Fold Farm. In 1880 his mother Elizabeth Charnock (1844-1927) married Robert Bradley (1837-1907), a local contractor, and the young Orlando (Fig. 1), known as Lenny to the family, was given the Bradley surname. He was initially educated at local schools – Wheelton then Chorley Grammar School. He attended the Harris Institute in Preston for classes in Chemistry, Physiology and Botany, and from the summer of 1887 until March 1889 he served: an apprenticeship with Rothwell in Preston.³ This was probably John Porritt Rothwell, of Blackpool, Lancashire, who graduated from the Edinburgh Veterinary College, on the 26th April 1865.

THE NEW VETERINARY COLLEGE, EDINBURGH

Charnock Bradley then came to Edinburgh in 1889, and from October of that year attended, as a student, the New Veterinary College, in its recently designed
Fig. 1. O. Charnock Bradley aged 10 years (RDSVS Archive)
and purpose-built (1883) facilities on Elm Row. The New Veterinary College had been founded in October 1873 by William Williams, a graduate and Professor at the Edinburgh Veterinary College following his resignation from the position as its Principal in July of that year. Williams' rival veterinary college first coped in the cramped premises of Gayfield house until sufficient funding permitted the Elm Row buildings to be constructed. The veterinary course at this time lasted three years. In his first year Orlando was awarded medals for Junior Anatomy, Botany, Chemistry and Practical Chemistry, and passed the R.C.V.S. first examination with 'Very Great Credit'; in his second year he was awarded the medals for Senior Anatomy and Physiology and a Certificate in Histology, again passing his exams with 'Very Great Credit'; and in his final year he was awarded a medal for Cattle Pathology and won the Principal's prize of £20. He graduated M.R.C.V.S. on 19 December 1892. The young Charnock Bradley had been such an exceptional and ambitious student that Williams had already enlisted him onto his teaching staff (Fig. 2) in the Spring of 1892, at the age of 21 years, while he was still a student. As well as being appointed Lecturer in Comparative Anatomy in 1894 Bradley taught Meat Inspection and supervised the Clinical Hospital. His days as a young anatomy demonstrator in 1892-93 (Fig. 3) were recalled by one of his students, R. Craig Robinson, 'From the first, Mr Bradley as he then was, gained the confidence and respect of the new students of that session'.

From 20th August 1895 Charnock Bradley started keeping his diary. Amusingly and self-deprecatingly, after four months, he records: Am reading R.L. Stevenson's 'Memories & Portraits' and am inclined to agree with him that diary writing is a school of posturing & self-deception; we all like to show our best side even to ourselves. There are many early diary entries indicating that he read a lot, largely fiction. In 1895 he also admitted to a sporting affliction which was to stay with him for the next thirty-three years: Am afraid I am affected with the Golf Fever. Around the south and east fringes of Edinburgh there were (and still are) many golf courses, of which Charnock Bradley and his colleagues, in particular Tom Grahame his assistant, availed themselves. He was a member of golf clubs at Luffness (19 miles east of Edinburgh, founded in 1894) and Mortonhall (south Edinburgh, founded in 1892). Swimming and walking were also regular physical activities. He was very interested in photography, and there are many references to his taking photographs of people, places and research subjects, and of him developing and printing these himself. On 14 September 1895 he recorded that he had written a short article on: 'Photography as applied to Vety. Science' for the Journal. His interest in form, structure and design often took him to art galleries and the cinema, and he regularly attended concerts of music in Edinburgh.
The writing of journal articles was something that Charnock Bradley did often and with apparent ease. He published over 85 articles in his lifetime. However, his earliest attempt at a scientific textbook was not entirely successful: Corrected some proof of the Anatomy. It looks pretty poor stuff in cold print, but at any rate it is a first literary effort. Part I of my Anatomy is published. Mettam has 'slated' part I of my Anatomy. Albert E. Mettam (1867-1917) was Professor of Anatomy at the Dick's Veterinary College, and was later (1900) appointed as Principal of the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland in Dublin. Comparative Anatomy was to become Charnock Bradley's life-long passion.

