

**British Medical Association (East Anglian, Cambridge, and Huntingdon Branches), and Norwich Medico-Chirurgical Society : annual meeting at Norwich, June 19th and 20th, 1890 / address of the President, Michael Beverley.**

### **Contributors**

Beverley, Michael.  
Royal College of Surgeons of England

### **Publication/Creation**

Norwich : Printed by the Norfolk News Co., 1890.

### **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/qmbj6dvt>

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
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# BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

(EAST ANGLIAN, CAMBRIDGE, AND HUNTINGDON  
BRANCHES),

AND

NORWICH MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

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ANNUAL MEETING AT NORWICH,

JUNE 19TH AND 20TH, 1890.

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT,

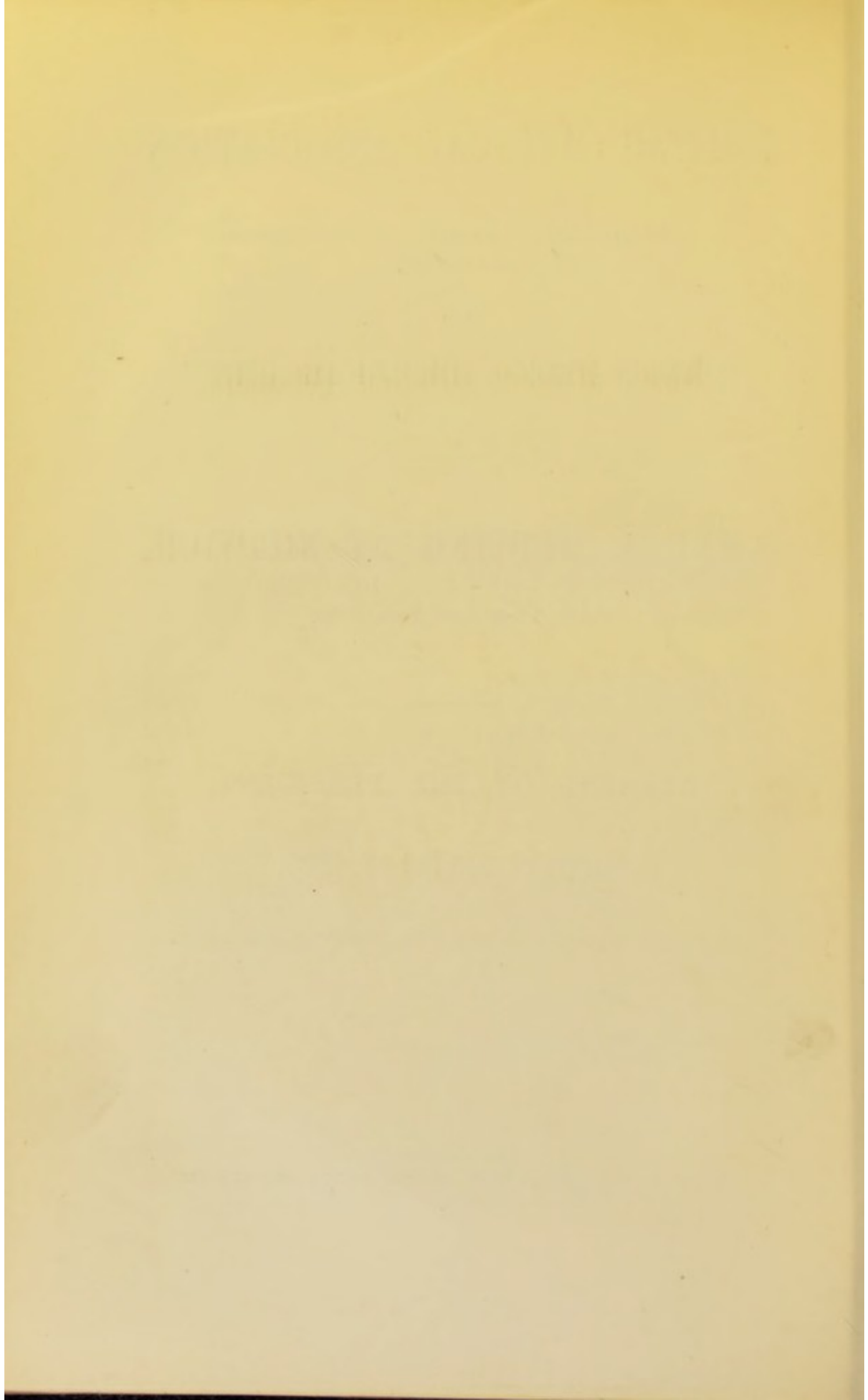
MICHAEL BEVERLEY, M.D.,

*SURGEON TO THE NORFOLK AND NORWICH HOSPITAL.*

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NORWICH:

PRINTED BY THE NORFOLK NEWS COMPANY, LIMITED, MUSEUM COURT,  
1890.



