



The Medical Bulletin

The Official Newsletter of

Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients

a Scion Society of **The Baker Street Irregulars**

Spring 2012

Events:

April Outpatients' Meeting

The April meeting of the **Outpatients** discussion group will be Sunday, April 1st at 12:30 pm at **Pints Pub**, 221 W. 13th Avenue, Denver. There will be a discussion of the *Adventure of the Red-headed League* followed by a quiz. Attendees pay for their own lunch. Please contact Larry Feldman at larry7639@aol.com or 303-333-3859 if you plan to attend.

Mrs. Hudson's Spring Tea

Sally Kurtzman and Stan Moskal will be hosting the annual Spring Tea on Sunday, May 20th at the **Denver Woman's Press Club** at 1325 Logan Street in Denver. The event is free, but space is limited. So reservations are required. Please contact Stan Moskal at 303-355-8991 or byreloft@msn.com to make reservations and confirm the time.

Report of Annual Birthday Dinner

By Darlene Cypser

The annual birthday dinner was held Sunday, January 22nd at the **Lumber Baron Inn** in Denver, Colorado. Seventy-six people attended: 44 members and 32 non-members. (A number of the non-members were members of the Victorian Society of Colorado Springs.)

The evening began downstairs in the several parlors of the Victorian mansion with drinks and conversation then moved up to the 3rd floor ballroom for dinner catered by "The Food Guy." (Bill Dorn reported that our food was better than that served at the BSI dinner in New York.)

Larry Feldman led the traditional toasts, many of which were given by new members. Near the end of the dinner, I read the "Doctor's Oath" -- a tradition of the Neglected Patients.

After that we progressed to the business meeting. (Since we had a large number of non-members, many of whom were new to both DWNP and the mysteries of Sherlockians, a number of us explained the heritage and traditions of DWNP and BSI as we went along.)

Ron Lies lead the election of the Board by first reading the nominated slate and asking for nominations from the floor. Then Ron took a voice vote.

We moved on to a report by Bill Dorn of the annual BSI Dinner in NY and a report from Larry Feldman of the activities of the "Outpatients" discussion group of DWNP which meets monthly.

After dessert, we held the "Brick Award" Trivia Contest based on the *Adventure of the Yellow Face* lead by Maggie Snyder who won last year's contest. Six people answered all 15 questions correctly and Sue Smith of Colorado Springs won the tie-breaker. Congratulations Sue!

Then we cleared tables from the room and Bill Donaldson of the Victorian Society of Colorado Springs took over to call the Victorian dances. Several members of the Victorian Society of Colorado Springs were in attendance, including Ken Marcus, the current president. A number of pictures and videos were taken of the dancing. Some were uploaded to the DWNP Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/DrWatsonsNP>). We will be uploading them to the website soon.

A good time was had by all. In fact, I had to chase people out of the building at the end of the night.

Medical Board Elections

The results of the Medical Board Elections are as follows:

- Chief Surgeon: Darlene Cypser
- Staff Surgeon/Bursar: Larry Feldman
- Transcriptionist/Secretary: Ron Lies
- Intern: Dr. Elisha Lucas
- Intern: Maggie Snyder (aka Mae Hymn)
- Intern: Jennifer Petkus
- Intern: Ivona Elenton

Jimmie Dean volunteered during the dinner to fill the 5th intern slot.

1st Medical Board Meeting of 2012

By Transcriber Ron Lies

The first DWNP board meeting was held February 26. Present were Darlene Cypser, Larry Feldman, Ron Lies, Ivona Elenton, Jennifer Petkus, Elisa Lucas, and Maggie Snyder.

Some notes from the meeting:

Business & Tax Status: Our Chief Surgeon reported that DWNP was not registered anywhere it should be. The board voted to re-register with the State, and authorized our bursar to issue a check to The Chief Surgeon for filing fees.

DWNP's 501(c)(3) charitable status with the IRS lapsed in 2010. The Chief Surgeon informed the board that DWNP would be more likely to be approved if we had a year of financial records showing charitable uses before we reapply, which we do not have at this time. The board voted unanimously to revisit this issue later.

Membership & Dues: We have 55 [See Chief Surgeon's Case Notes for update] paid members to-date. Darlene acknowledged Ron for several months of hard work cleaning up the Membership list. We discussed other types and levels of memberships, including e-mail v. regular mail and out-of-state versus in-state. The Board voted to keep one level of membership for all at \$10 per year.

