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MEMORIALS OF HARVEY.

INCLUDING

A LETTER AND AUTOGRAPHS IN
FACSIMILE.





3



22
Dyffryn

in it under the same sign to give you in December for
you, perhaps, to be ready to me, may be, as you I am to
you to a man for. Call it being, but for you
faintings of feeling must be your share of pain
may be already given me, perhaps, to be made
at the same time, but you have to be in mind.
to be mostly that, or perhaps being stopped with my
to the Professor of the same, I am informed you have all
with you now, but that of the most important in the
giving to be made to me, and that it is already in

[illegible]

H. H. H. H. H.

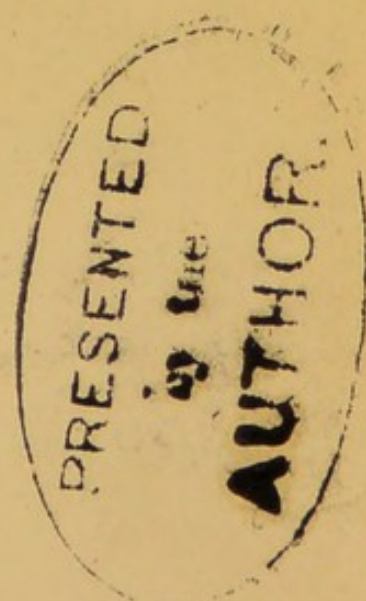
MEMORIALS OF HARVEY.

INCLUDING

A LETTER AND AUTOGRAPHS IN
FACSIMILE.

COLLECTED AND EDITED BY

J. H. AVELING, M.D.



LONDON:

J. & A. CHURCHILL, NEW-BURLINGTON STREET.

1875.

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CONSTITUTION

1. The first principle of the Constitution is that of Liberty. Liberty is the right of every individual to do as he pleases, so long as he does not infringe upon the rights of others. Liberty is the foundation of all civil society, and without it, no government can be just or wise.

2. The second principle of the Constitution is that of Equality. All men are created equal, and no one is born with more rights than another. Equality is the basis of justice, and without it, no government can be fair or equitable.

3. The third principle of the Constitution is that of Justice. Justice is the right of every individual to be treated fairly and impartially. Justice is the cornerstone of all civil society, and without it, no government can be trusted or respected.

4. The fourth principle of the Constitution is that of Peace. Peace is the right of every individual to live in a safe and secure environment. Peace is the foundation of all civil society, and without it, no government can be effective or successful.

5. The fifth principle of the Constitution is that of Progress. Progress is the right of every individual to improve his condition and to advance the welfare of his fellow citizens. Progress is the goal of all civil society, and without it, no government can be just or wise.

MEMORIALS OF HARVEY.

As the tercentenary of Harvey's birth is now approaching any materials relating to his biography will probably be more than usually acceptable.

The following fragments it is hoped will be found useful in compiling that larger and more complete memoir of Harvey which is much needed and must some day be written.

I.

A Letter in Facsimile.

Specimens of Harvey's writing are very rare. If the memorandum at the back of Dr. Ward's letter, which has no signature, be excepted, this is the only letter in his own handwriting of which we have any knowledge. For those who are not accustomed to reading seventeenth century writing, a copy in modern characters is given :—

Right Hon^{ble}

it is more then time then to give yo^r hon^r thankes for you^r favour & benefites to me, reseyved, when I am to com wth a new sute. butt it (being, butt the consumatinge & pfecting what by you^r favour I have reseyved already) ; giveth me the confidence to write att this time, intreating yo^r Hon^r to be my mediator to his maiesty that, my patent being stopped att my Lo. Tresurers (a bysines I am enformed