## Some Norwich Medical Worthies.

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GENTLEMEN,

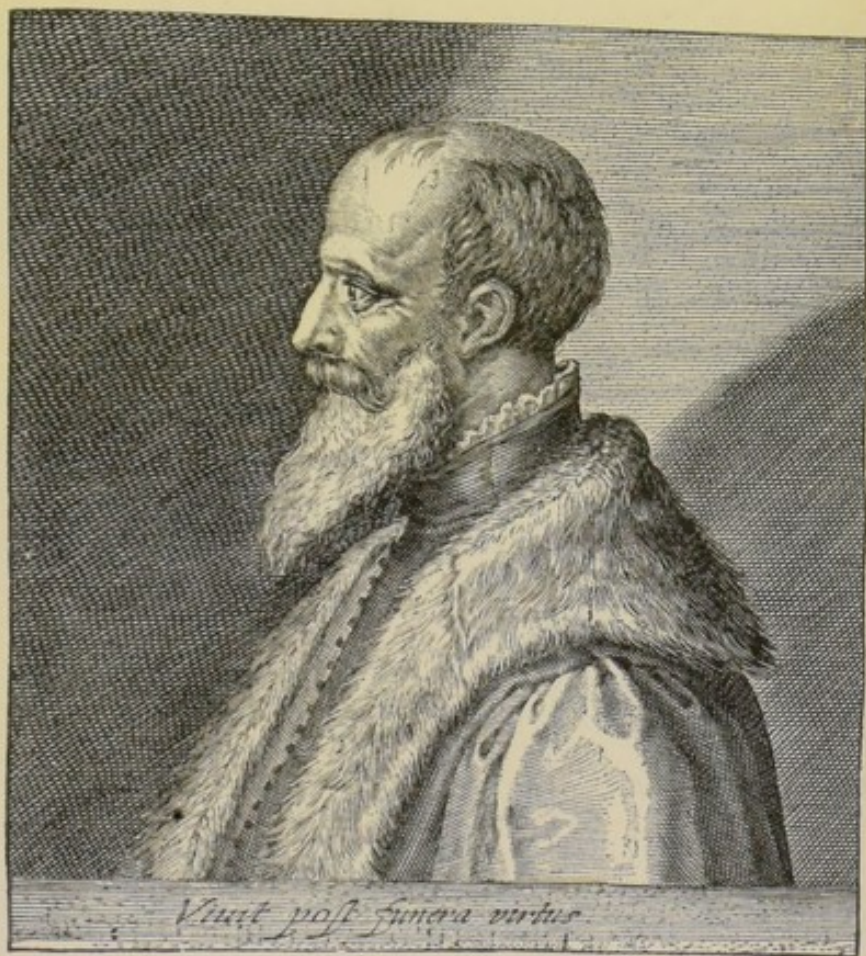
On behalf of the profession of Norwich I welcome you to this ancient city, trusting that the visit with which you are pleased to honour us will be to our mutual advantage; for, whilst we hope you will hereafter have pleasant reminiscences of this annual meeting, we, on our part, shall not fail to experience grateful recollections of the presence amongst us of so many eminent members of the British Medical Association. Personally, I thank you for the honour conferred upon me in electing me President of the East Anglian Branch for the coming year. I could have wished that the Council, in their choice, and the last Annual Meeting, in their election, had observed more strictly the Darwinian doctrine of "the selection of the fittest." I should have preferred to remain simply and solely your Secretary, in that capacity retaining what little credit I may deserve; but credit and reputation alike will, I fear, scarcely survive the more prominent position you have asked me to assume. As President of the Norwich Medico-Chirurgical Society, I venture to hope that the combined meeting will prove equally agreeable to its members, and that they will have no cause to regret this ephemeral amalgamation, which will, I trust, even in its brief duration, confirm the truism that "Union is strength."