Bank Account: The Bursar reported the bank balance was \$627.30 with \$30.00 to be deposited. The Board voted unanimously, with the Chief Surgeon abstaining, to repay the Chief Surgeon \$450.00 that she paid to the caterer for the dinner. [Additional deposits have been made since.]

Medical Bulletin: Darlene resized the template of the Medical Bulletin back up to 8.5 x 11. She originally shrank it to save on mailing costs but most are now being e-mailed. She receives submissions from out-of-state Sherlockians all the time, but she would rather have the content come from DWNP members.

Handbook, Certificates & Cards: Ron showed the Board a copy of the Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients Handbook and samples of membership certificates and name cards. Maggie volunteered to convert the old artwork to a digital format and show them to the board. Other members offered to help update the Handbook.

Archive Project: Ron suggested taking advantage of Ivona's training as an archivist to organize the past records and memorabilia of DWNP. Ron and Ivona will discuss further and report to the Board.

Events: A number of possible events were suggested: Murder mystery dinner nights; Film nights in the theater at Darlene's house; Discussion groups about films & books, Hikes with Sherlockian themes; potlucks; talks on Sherlockian subjects; a writing contest; publishing a Sherlock Holmes collection; coordination with other organizations; events related to the airing of BBC Sherlock Series 2 in May; a Sherlock Holmes scavenger hunt. Board members volunteered to investigate various opportunities.

Promotion: Several methods of promotion were discussed and Board members volunteered to explore them and report back.

Auction: Board discussed the auction. Darlene does not want to do an auction until we straighten out our business & tax status. If we want to re-establish DWNP as a 501(c)(3) it would help if the funds from the auction all went to charity; for example, a program for literacy or a library.

What Was Sherlock Holmes' Favorite Weapon?

By Larry Feldman

We see them in our mind's eye. Watson and Holmes are departing on a dangerous excursion. Watson is armed with his old service revolver. What does Holmes bring for *his* weapon of choice?

The answer is revealed to us by Holmes' biographer Watson in *The Adventure of the Six Napoleons*: "I was not surprised when Holmes suggested that I should take my revolver with me. He had himself picked up **the loaded hunting-crop** which was his favourite weapon."

According to Wikipedia, the weapon in question is a "crop, sometimes called a riding crop or hunting crop. It is a short type of whip without a lash, used in horse riding, part of the family of tools known as horse whips." Jack Tracy, in his fine reference book *The Encyclopedia Sherlockiana*, further informs us that it has a "crooked handle and a loop of leather at the end for securing it to the wrist."

Later on, in *SIXN*, Holmes uses the weapon to break open the final statuette, and reveal the hidden pearl which was its treasure: "Finally he picked up his **hunting-crop** and struck Napoleon a sharp blow on the top of the head."

Holmes also arms himself with his trusted crop in *The Red-headed League*. Here we find that he kept it handy on the "rack:"

'Ha! Our party is complete,' said Holmes, buttoning up his pea-jacket, and **taking his heavy hunting-crop from the rack**. 'Watson, I think you know Mr. Jones, of Scotland Yard. Let me introduce you to Mr. Merryweather, who is to be our companion in tonight's adventure.'

It is a good thing he brought it, for he found it useful later on in disarming the dangerous John Clay: "Sherlock Holmes had sprung out and seized the intruder by the collar. The other dived down the hole, and I heard the sound of rending cloth as Jones clutched at his skirts. The light flashed upon the barrel of a revolver, but Holmes's **hunting-crop**

came down on the man's wrist, and the pistol clinked upon the stone floor."

Of course, Holmes was not the only one in the Canon who made use of this handy little weapon. In *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Sir Henry makes sure he has one before confronting the escaped convict upon the moor:

In five minutes we were outside the door, starting upon our expedition. We hurried through the dark shrubbery, amid the dull moaning of the autumn wind and the rustle of the falling leaves. The night air was heavy with the smell of damp and decay. Now and again the moon peeped out for an instant, but clouds were driving over the face of the sky, and just as we came out on the moor a thin rain began to fall. The light still burned steadily in front.

'Are you armed?' I asked

'I have a **hunting-crop**.'

'We must close in on him rapidly, for he is said to be a desperate fellow. We shall take him by surprise and have him at our mercy before he can resist.'