yo^r Hon^r is already acquainted wth) y^t he would be pleased in his gracious favour vnto me, to lett it be, as already it is for my life, according as the rest of my fellows have, & as by you^r Hon^{rs} extraordinary favours to me you have made me yo^r obliged servaunte for ye would be pleased to protect me. it is written to me besides that one D^r Mezler hath gotten to be appoynted to wayte in my place for the houshold (before I went I intreated & appoynted D^r Chambers & Doc^r Bethune,* & one Doct^r Smith of London, one of them att all occasions to pforme that duty for me; & I acquaynted the officers of the howsehold therwth, it is not vsual: fo^r serieant primrose was away above a yeare (& he is surgeon of the howshowld) & yett none putt in his place to wayte whilest he was in Germany wth my lo. Marquess. S^r Theod. Maiern, in Switzerland in K. James his time, was away very long & none putt in his place. I beseech your honnor y^t noe preiudise arise thereof to me, according (as I humbly thanke yo^r Hon.) the K. Maiesty made to me his declaration, noe such thinge should be done, by yo^r Hon^{rs} mediation. the miseryes of the Cuntries we have passed & the hopes of our good success & all such news yo^r Hon: hath from better hands, I can only complayne, that by the waye we could scarce see a dogg crow kite Raven or any bird, or any thinge to anatomise only sum few miserable poeple the reliques of the war & the plauge where famine had made anatomies before I came. it is scarce credible in soe ritch, populous & plentifull cuntries as these weare that soe much misery desolation & poverty & famine should in soe short a time be, as we have seen. I interpret it well, y^t wilbe a greate motive for all heare to have & pcure an

* Drs. James Chambers and David Bethune were physicians in ordinary to the King.

assurance of a settled peace. it is time to leave fighting when, ther is nothing to eate nothing to be kept & gotten & the same partyes robb on the other if they gett but once out of sight

Y^r Hon :

Humble servant

WILL. HARVEY.

This interesting letter is now preserved at Oxford in the Bodleian Library amongst the Clarendon Papers, No. 2076. It is without date, or name of place at which it was written. The person who calendared the Clarendon Papers has dated it 1645, but this is evidently an error, for Dr. Bethune, when the letter was penned, was certainly alive, whereas in 1645 he had been dead six years.* From the evidence contained in the letter, and from contemporary history, I feel no hesitation in dating the letter some time during the year 1631. In September, 1629, licence was procured by Secretary Dorchester for James Stuart, Duke of Lenox, to travel for three years, and to take with him Dr. Topham, Dean of Lincoln, John St. Alman, and eight other servants. We also know, from the "Records of Harvey, in Extracts from the Journals of the Royal Hospital of St. Bartholomew," by Sir James Paget, Bart., that on the 21st of January, 1630, "Doctor Harvey phisicion to this hospital declared to this court that he is commanded by the Kings most excellent ma^{ty} to attend the illustrious Prince the nowe Duke of Lenox in his travells beyond the seas and therefore desireth

* Dr. Bethune was one of the Royal physicians, and in attendance upon the Court at Berwick when he died.

"1639, July 10th. Dr. Beten (Bethune) is burried this day, and Dr. Harvey is in his place, and Dr. Johnson has Dr. Harvey's place."

"1639, July 12th. Dr. Bethune died after a week's sickness, and was burried in the church of Berwick on Wednesday last."—*State Papers, Domestic.*

that this court would allowe of — Smith* Doctor in Phisick for his deputy." In a letter from Sir Henry Mervyn to Nicholas (Clerk of the Council), the former writes (1630, July 28th) of "having put over my Lord Duke (Lenox) for the coast of France." We therefore gather from this that the party did not start upon their travels until July, 1630. They seem to have remained at towns upon the coast, for on August 2nd Sir Henry Mervyn writes that he is going to attend the Duke of Lenox, and purposes to be in the Downs, &c. ; and again, on August 10th, he says he has landed the Duke of Lenox at Dieppe. September 23rd of the same year, Edward Dacres writes to Secretary Dorchester that the Duke of Lenox is now settled in Paris for the winter ; and again, on November 22nd, saying that the Duke is willing to stay in Paris, and that "In the spring hee intends the tour de France and in the end of the summer to goe into Italy unlesse the continuance of the warrs or the plague hinder him." Dacres writes again, on April 5th, 1631, that the Duke is still in Paris, but thinks of going out of town for a few days. Nothing is known of their movements after this until August, 1631, when Dacres again writes to Dorchester : "Bloys prov'd a place not longee to bee indur'd by my Lo. because of the plague which grew hot there, as Tours likewise where wee made very little stay, soe that wee came downe to Saumurs there to passe the dog dayes, from whence wee are now parting they being at an end. My Lord hath continually bin in good health and intends now to follow your Lo^{ps} directions this winter for Spaine whither we are now bending our course (via Bordeaux) where we shall bee before the later end of September." In February, 1632, Sir Thomas Edmonde, writing to Sir Harry Vane, says the Duke