To the members of the Cambridge and Huntingdon Branch—associated with us to-day—I bid a hearty greeting, and, speaking for the members of the East Anglian Branch, express our unanimous desire that the day is not far distant when we shall be privileged to pay them a similar compliment on the banks of the Cam.

Gentlemen, you are visiting a city rich in its associations with the past; therefore, instead of addressing you on subjects connected with the continuous progress which medicine and surgery are ever making, and of which, thanks to our excellent Medical Journals, you are as well informed as myself, I propose to take a new departure, and, in "Looking Backwards," endeavour to interest you in what I have been able to glean from the lives and writings of some of the celebrated surgeons and physicians who have practised in this city in days gone by. Were further excuse needed, I would say, *Si monumenta quæris, circumspice*. The portraits on these walls of men whose names are familiar in medical science bear silent witness that amongst her many distinguished citizens the members of our profession have contributed no small share in obtaining for Norwich that high and almost unique position in science and literature which she so long unquestionably held in the estimation of the world.

#### CAIUS.

About 400 years ago, when our old city was shut in by its tower studded walls, embattled gates, and long stretch of river, there was born within it John Kaye or Keys, better known by his Latinised name of Caius. Educated in this city, after a University course at Gonville Hall, Cambridge, he adopted medicine as a profession, going, as was the custom in those days, to Italy to pursue his studies. His *Alma Mater Medica* was Padua, where he lodged with Vesalius, the celebrated anatomist, and where his learning



IO<sup>s</sup> CAIVS MEDICVS.  
(Talis erat CAIVS Medicus praeiustis ab arte  
(Hic qualem facili sculytor in arte dedit. 000) B)

\*

and high character obtained recognition, for he received an honorarium from some noble Venetians for a course of lectures on Aristotle. Taking a degree in medicine at Bologna, he applied himself both there and at Pisa to the collation of MSS. and the collection of materials for his lives of Galen and Celsus, which he subsequently gave to the world. On his return to England, he commenced the practice of his profession at Norwich, where, in due course, he obtained so great a reputation that, in 1551, he was called to London, there to become physician to Edward VI., next to Queen Mary, and afterwards to Queen Elizabeth. His fame was indeed such that his historian says of him that he was "the prime glory among the physicians of Queen Elizabeth's reign." While Caius was in practice in this city, there occurred an epidemic of sickness, in the successful treatment of which he especially signalled himself. From the description given by him of the symptoms of this malady, in his treatise, "Ephemera Britannica," I am inclined to believe that this epidemic was the influenza of the period; at any rate, his description shows that the sickness bore a very close resemblance to the epidemic of which we have recently had a visitation. For instance, Caius speaks of the "violent pain in the head, extreme thirst, internal heat, drowsiness, and sweating;" and says that it "affected suddenly persons in high health, mostly of middle age, and especially of *better rank and condition*," in which particulars it was singularly like the recent epidemic of influenza.

It is interesting to learn from Caius' book that he attributed the cause of it, "amongst other things, to contaminations of the air, which, being wafted by the winds, were perceived to carry the contagion with them." Let me here, parenthetically, remark that the earliest recorded cases of the recent Russian influenza occurred in one of the best known houses on the cliffs at Cromer during the prevalence

of the east winds in the early part of last autumn (1889). In the treatment of those affected, Caius recommended, besides the liberal use of sudorifics, "the burning of various medicinal herbs within and without the houses," and that the fumes should be "frequently applied to the nostrils;" in other words, he advised disinfection and inhalation. Perhaps a shrewd suspicion of the existence of the still undiscovered microbe entered the fertile brain of this old physician! This is, however, but another of the many examples of the truth of the proverb that "There is nothing new under the sun."

During his residence in Norwich, Caius, like some of his successors here in the Victorian era, coupled honourable distinction in literature with high repute in medicine; he was, in fact, a most voluminous author, for no less than seventy-four treatises flowed from his prolific pen. The only other book of his in my possession, besides "*Ephemera Britannica*," is "*De Antiquitate Cantabrigiæ Academiæ*," an original edition printed in London, "Anno Domini 1568, Mense Augusto per Henricum Bynneman." In this work Caius endeavours to prove that the University of Cambridge is of far higher antiquity than that of Oxford. Interested in antiquarian lore, Caius contemplated writing a history of his native city, and it is much to be regretted that he was unable to carry out his design. Amongst his list of works there is mention of a book, "*De Thermis Britannicis*," a treatise on the nature, use, and effect of the warm baths of Great Britain.