Due to the leather loop that Tracy described, the item could be swung or waved about in an intimidating fashion. In this way, the villainous Doctor Grimesby Roylott, in *The Speckled Band*, seems all the more threatening because of *his* hunting-crop:

The ejaculation had been drawn from my companion by the fact that our door had been suddenly dashed open, and that a huge man framed himself in the aperture. His costume was a peculiar mixture of the professional and of the agricultural, having a black top-hat, a long frock-coat, and a pair of high gaiters, **with a hunting-crop swinging in his hand**. So tall was he that his hat actually brushed the crossbar of the doorway, and his breadth seemed to span it across from side to side. A large face, seared with a thousand wrinkles, burned yellow with the sun, and marked with every evil passion, was turned from one to the other of us, while his deep-set, bile-shot eyes, and

the high thin fleshless nose, gave him somewhat the resemblance to a fierce old bird of prey.

Of course, it is only natural that Mr. Silas Brown, both a horseman and a bully, should carry one as well:

As Sherlock Holmes replaced the half-crown which he had drawn from his pocket, a fierce-looking elderly man strode out from the gate with a **hunting-crop** swinging in his hand. 'What's this, Dawson?' he cried. 'No gossiping! Go about your business! And you - what the devil do you want here?'

Another brute, Woodley, waved his riding crop about in his moment of triumph in *The Solitary Cyclist*:

We had broken suddenly into a lovely glade of greensward surrounded by ancient trees. On the farther side of it, under the shadow of a mighty oak, there stood a singular group of three people. One was a woman, our client, drooping and faint, a handkerchief round her mouth. Opposite her stood a brutal, heavy-faced, red-moustached young man, his gaitered legs parted wide, one arm akimbo, the other waving a **riding-crop**, his whole attitude suggestive of triumphant bravado.

Of course, Holmes himself is not above using the weapon to merely intimidate, as he does to that sleazy Windibank fellow in *A Case of Identity*.

'The law cannot, as you say, touch you,' said Holmes, unlocking and throwing open the door, 'yet there never was a man who deserved punishment more. If the young lady has a brother or a friend he ought to lay a whip across your shoulders. By Jove!' he continued, flushing up at the sight of the bitter sneer upon the man's face, 'it is not part of my duties to my client, but here's a **hunting-crop** handy, and I think I shall just treat myself to--'

He took two swift steps to the whip, but before he could grasp it there was a wild clatter of steps upon the stairs, the heavy hall door banged, and from the window we

could see Mr. James Windibank running at the top of his speed down the road.

It was a useful weapon indeed.

Female & Male Criminal Teams in the Canon

By Ron Lies

A question posted on the Welcome Holmes discussion website started it all. Ron Ritter, Discussion Leader extraordinary posted this question: "Isn't it rare in the Canon to have a male and female act jointly as a criminal team?"

I became intrigued with how many of those teams there were. So I researched the subject and expanded the original definition of members per team to include those who didn't have the same purpose, but were forced to work together by circumstances. I hope you enjoy reading the list as much as I did working on it!

1. Barney and Susan Stockdale in 3GAB
2. Mr. Rucastle and his second wife in COPP
3. The Butler Brunton and Rachel Howells in MUSG
4. Anna Sergius, wife of Sergius/Professor Corum and the unnamed second secretary of Sergius/Professor Corum in GOLD
5. Anna Sergius and Professor Corum in GOLD, who acting together to hide from discovery by Holmes and the authorities. They hated each other and each wanted the other dead but they acted together in a common cause
6. The somewhat unwilling Beryl Garcia aka Vandeleur aka Stapleton and Jack Baskerville aka Vandeleur aka Stapleton in HOUN
7. Sir George Burnwell and Mary Holder in BERY
8. James Ryder and Catherine Cusack in BLUE
9. Jonas Oldacre and Mrs. Lexington in NORW
10. James Windibank aka Hosmer and Mrs. Windibank in IDEN

11. Eugenia Ronder and Leonardo the strong man in VEIL
12. The blackmailed Lady Trelawney Hope and Eduardo Lucas in SECO
13. Holy Peters and Annie Frasier aka Peters, aka Schlesinger in SOLI. (Hux's pair that started the whole question rolling)
14. The Butler Barrymore and his wife Elisa in HOUN
15. Von Bork and his wife in LAST
16. Reuben Hayes and his wife in GOLD
17. The unnamed man who acted as carriage driver and his equally unnamed wife in GREE

Teams consisting of one female/two males are:

18. Carrie Evans, her husband who practiced his trade as an actor, and Sir Robert Norberton from SHOS
19. Ivy Douglas, her husband John Douglas aka Bertie Edwards, and Cecil Barker in VALL