* This is doubtless the same Dr. Smith mentioned in Harvey's letter.

of Lenox has been made a Grand in Spain.* It was about this date the party probably returned from their travels.

It is impossible to read this sketch of the progress of the Duke of Lenox without seeing how nearly the condition of the countries through which he passed is described by Dacres and Harvey, and difficult not to come to the conclusion that they were fellow-travellers.

The Dr. Mezler mentioned in the letter was probably intended for Dr. Adam Mœsler, who became an extra licentiate of the College of Physicians of London in 1627.† It is satisfactory to be able to state that the news of his appointment was false, and that Harvey's fears were unfounded, for among the State Papers of 1633 may be found the petition of "Dr. Harvey, one of His Majesty's physicians in ordinary, *and for the King's Household.*"

The name of the person to whom Harvey wrote his letter is uncertain. We may, however, with probable certainty, surmise the recipient of it to have been the Viscount Dorchester, at that time Principal Secretary to Charles I.

2.

Certificate.

Another specimen of Harvey's handwriting is to be found amongst the State Papers in the Public Record Office, Domestic Series, Charles I., vol. xlvii. No. 9. It is a certificate relating to the health of Sir William Sands.

"I doe hereby certefye of a thruth that S^r Will Sands is in body infirm & suiect to those diseases in the cuntry he

* These facts are obtained from the State Papers—Domestic Series.

† Dr. Munk's "Roll of the College of Physicians."

cannot reseyve remedy for ; nor vndergoe & performe that coors of phisick w^{ch} is fitting for his recovery.

Wth. Harvey

The following document from the same source shows that at this period the country gentry were not allowed to remain in London during the winter without special permission.

" 18th Nov^r 1624.

" MR. ATTORNEY

"His Ma^{tio} is graciously pleased in regard of the indisposician of health of S^r William Sandis and his Ladie and the great danger of their remove into the Countrey as appears by the inclosed certificate of Doctor Haruie to dispense wth their stay in London this winter season not wth standing the proclamation. And accordingly requiries yo^u to take present order for their indempnitie that noe charge or troble come upon them for their stay in London this winter for which they have his Ma^{ties} leave."

3.

The Lancashire Witches.

Edmund Robinson, aged ten, having played truant, to excuse himself invented a tale of witchcraft in which he implicated a great number of people. Sir William Pelham writes to Lord Conway :—

"The greatest news from the country is of a huge pack of witches which are lately discovered in Lancashire, whereof it is said nineteen are condemned and that there are at least

sixty already discovered. It is suspected that they had a hand in raising the great storm wherein his majesty was in so great danger at sea in Scotland." The numbers mentioned by Sir William are doubtless exaggerated, but it is true that seven of those accused were condemned for witchcraft. Bishop Bridgman, of Chester, was requested to examine these seven, but when he arrived at the gaol three of them had died and were out of his reach, and another, Jennet Hargreaves, lay "past hope of recovery." Of the three he examined, two declared that they had no knowledge of witchcraft, but the third, Margaret Johnson, a widow of sixty, whom the Bishop describes as a person of strong imagination and weak memory, confessed herself to have been a witch for six years. She did not say that she had anything to do with raising the great storm in Scotland which so endangered the King and his faithful physician Harvey; but she stated that "There appeared to her a man in black attire who said to her, if she would give him her soul, she should have power to hurt whom she would. He called himself Mamilion, and most commonly at his coming had the use of her body; after this he appeared in the shape of a brown coloured dog, a white cat and a hare, and in those shapes sucked her blood in the manner described."