It is not explicitly stated in his diary why, but on the 22 October 1895, Bradley registered as a medical student and matriculated at the University of Edinburgh. Perhaps it may have been because he was young (24 years), very bright and keen to learn more from the academic environment of Edinburgh which surrounded him. The medical degree would certainly have given him access to more rapid advancement, better access to the prominent research staff in Edinburgh University, and very likely a better status within the Edinburgh academic community. He records in his diary that he attended university classes in Botany, Zoology (winning 3rd and 1st medals in each), Chemistry and Physics while simultaneously writing part II of his veterinary anatomy book, teaching Anatomy to Senior and Junior classes of veterinary undergraduates as well as tutoring individual students. The same intensity of work characterises 1896 (and subsequent years); for example, he wrote part III of his anatomy book, attended classes in Physiology, Physiological Chemistry and Materia Medica (gaining a medal in Physiology), researched the anatomy of the dog's brain, as well as teaching and examining veterinary students at Williams' New Veterinary College. On 30 June 1900 he passed his medical 'finals' with distinction (much to my surprise) and graduated M.B. Ch.B. on 28 July.

The years from 1894-1900 were significant in another, and perhaps not unrelated way. Among the veterinary students he tutored was a woman, Aleen Cust (1868-1937) (Fig. 4). She had been born near Tipperary into an aristocratic family, the great grand-daughter of Lord Brownlow. Her father was Sir Leopold Cust, and following his death in March 1878, Major Widdrington of Newton Hall was appointed her guardian. Dorothy, the eldest child of the Widdringtons, was described by Aleen as 'the greatest friend of my life'. In 1894, the year after her second eldest brother Orlando had died, Major Widdrington escorted Aleen to Edinburgh. Whether Orlando Charnock Bradley persuaded Aleen to enrol in Williams' New Veterinary College rather than at the 'Dick Vet' in the autumn of 1894 is not indicated. However, it is clear from his first diary that by the end of her first year of study, during which she won the College’s junior anatomy medal, as had he, Bradley knew Aleen (A.C.) well.
Fig. 4. Aileen Cust (Probably as a Student)  RDSVS Archive
They met almost daily from the 20th to the 30th of August 1895 (the first days of his diary), and on 28 September 1895 he wrote that he had seen her off to Germany. She was the first and only female veterinary student in the country at that time. The closeness of their relationship over the following five years is indicated by the frequency during the 1896 and 1897 sessions with which Bradley visited her home at Northfield (a farmhouse near Duddingston) for the purpose of coaching A.C.,16 their walks together, and their lunch and tea appointments in the newly rebuilt Jenner’s Department store on Princes Street. Aleen completed the course in May 1900 and was awarded a testimonial to that effect by William Williams. This was given because she had been denied, until 1922, access to the R.C.V.S. examinations.4,15 Using her testimonial she successfully practiced veterinary medicine in Ireland. On 10 February 1904: Received a letter from A.C. saying that she is going to be married [to Bertram Widdrington, Dorothy’s brother]. However, the marriage never transpired.15 Charnock Bradley also never married.

THE ROYAL (DICK) VETERINARY COLLEGE

Thus both Aleen and Charnock Bradley completed their undergraduate studies in 1900 and both left the New Veterinary College in the summer of that year. Aleen made her way into veterinary practice with William Byrne (1864-1910) in Ireland and Charnock Bradley to the Chair in Veterinary Anatomy at the ‘Dick’s Veterinary College’ (succeeding Prof. Albert E. Mettam). Within days of passing his medical degree exams he had: received a letter from Dewar saying that the chair of Anatomy in the Dick College was mine for the accepting.17 The ‘Dick Vet’ was at that time in Clyde Street (Fig. 5), a confined New Town side-street, with Thomas R.U. Dewar its Principal (from 1895-1911). Williams appears to have been loath to see Bradley go from the New Veterinary College, and insisted that the proper advertisements and other procedures of appointment be followed. Thus it was not until 18 September that Charnock Bradley received a telegram from Dewar that: the Town Council had confirmed my appointment to the Dick Chair. He reports that he spent the next week hard at work among the bones and dust of the rather deplorably untidy condition of the Anatomy Rooms, making them ready for the new session, which started on the 3 October. His introductory lecture was given at noon on the following day, and he recorded: I was very well received.