As a naturalist, Caius assisted Gesner by drawing up short histories of certain rare animals and plants, which were inserted in his works, and were afterwards collected into one book and published by W. Serres of London, in 1570. It was at Gesner's request that Caius wrote his treatise on British Dogs, "*De Canibus Britannicis*," 1570—a work of which Pennant thought so highly that he has

inserted it in full in his "British Zoology." Gesner, who has been called the Pliny of Germany, in his preface to "Icones Animalium," speaks of Caius as "a man of consummate erudition, judgement, fidelity, and diligence;" and, in a letter to Queen Elizabeth, Gesner bestows on him the epithet of "the most learned physician of his age." Caius, who was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1547, passed successively through the offices of Censor, Registrar, and Treasurer, till, finally, he was elected President, a position he adorned for seven years. He died in 1573, in the 63rd year of his age, leaving behind him, written in his own hand, in Latin, the annals of the College from 1555 to 1572. As a Norfolk man who had studied in Gonville Hall, Caius was naturally interested in the foundation of the 14th century Norfolk rector, Edmund Gonville, and he so largely augmented its endowment and procured its advance to a College, that his name, conjoined with that of Gonville, has ever since been associated therewith. In a tomb prepared long before he died, in the chapel of the college he so richly endowed, the remains of Caius were deposited, and upon it the prolific author, in the spirit of the preacher of old, directed there should be put the terse and suggestive epitaph, *Fui Caius: Vivit post funera virtus.*

#### WILLIAM CUNYNGHAM.

Contemporary with Caius, there lived in Norwich (1556) a learned young physician named William Cunyngham, who wrote (amongst other books) a curious work entitled, "Speculum Cosmographiæ, or Cosmographical Glasse."\* It has for a frontispiece a portrait of the author in his doctor's habit, together with a bird's-eye view of "Norwiche," which he describes as "an healthfull and

\* A complete copy of this work is said to be worth fifteen guineas.

pleasant citye, havinge a faire river called Yerus ronning thorow it, which cometh out of the seas fro' Yermeth coste." The book also contains what he calls "an accurate map of the excellente Citye of Norwiche in the form of it is at the present 1558." Cunyngham was a friend and helpmate of Thomas Gale, a celebrated surgeon in the time of Henry VIII., for whom he wrote an introduction to his "Certaine Workes of Chirurgerie," an original edition of which, published in 1563, I possess. The quaint language used by Cunyngham in his appeal to his "approved frende" Gale is very curious. "Why cease you, Maister Gale? What kepeth backe the publishing of your iiij bookes which with so great travaile and perfyte skill you have so happelye finished? doth fear of sycophants and detracting tongues astoyne you? or the mistrust of severe judgement of the learned kepe back your honest attempt? Let there be no impediments I shall desire you, but banishe feare and put from you mistrust."

#### WILLIAM BULLEIN.

In the same century, in the reign of Queen Mary, William Bullein, who resided in this city, published some curious observations upon the Natural History of Norwich and Neighbourhood. The only work by Bullein in my possession is a quaint little 8vo. volume published in 1548, entitled "The Gouverment of Health, a treatise written by William Bullein, for the especial good and healthful preservation of man's body from all noysome diseases, proceeding by the excess of euil diet and other infirmities of nature, full of excellent medicines and wise counsels for the conservation of health in men, women, and children, both pleasant and profitable to the industrious Reader."

Like many similar works, written at that date, the dedication is in verse, and the text is in the form of a dialogue. The former, commencing "Cursed be Bacchus,"

would commend itself to the temperance advocates of the present day ; in the latter, even medical officers of health might find pleasant, if not profitable, reading. Bullein wrote several other works, amongst them one on his brother Richard's Surgical Practice, in which he gives an account of his treatment for Stone in the Bladder, that was, of course, simply medicinal and dietetic. Bullein's career was, at one period, rather chequered, inasmuch as, being warmly attached to the principles of the Reformation, he was thrown into prison, and subsequently unjustly arraigned before the Duke of Norfolk upon an indictment charging him with the murder of his brother, who had, in fact, died of fever. Bullein had the good fortune to establish his innocence and to confound his enemies, who had actually hired four ruffians thus to assassinate him through a judicial process. He died in 1576. Amongst the recorded names of physicians who lived in Norwich during the ensuing fifty years are Robert Bayfield, who wrote "Enchiridion-medicum," and John Sadler, M.D., the author of "The Sick Woman's Private Looking Glass," 1636.