This report of the Bishop to Secretary Coke having reached the King's ears, Henry, Earl of Manchester, Lord Privy Seal (doubtless at the instigation of Harvey, who at that time was in constant attendance at Court) was commanded to write as follows:—

"To Alexander Baker, Esq., and Sergiant Clowes his Ma^{ties} Chirurgions.

"These shalbe to will and require yo^u. forth wth to make choise of such Midwives as yo^u shall thinke fitt to inspect

and search the Boddies of those women that were lately brought by the Sheriff of the Countie of Lancaster indited for witchcraft and to report unto you whether they finde about them any such markes as are pretended ; wherein the said midwives are to receave instructions from Mr. Dr. Harvey his Ma^{ty}. Physitian and yo^r. selves : Dated at Whytehall the 29th of June 1634.

“ H. MANCHESTER.”

The prisoners who were, when this order was written, at the “ Shippe Tauerne in Greenwich,” were brought to London and examined ; and the following certificate was returned :—

“ Surgeons Hall in Mugwell (Monkwell) Streete London 2^d July A^o Dⁿⁱ 1634. Wee in humble obeyance to yo^r. Lo^{pps} have this day caled uuto us the Chirurgeons and Midwyves whose names are herevnder written who have by the directions of Mr. Doctor Harvey, (in our p^rsence and his) made diligent searche and Inspection on those women w^{ch} weare lately brought upp from Lancaster and ffynd as followeth vidz.

“ On the bodyes of Jennett Hargreaves, Ffrances Dicconson, and Mary Spencer nothings unnaturalle neyther in their secrets, or any other p^{tes} of their bodyes, nor anythings lyke a teate or marke nor any Signe that any suche thinge haith ever beene.

“ On the bodye of Margaret Johnson wee fynd two thinges maye be called teats the one betweene her secretts and the ffundament on the edge thereof the other on the middle of her left buttocke. The first in shape lyke to the teate of a Bitche, but in our judgements nothings but the skin of the ffundament drawen out as yt wilbe after the pyles or applicacon of leeches. The seacond is lyke the nipple or teate of a woman's breast but of the same colour with the rest of the

skin without any hollownes or yssue for any bloode or juyce to come from thence.

Midwives.

Margryt Franses.	Anna Ashwell.
Aurelia Molins.	Ffrancis Palmer.
Amis Willuby.	Katheren Manuche.
Rebecke Layne.	—— Clifton.
Sibell Ffellipps.	Joane Sensions.

Surgeons.

Alexander Read.

W. Clowes.	Rich ^d Wateson.
Alex. Baker.	Ja. Molins.
Ric. Mapes.	Henry Blackley.*

The result of this communication was that four of the seven convicted Lancashire witches (for Hargreaves was not "past hope of recovery") were pardoned by the King; and there can be no doubt but that this act of mercy was due to the enlightened views and the prompt and energetic action of Harvey.

4.

Contemporary Estimate of Harvey's Practice.

In the books of the Barbers and Surgeons Company is an entry, hitherto unpublished, which displays considerable animosity.

"Dr. Harvey's ill practise.

"Wednesday, 19th November, 1635.—This daye William Kellett being called here in court for not making presentacon of one Mr. Kinnersley's maide that died in his charge, he

* "State Papers. Domestic Series," ch. i., vols. cclxx. and cclxxi.

saied here in court that Mr. Doctor Harvye being called to the patient did upon his Vew of the patient saie that by the meanes of a boulster the tumor on the temporall muskle would be discussed and his opinion was that there was no fracture but the vomiteing came by reason of the foulennesse of the Stomacke, and to that purpose prescribed physick by Briscoe the apothecarye. Soe the patient died by ill practice the fracture being neglected. The Companie not Called in to the Vew."