Charnock Bradley was keen to develop his interest in research at once, to secure the appropriate academic credentials, and to collaborate with the foremost academics in Edinburgh at this time. He first: went up to see Schäfer about working in the laboratory.18 Sir Edward Albert Sharpey-Schafer, (1850-1935) was Professor of Physiology at Edinburgh University. Together Sharpey-
Fig. 5. Front Façade of the Royal Dick School (Sketch by A.M. Trotter) (RDSVS Archive)
Schafer and Charnock Bradley studied the anatomy of foetal cerebellum. He then contacted James Cossar Ewart (1851-1933), the Zoologist and Professor of Natural History at the University, a pioneer in the study of hybridization in animal breeding. [I]: went up to the University to see Cossar Ewart about a testimonial to accompany an application for recognition as Research Student; he very kindly gave me one & asked me if I should be willing to do some work on the ossification of the bones of the horse. Early in December he received official notice of permission granted by the Senatus of the University to prosecute research as a Research Student; the subject of the research to be, 'The Development & Morphology of the Mammalian Cerebellum'. Success followed success. On 2 March 1903 Charnock Bradley was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and on 23 July of that year he was awarded the Goodsmir Memorial Fellowship. On 7 April 1905: Today is a red-letter day; having received the D.Sc. In February 1906 he, Received a letter from Sir John McFadyean asking if he might propose me for external examiner in Veterinary Anatomy to the University of London. Naturally replied 'Yes'. Thus began his long distance career as external examiner in institutes south of the border. On 9 February 1907 he mused to his diary Am more or less seriously thinking of trying for the M.D. and by 26 July of that year, after researching the development of the mammalian liver and passing Clinical Medical exams: Got the M.D. degree in the morning. 'Between 1893 and 1908 Charnock Bradley's contribution to the literature was extensive and during this period he published forty-seven original scientific communications, principally on anatomical, genetical and historical subjects'. As a consequence, in 1908 he was awarded the John Henry Steel memorial medal by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, a distinguished veterinary honour.

Charnock Bradley was very friendly with the Clark family in Coupar-Angus and regularly visited them for weekend breaks. James Clark FRCVS had graduated from the 'Dick Vet' in 1868. His son William Scott Clark was coached through the College by Charnock Bradley and boarded with him at 4 Argyle Park Terrace on the south side of the Meadows. In 1907 Charnock Bradley wrote: After being with me for more than five years, Willie left me today in order to 'see practice' with the Rutherford's. The change was sudden & I feel lonely. The other friends in Charnock Bradley's early life were the Pearsons, a well-to-do family living in Chesterfield, Derbyshire. His diary entries are concise, but the warmth of these early idyllic summer holidays at Chesterfield (from 1895 until 1925), with the Pearson family, is apparent. The four of them; Theo, Kate, Annie and the younger Orlando cycling to their favourite rural haunts to pick blackberries or hunt hedgehogs and bats: most enjoyable days. He certainly spent more time with Annie than with the others. Her uncle was Mr Theophilus Pearson (b1828) of Abercrombie Street,
Chesterfield, head of the Whittington Potteries and owner of two coal and fireclay mines – ‘Highfield’ at Sheepbridge, which employed 46 miners and 5 surface workers, and ‘Langar Lane’ at Chesterfield with 19 miners and 3 surface workers. He was also Mayor of Chesterfield in 1878. His youngest son Frank B. Pearson (1868-1941) was a good friend and colleague of Charnock Bradley, both having graduated from the New Veterinary College in the same year. It was probably because of this association that Charnock Bradley befriended the Pearson Family. Being the youngest of this group of friends, he outlived them all, writing sadly in August 1916, telegram from Theo to say that Kate died this morning. Then in March 1919 he wrote: About six o’clock a telegram came from Chesterfield to say that Theo had died at 3.15 in the afternoon. This was a great shock, for a very cheerful letter had arrived from him on Friday [two days earlier]. This was young Theo, the son of Theophilus (the Mayor), and three days later, having attended the funeral, he wrote, Funeral today. My best friend. From 1920, when she was 58, Annie’s health seems to have declined until finally on 9th Mar 1926, he wrote movingly: Annie Pearson died suddenly this morning – the last of the links with Chesterfield.