Teams that consisted of two females/one male combinations who acted jointly together are

20. Lady Eva Brackenstall, her personal maid Theresa Wright, and Captain Jack Crocker in ABBE
21. Frank and Hatty Doran/Moulton, and her personal maid Alice in NOBL

Two teams of a female as leader of a group of males are:

22. Signora Victor Durando / Miss Bernet and the society who conspired against Don Murillo in WIST
23. Isadora Klein and The Spencer John gang in 3GAB

And my favorite one of all:

24. One female (or is it a male?) impersonating an old woman and Jefferson Hope in STUD.



The Solitary Cyclist Outpatients Quiz

By Larry Feldman

At the March Outpatients meeting, we studied *The Solitary Cyclist* and I presented the following 20 point quiz. Dr. Elisha Lucas had the high score of sixteen out of twenty. Can you best her?

1. According to Watson, from the years 1894 to 1901, what *was* Sherlock Holmes?
2. What was the date Watson first heard of Violet Smith?
3. What did Holmes report that being a musician spread about Violet Smith's face?
4. What does Watson say was foreign to Holmes' nature?
5. What kind of chimneys did Charlington Hall have?
6. What was on the other side of the solitary road in question, opposite the side with the open heath?
7. What was even older than the ancient oaks that surrounded it?
8. What color was the flowery gorse?
9. What variety of love did Woodley make to Violet Smith?
10. What did Caruthers think was "the worst fate to befall a woman?"
11. Both Caruthers and Woodley aspired to be grooms in this story, but neither was successful. What were the names of the two legitimate grooms mentioned in the story?

Name the occupations of these four characters:

12. Mrs. Dixon
13. John Vincent Harding
14. James Smith
15. Cyril Morton

Name the characters by their occupations:

16. ostler
17. music teacher
18. forger
19. cast padre

Chief Surgeon's Case Notes

By Darlene Cypser

While Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients has been ailing for a few years, the prognosis is good. Interest in Sherlock Holmes is the highest it has been in decades and the new Board is taking advantage of that fact to recruit new members.

This Board has actually been doing many things for the Neglected Patients long before we were elected. I've been publishing the Bulletin for nearly six years even though there were some years when news was scarce. Larry & Ron formed the "Outpatients" discussion group a number of years ago. I created the Neglected Patients' website (www.dwnp.com) in 2006 and made a Facebook page for DWNP (www.facebook.com/DrWatsonsNP) in 2009.

Late 2010 through 2011 saw a lot of Sherlockians from all over the world join Facebook. In early 2011 I made Larry Feldman co-administrator of the Facebook page and he has used it to promote the Outpatients meetings as well as other things Sherlockian.

The Facebook page and the website allowed potential new members to find us and learn more about us. This has resulted in some "new blood" on the Board with all of our interns being members of DWNP for less than 2 years.

The annual dinner this year was planned & coordinated by the current Board members before they were elected and it had the largest turnout at any annual dinner in several years.

And we have just begun. We are busy planning new events and projects.

But before we could embark on too many new adventures it was necessary to clean up some old business. Many of you probably heard from Ron Lies over the past few months as he contacted people by e-mail and by phone to update the membership list. The result is the most accurate membership list in many years with complete contact information, dues status, etc. We now have confirmed that there are 8 family memberships (16 members) and 41 individual members in Colorado (total of 57 Colorado members) and 5 out-of-state members for a grand total of 62 current members of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients.

We will continue to work behind-the-scenes to clean up other old business (see the notes from the Board meeting for more information) so that we can all move on to the fun parts of following the Master.

The philosophy of the current Board is to blend the traditions of DWNP and BSI and Sherlockians in general with new forms of communication and networking. As I mentioned above, we have reached out to new members through the web and social networking sites. We are also using e-mail more to communicate with members to save funds. But we also will use traditional mail when requested and will be reviving some older traditions like the Handbook.

We will embrace and debate all incarnations, reproductions and imitations of the Master in every form. No one should feel unwelcome or unappreciated at Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients, and no one should be bored!

The game's afoot!



The Medical Bulletin is the official newsletter of **Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients**, a scion society of **The Baker Street Irregulars**, dedicated to keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes.

On the web: www.dwnp.com Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DrWatsonsNP>

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Board of **Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients**: Chief Surgeon: Darlene Cypser, Staff Surgeon: Larry Feldman, Transcriptionist: Ron Lies, Interns: Jennifer Petkus, Elisa Lucas, Ivona Elenton, and Maggie Snyder