

John Abercrombie letter 1844



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Location: RS O2

Title:

Dates of Creation: 1844

Held at: The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Extent: 2 items

Name of Creator:

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Administrative/Biographical History:

John Abercrombie (1780-1844) was the son of a minister, he was born in Aberdeen and graduated MD at Edinburgh University in 1803. After studying for a short period at St. George's Hospital, London he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1804.

Abercrombie soon had a large medical practice based on his home at 7 Nicolson Street which was run by himself and a number of apprentices. In 1821 he applied for the Chair in Medicine vacated by the death of James Gregory but James Home. Sir Robert Christison, doyen of mid 19th century physicians, remarked that the Town Council which held the right of making such appointments was very remiss in failing to appoint Abercrombie. It was after this in 1824 that he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. About this time, he began to restrict himself more and more to consultation work and, between 1819 and 1844, he received requests for advice from doctors and others from all over the British Isles. He was a much respected physician and was the first person to describe the symptomatology and complications of duodenal ulcer.

In 1821 he delivered the first paper to the newly formed Medico-Chirurgical Society and he was the first President of the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society.

He was one of a group of ten Edinburgh citizens whose efforts led to the establishment of the Edinburgh Academy.

Abercrombie's library of over 1,000 books was gifted by his daughters to the College in 1844. The college also possesses a fine miniature portrait (pictured here) and marble bust of him.

1. **May 9th 1844**

1 letter from John Abercrombie dated (6 months before his death) regarding a patient – a Mr Smith.

2. **Circa 1850s**

1 photograph/"carte de visiter" of unknown man, NOT Abercrombie [Notes attached describing the photograph card circa 1850s] Found with Abercrombie's letter, erroneously marked as "Abercrombie".