Arnold Knight proposed the creation of the Medical Institution in Sheffield at a public meeting in the Cutlers’ Hall in February 1828. He laid the foundation stone of the new building on Surrey Street and delivered his inaugural lecture at its opening in July 1829, describing the systematic programme of education, which contained the core subjects of today’s medical schools.

**Did You Know?**

“As Anatomy cannot well be studied except during the winter months...all lectures except such as are immediately connected with Anatomy, will be given during the other seasons of the year.”

This quote from Arnold Knight’s inaugural lecture at the Medical Institution relates to the difficulty of keeping bodies for dissection cold at that time.

Educated at Oscott College, Birmingham. Arnold Knight studied Medicine at Edinburgh University, where he was friendly with Charles Darwin and William Thackeray, the novelist. After three years, he was admitted with honours to the degree of Doctor of Medicine, following both examination and submission of a thesis entitled de Podagra [Gout].

He came to Sheffield in 1814, having heard there was only one physician in the (then) town, with its population of about 70,000. He quickly established himself and was appointed to the Royal Infirmary in 1815. He married Harriet Isabella Milnes-Smith in 1821 and they lived in Norfolk Street, near the site of the Crucible Theatre.

There are records of Arnold Knight treating gout with colchicum and rabbit’s blood with a South American arrow poison to paralyse the spasm. In 1832, he treated victims of the Sheffield cholera epidemic and became infected himself, but fortunately recovered. He described Grinders’ Asthma, a lung disease caused by dust from the grinding of steel on sandstone wheels to produce cutlery and tools; this is probably one of the earliest descriptions of an industrial disease. In 1819, Knight stated that “out of 2,500 grinders, there were not 35 who had arrived at the age of 50 years”. His work prompted efforts to divert dust away from the grinders with improved mortality rates.

He established the Public Dispensary on West Street in 1832; here a physician and surgeon treated the sick poor. Adult education was another of his interests and he was the founder and President of Sheffield’s Literary and Philosophical Society and President of the Mechanics’ Institute. Leader of the local Liberal Party and a magistrate, he was knighted by Queen Victoria – it is believed for his work to improve the health of towns and his support for the Reform Act 1832, which gave fairer parliamentary representation to towns like Sheffield.

Sir Arnold Knight proposed the creation of the Medical Institution in Sheffield at a public meeting in the Cutlers’ Hall in February 1828. He laid the foundation stone of the new building on Surrey Street and delivered his inaugural lecture at its opening in July 1829, describing the systematic programme of education, which contained the core subjects of today’s medical schools.

**Edwin D. Loveridge**

Edwin D. Loveridge was a medical student at the Medical Institution in Sheffield and later became a prominent figure in the medical profession. He was known for his contributions to the field of surgery and was appointed as the first professor of surgery at the University of Sheffield in 1872.

His legacy is commemorated in the Medical Institution, where his name is honored through the Edwin D. Loveridge Room.

**Dorothy Blackwell**

Dorothy Blackwell was a pioneering figure in the medical profession, known for her advocacy for women’s rights in medicine. She was the first female medical graduate in the United States and later became the first female member of the American Medical Association.

Blackwell’s contributions are celebrated in the Dorothy Blackwell Room at the Medical Institution, where her name is etched in the history of medicine.

**Walter Barlow**

Walter Barlow was a prominent figure in the medical profession, known for his contributions to the field of anatomy. He was a close friend of Charles Darwin and played a significant role in the establishment of the Medical Institution in Sheffield.

Barlow’s legacy is celebrated in the Walter Barlow Room at the Medical Institution, where his name is revered for his contributions to the medical profession.

**Herbert F. Johnson**

Herbert F. Johnson was a medical student at the Medical Institution in Sheffield and later became a prominent figure in the medical profession. He was known for his contributions to the field of pathology and was appointed as the first professor of pathology at the University of Sheffield in 1872.

Johnson’s legacy is commemorated in the Herbert F. Johnson Room at the Medical Institution, where his name is etched in the history of medicine.