John Aubrey, who was at Harvey's funeral, and "helpt to carry him into the vault," writes:—"I have heard him (Harvey) say that after his booke of the Circulation of the Blood came out, he fell mightily in his practice and 'twas believed by the vulgar that he was crack-brained; and all the physitians were against his opinion and envyed him. All his profession would allow him to be an excellent anatomist but I never heard any that admired his therapeutique way. I knew several practitioners in this towne (London) that would not have given 3^d for one of his bills (prescriptions) and that a man could hardly tell by one of his bills what he did aime at."

Gideon Harvey, in a scarce little book, entitled "The Art of Curing Diseases by Expectation," speaks disparagingly of Harvey's ability as a physician, and intimates, as may be gathered from the following quotation, that his therapeutic skill was not commensurate with his anatomical proficiency. It must be remembered, however, that Gideon Harvey was a hypercritical and censorious writer, and that it was the fashion in those days to abuse physicians in high position. Sir Theodore Mayerne, his most successful contemporary, was accused of killing all his patients and even of intentionally poisoning more than one:—

"An instance whereof [of studying anatomy to the neglect

of therapeutics] I will give you in one, that was the greatest Anatomist of his time, and no extraordinary Physician, namely, Dr. William Harvey, whose erroneous judgment was very remarkable in the prescription of a purge for Esq. Rainton, of Enfield, where the apothecary refraining to prepare more than half the proportion, notwithstanding gave him fourscore stools, which otherwise, according to the Doctor's measures, must unavoidably have scowered him from the close stool into the other world. The Consult made a great noise, when Dr. Wright, Prudgean, Bates, and others, together with the famed Dr. Harvey were Principals, and one Mr. Farwell, Barrister of the Temple, was Patient and Complainer of a painful disease in his belly, that deprived him of the use of his limbs, strength, appetite and digestion, &c.. the forementioned Dr. Harvey ingrossed to himself the speaking part, by reason of his extraordinary claim to Anatomy, and which here if any where, seemed to be of use ; after a long contrecation of all the abdomen, did very magisterially and positively assert all his symptoms to arise from an Aneurism of an artery, and therefore incurable, as being too remote to come at, wherein all, except Dr. Bates, very readily concur'd, though it was a most absurd offer in opinion, as ever I yet heard. The patient being unwilling to give up his cause so, removed his *corpus cum causa* to Chelsie, where Sir Theodore Majerne lay bed-ridden at his country-house, who upon no long examen of the matter told him, he was the second, or third patient he had met with diseased in the same kind, and very boldly expressed, he would cure him, but with this inconvenience, that he could throw the cause of the disease either into his arms or legs, according to the choice he would make of those limbs, which he could best spare, or which of 'em might be more or less useful to him, without consulting the will and pleasure of God Almighty, an arrogancy unheard of, and

savouring more of the Atheist (as too many of 'em are) than a pious Physician, as then especially he ought to have been, being not many stages from his journey's end. Mr. Farwel in respect of his profession, where writing is so necessary, replied, that his business being sedentary, he could best yield to the captivity of his legs, though even they upon the Doctor's assurance should be released by a month or six weeks diligence at the bath. You are to apprehend, that the cause of this great disease was an obstinate obstruction of the glanduls of the mesentery immensely swelled up, and hardened by coagulation of tartarous and slimy humors, making a strong pressure upon the *Arteria Magna*, which by a potent renixe did duplicate its force of pulsation, that imposed on Dr. Harvey the false notion of an Aneurism, which ought rather to have been termed a vibration. The conglobated tumor by compression causing a coarctation upon the nerves, milkie, and other vessels, occasioned the great weakness of his limbs, an atrophy, &c., and by huffing up the bowels against the diaphragm, rendred his respiration extraordinary difficult. The grand empirical medicine (from which his father Turquetus, usually by the French nicknamed the Turc, had got great reputation by selling it publickly on the stage, whom Sir Theodore in his younger years had attended in that employ, if common vogue may be credited) being in a proportionable dose mixt with some gentle purgatives, had the success to dissolve those gross glutinous humors, and through their weight and tendency downward, throw them down into his legs, as being parts much weakened, and consequently more readily suscipient. Nature by being disburdened of that load, that had hitherto obstructed the free course of his nutritive and animal juyces, was vigorous enough to restore the bowels to their former functions, as afterwards the bath proved no less effectual in retrieving the use of his legs.