Charnock Bradley was at the forefront of 20th century planning of the unification of the various regional Veterinary Medical Societies of Britain into one National Veterinary Medical Association of Great Britain and Ireland. This became the British Veterinary Association in 1952. His first diary mention of amalgamation was in January 1909 at a meeting of the Scottish Metropolitan Veterinary Society in the Caledonian Hotel, Edinburgh, when he gave the Presidential address on Amalgamation of Societies. That year he put forward his plan at various meetings of other Veterinary Societies: At Newcastle for the purpose of opening a discussion of veterinary societies. My plan goes well so far. He then spoke to members in Glasgow and Leeds. In July he: Went down to Harrogate to attend a meeting of the National Veterinary Association. Meeting of representatives of veterinary societies to consider amalgamation took place at 9 pm. Much discussion – committee appointed. But it was not until July 1911 that the constitution and rules were approved (Fig. 6): Went over to Carnarvon for the meeting of the NVA Amalgamation Committee Council meeting. The amalgamation scheme was accepted, & so ends about three years work. He became President of the National Veterinary Medical Association (N.V.M.A.) in 1914, and ironically, this event was not recorded in his diary. Problems remained within the Association as the amalgamation was slow to be accepted. Charnock Bradley steered it through these troublesome times, which included the deficiencies of the Great War and the Association’s subsequent bankruptcy. A rejuvenated Association emerged in 1921 and Charnock Bradley retained the Presidential post until October 1922, by which time the
N.V.M.A. had taken over the responsibility of publishing the Veterinary Record.36,37

1911 had been an important year for Charnock Bradley in other ways. On 12 June he took up the duties of Principal at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College. He was not the first choice, as he recorded in his diary: *Dewar has resigned the Principalship of the College.*38 At the board meeting today, the name of Major-Gen Fred Smith [1857-1929] was put forward as a possible Principal of the College. Decision was deferred for a week.39 Appointment of Principal was not made, as Smith had withdrawn his name, but is to be asked to reconsider.40 Major-Gen Smith appointed Principal of the College.41 Frederick Smith (later Sir) had retired from military service in 1910 aged 53: *Meeting of the Board at the College in the afternoon. Smith declined the Principalship and I was appointed. After the meeting I played golf...*42 That same year 1911, he was offered the Barclay and Good sir Lectureship in Comparative Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, thereby sustaining and increasing the historic link between the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College and the University of Edinburgh. He was also was elected to the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons43 where he subsequently served twice as Vice-President (1912 and 1919) before being elected as President on 1 July 1920.

Fig. 6. Diary Entry Re. National Veterinary Med. Assoc.
(RDSVS Archive)
Between July 1914 and July 1919 he made several references in his diary to the Great War and its effect on College life: There is grave possibility of a European war arising out of differences between Austro-Hungary & Serbia.\textsuperscript{44} War declared between England [sic] & Germany, owing to the latter declining to respect the neutrality of Belgium.\textsuperscript{45} ... walked round by Nether Liberton etc to look at the entrenchments etc. After tea went into the King's Park to see the encampment. There is practically no war news, though there can be no doubt that troops are massing for a big battle in Belgium & along the Franco-German frontier. War between Britain & Austria has been declared.\textsuperscript{46}

Despite the hostilities in France the building of Summerhall (which will be the subject of our next article), continued relatively unimpeased, as did general life in Edinburgh. However, there were problems with student numbers. In 1915: As a result of the recruiting effort, Class B is now reduced to one student\textsuperscript{47}. Throughout Britain classes had to be rearranged and students’ examinations had to be accommodated at different veterinary colleges: ‘Orals’ in Class C. There are as few candidates in A & B that some A have gone to Liverpool, & others B to Glasgow. Students in C came to Edinburgh from Liverpool & Glasgow.\textsuperscript{48}

Somewhat later, Charnock Bradley’s administrative and diplomatic abilities must have been further tested when he: had to return [from Chesterfield] to Edinburgh unexpectedly because the military want to requisition the College buildings, and the exemption of one of the staff is to be revised.\textsuperscript{49} And in 1918 he, Returned to Edinburgh [from Chesterfield]. Found that the National Service people have taken the empty rooms at the College for temporary offices.\textsuperscript{50} At last the war in Europe ended on 11 November 1918 and Charnock Bradley cheerfully wrote, and underlined: An exciting day. Germany signed the terms of armistice at 5 o'clock this morning. There was not much work done at the College.

