

concern regarding ONPs is the potential ‘gateway effect’ which could lead non-users to initiate cigarette smoking owing to its combination of addictive properties and appealing flavours.³ However, the proponents of nicotine pouches argue that despite the potential side effects, the advantages offered by ONPs outweigh the drawbacks. To mitigate the misuse of ONPs among underage individuals and to ensure their effectiveness as a smoking cessation aid for intended users, the implementation of a strong regulatory policy framework could prove beneficial.

S. Wadhwa, Ludhiana, India

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From the archive

George Arthur Peake

Sir, Professor Chris Stephens in ‘From the archive’ published in the 22 March issue, highlighted the work of Lt Colonel George Arthur Peake in raising men for four companies of railway engineers during the First World War.¹ I thought it might be of interest to share some more information about him. This Bristolian alumnus was dually qualified (MRCS Eng, LRCP Lond 1892; LDS RCS Eng 1894) and as such, unusually, a member of both the BDA and BMA, serving as President of the Gloucestershire Branch of the BMA in 1911–12.

He was 45 at the outbreak of war and by then author of a handy student revision guide, *Notes on dental anatomy*.² Despite accusations of plagiarism and the use of quotes from unacknowledged sources for the book³ (the author does use and paraphrase a number of passages from Charles Tomes’ textbook⁴), this small work is extremely well thought out, concise and clear, showing some understanding of how little an undergraduate

might know at the beginning of their studies. Peake even leaves space in the margins specifically for readers to add their own notes and diagrams. Indeed, one of the copies in the BDA Library is embellished with a number of pencil sketches!

The book was popular enough for a third edition to be published which contained the following alarming preface dated April 1915:

‘The final “proofs” of this Third Edition have had to be corrected close to the “trenches” of Ypres in circumstances not conducive to quiet thought or writing. If mistakes have crept in the Author offers his apologies...’⁵

Dr Peake passed away towards the end of a second world conflict requesting that he be carried to his grave by ‘some of the 1,663 men who served in the units I personally raised in Gloucester for the RE’⁶

H. Nield, President of the Lindsay Society for the History of Dentistry and Head of BDA Library & Knowledge Services, London, UK

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Artificial intelligence Dementia and AI

Sir, a groundbreaking study conducted by a renowned American Dental School introduced a mobile application (app) called Dental.Aging.Tips, which demonstrated the immense benefits of using AI to support caregivers in managing oral hygiene for individuals with dementia. The findings revealed that caregivers who utilised this innovative app witnessed a significant increase in their knowledge, skills, and positive attitudes towards oral care. This newfound expertise not only empowers caregivers but also enhances their confidence in effectively fulfilling their roles. Both family and paid caregivers may experience improvements in their perceptions and skills, highlighting the immense potential of this technological solution for dementia care.¹

The use of smartphone AI to improve oral care for individuals with dementia holds immense promise. The app represents a commitment to advancing healthcare through accessible and innovative technological solutions. Continued investment in research and innovation will pave the way for greater advances in dementia care, ultimately improving health outcomes and fostering a brighter future for those affected.² In addition to conventional therapeutic treatments, AI should make precision medicine more effective by functioning as a fundamental ally for the management of dementia cases.³

E. Veseli, Pristina, Kosovo; A. Veseli, Zagreb, Croatia; M. R. Tovani-Palone, Chennai, India

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George Kantorowicz A remarkable life

Sir, I was delighted to learn more of the life of the remarkable Georg(e) Kantorowicz from Prof Gelbier’s recent account.¹ My memories of George’s energy and character mirror those of Professor Kidd where the badinage in the Staff Common Room at the Royal Dental Hospital (euphemistically referred to in the presence of patients as the Ground Floor Clinic) were the highlight of many a day.

At the time, I was an orthodontic registrar working in David Walther’s Department where, although a full-time Professor of the University of London, he had been able to negotiate a unique arrangement whereby he was permitted to take his annual leave at the beginning and end of each week throughout the year. Thus, he would arrive at the hospital at midday on Monday and leave at lunchtime on Friday in order to return home to his farm in Shropshire. Such ‘long weekends’ were the envy of other full-time academic staff at the time, such as Bill Sims and Bob Nairn. On one occasion, George

related to his colleagues how while on holiday in Bridgnorth that year he happened to mention to a local countryman that he knew a man called Walther who he thought farmed around there. 'Aarrh,' replied the local, 'Not much of a farmer though. He has some part-time job in London!' Needless to say this, like so many of George's stories, was well received.

C. Stephens, Bristol, UK

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Errant Nobel Prize

Sir, I write further to Stanley Gelbier's excellent article about Georg Kantorowicz.¹

Having produced several RDH Christmas shows, I can attest to his description of 'Looking for Kanty' in a pedal bin.

My two main memories of him were asking why he gave the students their lectures on law and jurisprudence. He replied that at Glasgow Dental School, I became bored with the dental course and attended all of the lectures on law but was not allowed to obtain a joint honours degree. The other memory is of him travelling by train to Victoria Station in 1946 to meet his uncle Herman, who was

travelling back via London to the USA after picking up his Nobel Prize. They met in a café at the station and Georg asked if he could see the esteemed prize. When Herman removed the large gold disk from its case, it rolled off the counter under the next table; at this point, Herman calmly tapped a lady on the shoulder and asked for his Nobel Prize back.

J. Asquith, Hertfordshire, UK

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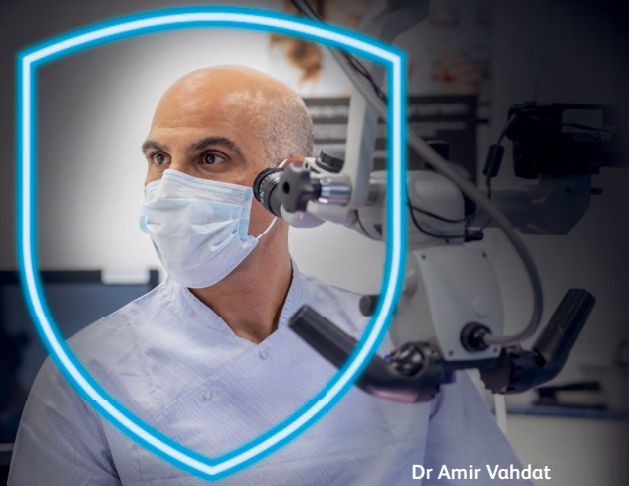
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