The following case of a Taylor in Fleet-Street, whose name has escaped my memory, though I can with little difficulty recover the knowledge of it, was not ordinary. His complaint to the Doctor was a Sciatica, that render'd him lame and cripple, besides frequent returns of very sharp pains. The Dr. would not ingage in the cure of so great and hazardous a disease, without a considerate and distinct answer to three points : 1. Whether he could sequester himself from his trade for three months. 2. Whether he valued the expence of fifty pounds beyond the recovery of his health. 3. Whether he could temperate his passion, in enduring the part to be laid open to the bone, by cutting or burning. The patient very readily consented to the two former conditions, time and money ; but to the third being entirely averse, took his leave with the ceremony due to so famed a Physician, and applyed himself to another of a much lower form, who with little preamble advised him to the bath, where he received a perfect cure in six weeks. No doubt but Dr. Harvey in Anatomy, and happiness of theoretic discoveries might justly pretend the precedency of all his contemporaries ; and others before and since have also arrived to a great proficiency in cat and dog-cutting, also calf-head and sheeps-pluck dissecting ; yet few of 'em when concerned in practice, were gifted with sagacity to know diseases when offered to their view, much less capable of curing them ; in which curative particular the thinking Physician has the advantage, though the prating Physician by his pretended Anatomy ingrosses the opinion of mankind."*

In contradiction of these posthumous statements of Gideon

* Chap. XXII.—“ *That the laying too much stress upon the Methodus Medendi, is a great cause of the hinderance of the improvement of Physick, is attested by very remarkable instances,*” p. 176.

Harvey, we have direct contemporary evidence of Dr. Harvey's therapeutic skill in the following quotation from John Hall's "Select Observations on English Bodies of Eminent Persons in Desperate Diseases." In Observation xlv. cent. 2, he tells us of one of Northampton, aged about sixty-five, who was much troubled with the heat of urine and strangury, with an ulcer of the neck of the bladder, whom he cured. "But after riding to London it broke out again, where he had the advice of Dr. Harvey who prescribed what follows:—

"R Troch. Rhasis alb ʒss.
Troch. Gord. ʒj.
Aloes Opt. ʒiiss.
Penidor ʒiss.
Aq. Plantag, lbss.
Inject.

"The following electuary he used at night, the quantity of a bean when he went to bed:—

"R Troch. Alkeking. cum opio ʒss.
Syr. Limon. q. s.
Gum Tragacanth.
Gum Mastich.
Crystal prep.
Coral prep. ā ʒj f. Elect.

"By these he was again restored."

Whatever may have been the opinions of Physicians and Surgeons regarding Harvey, it is satisfactory to know that by contemporary Obstetricians he was thoroughly appreciated and admired. As a practitioner there can be very little doubt but that he excelled more particularly in Midwifery and the treatment of Diseases of Women, and had it not been for the degraded position until lately held by Obstetricians this important phase of his professional life would have received some attention from Harveian orators. Perhaps some future

orator will be bold enough to display Harvey in his practical medical life as an able Obstetrician and an original and successful Gynecian, selecting for his theme that of "Parturition."