From an early date Charnock Bradley was very aware of the history of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, as is evident in his diary: Bought the gold watch William Dick used to wear. It was in the possession of A.W. Chisholm – of Mackay & Chisholm – who bought it from Miss Dick.\textsuperscript{51} The pocket watch is now in the ‘Dick Vet’ archive. Unfortunately he did not record the result of another visit: ... to see Dr Hew Morrison about tracing a visit Queen Victoria paid to Dick.\textsuperscript{52} Hew Morrison, (1850-1935) was Chief Librarian in the town of Edinburgh. Perhaps they found the report, in the Scotsman newspaper of 30 October 1851, of the Queen’s private visit to Edinburgh and her comment about the statue of the Clyde Street Veterinary College horse. Following archival research in the Highland and Agricultural Society minutes and the Town Council records, Charnock Bradley was to publish his own history of the College to mark its centenary in 1923.\textsuperscript{53} He addressed a student society; meeting
of the Dialectic Soc when I gave a talk on Wm & Mary Dick. He recorded his visits to the New Calton cemetery: I visited Wm. Dick’s grave for the first time [in 1919, 100 years after William Dick first taught veterinary medicine to students], and [in 1934]: made my annual pilgrimage to the grave of William Dick.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

2. O. Charnock Bradley diary; vol. 1, 1895 Aug 20th - 1902 Jan 30th (pp. 3-508); vol. 2, 1902 Jan 31st - 1907 Jan 11th (pp. 509-885); vol. 3, 1907 Jan 12th - 1911 Nov 14th (pp. 886-1266); vol. 4, 1911 Nov 15th - 1917 Dec 15th (pp. 1267-1646); vol. 5, 1917 Dec 16th - 1920 Dec 16th (pp. 1647-1775); vol. 6, 1920 Dec 17th - 1923 Oct 21st (pp. 1776-1904); vol. 7, 1923 Oct 22nd - 1926 Jun 11th (pp. 1905-2051); vol. 8, 1926 Jun 12th - 1928 Dec 10th (pp. 2052-2195); vol. 9, 1928 Dec 11th - 1931 Nov 3rd (pp. 2196-2355); vol. 10, 1931 Nov 4th - 1937 May 9th (pp. 2356-2675). Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies Archive.
5. O. Charnock Bradley diary, vol. 2, 1904 Jan 30th: Read in the B.M.J. of the death of Duncan C. Longden. Dr Longden began to teach anatomy at the New Veterinary College in the spring of 1892 and I was asked to assist him as demonstrator. I was still a student at that time. He continued to teach until the early part of 1894, when he was ordered abroad on account of his health. During sessions 1892-93 & the first part of 1893-94 he had taught the Senior class & I the Junior. When Longden went away I began to teach both classes. So my complete control of the department began in the Spring of 1894, and I continued to work at the New Veterinary College until May 1900; when the Dick College appointment fell vacant. This by way of definitely fixing the dates.
15. FORD, C.M. (1990), Aileen Cust Veterinary Surgeon: Britain's first woman vet. Bristol: Biopress.
16. O. Charnock Bradley diary, nineteen visits at the end of 1896, twenty-eight in Feb/Mar/Apr 1897.
20. O. Charnock Bradley diary, vol. 1, 1900 Dec 5th.
23. O. Charnock Bradley diary, vol. 1, 1901 July, August & September
36. BUXTON, J.B. (1937), 'Personal tribute', The Veterinary Record 49 pp. 1548-1549.
37. O. Charnock Bradley diary, vol. 5, 1920 Apr 9th: To Fulham Road with Brittlebank in connection with the suggestion to purchase the 'Veterinary Record' by the National Association.
42. O. Charnock Bradley diary, vol. 3, 1911 Apr 26th.
FROM The Natural History of Selborne 1788 by Gilbert White

‘My friend had a helpless leveret brought to him, which the servants fed with milk in a spoon, and about the same time his cat kittened and the young were dispatched and buried. The hare was soon lost, and supposed to be gone the way of most foundlings, to be killed by some cat or dog. However, in about a fortnight, as the master was sitting in his garden in the dusk of the evening, he observed his cat, with tail erect, trotting towards him, and calling with little short inward notes of complacency, such as they use towards their kittens, and something gambolling after, which proved to be the leveret that the cat had supported with her milk, and continued to support with great affection.

Thus was a graminivorous animal nurtured by a carnivorous and predaceous one! Why so cruel and sanguinary a beast as a cat should be affected with any tenderness towards an animal which is its natural prey, is not easy to determine.’