Before Harvey wrote on parturition there were but three works on the same subject published in the English language—translations of Rhodion, Rueff, and Guillemeau. His was the first book on Midwifery written by an Englishman printed in our own language, and the influence which it had upon the practice of the time would with difficulty now be estimated. Fortunately, however, any doubts we might have had upon this point have been completely set at rest by Percival Willughby. In his excellent Obstetrical works, the two manuscript copies of which are in the possession of the writer, he quotes Harvey at great length, no less than sixteen times, and gives the following candid and generous acknowledgment of the assistance Harvey's writings have been to him :—

"Dr Harvey's learned observations about the birth ought to bee esteemed for their worth and goodness. The oft reading of them with a due observing of his method will bee sufficient to make a midwife to understand her calling. Hee sheweth in the first place what to observe and how to deliver a woman labouring in a naturall birth. And in difficult births and abortive births and where ye foetus is dead hee maketh mention how to perform the work by the child's feet. In his workes hee wisheth midwiues not to bee too busy at the first approaching of labour, by striving to hasten or promote a sudden or quick birth ; but willeth them patiently to wait on nature, to observe her ways, and not to disquiet her, for that it is the sole and onely work of nature. And this also was the opinion of that worthy and learned gentleman Dr Georg Ent since knighted. I know none but Dr Harvey's directions, and method, the which I wish all

midwives to observe, and follow and oft to read ouer and ouer again and in so doing they will better obserue and understand and remember the sayings and doings of that most worthy, good and learned Dr̃ whose memory ought to bee had for euer in great esteem with midwiues and child bearing women."

In 1642 Willughby says, "There came into my house at Darby my honoured good friend Dr̃ Harvey. Wee were talking of seuerall infirmities incident to the womb. Hee added to my knowledge an infirmity which hee had seen in women and hee gaue it the name of a honey-comb (epithelioma) which hee said would cause flouding in women."

Harvey's bold and original mind, freed from the traditional bonds of Hippocrates and Galen, took a fresh and accurate view of uterine disorders, and a direct and practical method of treating them. There is a widely spread and erroneous belief that intra-uterine injections were used as early as the time of Hippocrates. The source of this error lies in the fact that the older writers looked upon the vagina and uterus as one organ, and when they spoke of the former, they either called it "uterus" or "cervix uteri." What we now call the cervix uteri, they called the internal cervix; and as far as my reading goes, no operative procedure upon this part of the womb, when in its unimpregnated state, had ever been attempted before Harvey invented his dilator, and used intra-uterine injections of sulphate of iron.

The following passages tend to prove the truth of this remark. Fabricius, Harvey's master, writes as follows:—

"Præterea uteri orificium unitum incidi non potest propter situs altitudinem."

His contemporaneous countryman and opponent, James Primrose, writing "*De clausura uteri*," says:—

"Difficillimè curatur, si vitium intus reconditum est, quo Chirurgica instrumenta sine periculo penetrare nequeunt."

His French contemporary Riverius also writes :—

“Clausura interioris uteri orificium occupans, incurabilis est : chirurgica enim instrumenta illic aptari nequeunt.”

Naboth, writing still later, 1707, says that “an extraordinary narrowness of the internal orifice of the uterus can no more be known than a solitary diseased conformation of the ovary.”

Contrast with the foregoing passages the following by Harvey :—

“The uterine orifice is alike blocked up in all other animals as it is in women ; whose womb we have known so closed sometimes, that their courses, purgations after delivery and other humours, have for want of free disburdening excited most terrible hysterical affections, insomuch that I have been feign to invent an instrument proper to this inconvenience, whereby the orifice of the womb being opened, the imprisoned superfluities might be released, and the recited casualties subdued ; as also that injections might find a reception in the cavity of the womb, by which I have sometimes cured the internal ulcers of the matrix, and also barrenness itself.”

This remarkable passage, written more than two hundred years ago, displays the originality and intrepidity of its author. With us the dilatation of the cervix uteri and the employment of intra-uterine injections are comparatively speaking recent innovations in gynecic practice. With Harvey intra-uterine medication was an established mode of treatment, and he relates a case of the wife of a Doctor of Divinity whom he cured by this method, after many physicians who had used the speculum alone had failed.

It would be a useless waste of time to re-write the well-known facts relating to the life of Harvey. It is his character as an Obstetrician with which we are now particularly interested, and those who would know more of

it must read his works on Generation, Parturition, the Membranes and Humours of the Uterus, and Conception. From these they will be amply convinced that his methods of managing labours and treating the diseases of women were far in advance of those of his contemporaneous practitioners. His superior knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the female generative organs enabled him to take a new and correct view of the cases he met with, and to treat them with a boldness and originality strikingly in contrast with the indirect and illogical methods then in vogue.

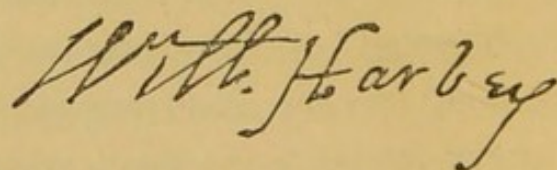
5.

Certificate.

Another certificate signed by Harvey, but not written in his own hand, may be found among the State Papers, Domestic, Charles I., vol. ccclxxiii. No. 8.

"Having had experience of the disposition and weakness of the body of S^r Thomas Thynne Knight (who hath beene and is still our patient) Wee testifie that wee are of opinion that it will be dangerous for the health of his body to travell this winter intto the Contrie and place of his usuall abode untill hee hath better recovered his health & strength.

"Dec. the 2nd 1637.



"DANIEL OXENBRIDGE."

6.

Motto in Album.

The Album of Philip de Glargis, which was a short time since in the possession of Mr. Dawson Turner, but is now in

the British Museum among the MSS. Jure Emptionis, No. 23,105, contains the following entry by Harvey.

"Dii laboribus omnia vendunt.

"Nobliss^e Juveni Medico Phillipi d Glargi amicitiae ergo.

"Libente scrips.

Gal: Harvey

"Anglus Med. Reg. et Anatomie professor Londin i
"May: 8: A.D. 1641."

It would be difficult to find a more suitable motto than this to impress upon the mind of a young man. It is one which Harvey had always acted upon and found to be true.

The entries in this little book were made between the years 1636-1641. The first is by "Jacobus Primirosius, Medicinæ Doctor," who practised at Hull. This is probably the only autograph of this copious medical writer extant.

7.

Report of the Health of Prince Maurice.

This memorial consists of a letter from Richard Cave to Prince Rupert concerning the health of his brother, Prince Maurice. It is preserved among the Rupert Correspondence in the British Museum, MSS. Jure Emptionis, 18,980, fol. 125.

"May it please yo^u Hig^s

"This last night arrived here att Millton Doct^r
Harvey and Doct^r Smyth and this morning they with the

other two Doct^{rs} having seene and spoken with his Hig^s yo^r brother intreated me to write as followeth.

"That his sicknesse is in the ordinary raging disease of the Army, a slowe feaver with great deiection of strength, and since Fryday he hath talked idly and slept not, but very unquietly, yet the last night, he beganne to sleepe of himselfe, and tooke his rest soe quietly that this present morning when Doct^r Harvey came to him he knew him and wellcomed Doct^r Smyth respectively, and uppon Doct^r Harvey's expression of his Ma^{tys} sorrowe for and great care of him he shewed an humble thankfull sence thereof: Doct^r Harvey asking his Hig^s how he did, he answered that he was very weake, and he seemed to be very glad to heare of and from yo^r Hig^s as was delivered by Doct^r Harvey.

"Now the Doct^{rs} having conferred, and computed the tyme, have good hopes of his recovery, yet by reason that the disease is very dangerous and fraudulent, they dare not yet give credite to this allteration. And concluding the disease to be venemous they doe resolve to give very little phisick, only a regular dyett and Cordyall Antidotes. The Doct^{rs} present theyr most humble service to yo^r Hig^s and subscribe themselves

"Sr. yo^r Hy^s most humble servants

J. W. Harvey.

"ROBERT VILVAIN

"EDMUND SMITH*

"THO. KING.

"Millton, Octob. 17th 1643."

* This is the same Dr. Smith mentioned in Harvey's letter.

The treatment by "very little phisick" and "only a regular dyett" seems to have been successful, for Cave, writing soon afterwards to Prince Rupert, says, "Maurice is not able yet to write letters but hath this day taken physic and so intends to bid his physicians farewell."

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