#### BARBER SURGEONS.

I can find no other records of any noted physician or surgeon in Norwich at the end of the 16th or at the commencement of the 17th century. In the *Eastern Counties Collectanea*, Mr. Mark Knights gives some curious information as to the status of the medical profession in Norwich in the 16th century. It was taken from a copy of a petition presented by the Company of Physicians and Barber Surgeons of Norwich, in 1561, to the Mayor of the city, praying that certain orders and rules might be kept to remedy the great disorder in the practice of physic and surgery. The reputation and higher teaching of Caius and

other of his contemporaries seem to have suggested the request "that all such person or persons that should use, exercise, or minister the same" practice "be perfectly instructed and learned therein that all such cures as they should take in hand might with Knowledge be perfectly healed." The petition stated the necessity for some such regulations by complaining that, "forsomuch as there be diverse Citizens and many others from time to time coming within this worshipful city that do take upon them to be Physicians and Surgeons, and exercise and use the same, having neither experience nor learning, as Shoemakers, Hat makers, Dornick Weavers, Smiths, and Worstead weavers, with others and also divers and sundry women, giving over the good and profitable arts that they have been brought up with from ther youths hitherto even for Lucre's sake and idleness of life, being unskillful and utterly ignorant of the nature & operation of those things that they do minister, not only to the great hurt and damage of those that be their patients, But also the discouraging of those that have been trained from their youth up in this Mystery and to the bringing up of any youth in the same. What lack this will be in the Common Wealth, and especially in such a worshipful City we your poor Orators do refer the same to the judgement of your good Worships." They then asked for a Bill to ensure the due registration of all "Resident Physicians and Barber Surgeons," so that none such "within the said City or Suburbs of the same, set open any shop or sett up any bills concerning the same," or "take any dangerous cure in hand and do not council with the Master and Wardens of the same Science or with some other expert man of the same science before he shall take the cure in hand." Failing compliance with these regulations for "consultations" with experts and with a system of registration, certain fines were to be enforced. Another curious regulation was that on every third Thursday,

at nine in the morning, all were to assemble to hear read to them a letter out of such books and instructions as the Warden might appoint; and that the three Masters sworn before the Mayor should have power to punish and correct all faults and inconveniences. The prayer of the Company was acceded to by the Assembly.

That there was need for reform among the Elizabethan practitioners in Norwich we learn from the terms of the license granted by the Bishop, who then had, as I believe the Archbishop of Canterbury has now, the power to grant licenses: "A Licence to Thomas Betts of Norw<sup>ch</sup> to practise Chirurgerie, 21 Marcij, 1561 . . . Wheras by the credible Reporte of dyuers Wourshipfull and honest men of the Towne of Norw<sup>ch</sup>, one Thomas Bets hathe ben comended vnto vs for A perfight skilfull and Practized man in the Science of Chirurgery, of whiche there comendacon as there certificate dothe testifie, the difficulte cuer of dyvers pacyentes hath ben the cause, withoute any favor or affection, Therefor Knowinge howe neccessarye a membre a practized Chirurgion is to the comon welthe, Knowe ye that I, the sayed Bishop, Do authorize and License the sayed Thomas Betts to vse Practize and ffollowe the sayed Arte and Science of Chirurgery as well w<sup>th</sup>in the sayed Cittie of Norwich and the lyberties of the same, as elles where within o<sup>r</sup> holle dioces of Norff and Suff, Charging hym neuthelesse so to vse the same his Vocacon as y<sup>t</sup> maye growe to the glory of god and bodelye health of the Quenes Maties lovinge Subjectis."

Martin Von Kurnbecke, a Flemish physician, was at this time practising in Norwich, probably among the large number of Dutch and Walloons who had settled in the city. He died in 1578, and was buried in the church of St. Mary Coslany, where on his tomb is still recorded "Artium et Medicinæ Doctor." In proof that the regulations drawn up by the Company of Physicians and Barber

Surgeons of Norwich were in force and not a dead letter, a curious certificate by Kurnbecke testifies, taken from the 42 Articles Book, as follows :—

“I Martyn Van Kurnbecke Doctor in Phesicke to the Right Noble Duke of Norff his good grace Doo testefye to be true that this bearer Valerian Danske was admitted by the Companye of the Surgians in London to pragtice his Science in the w<sup>ch</sup> he can doo verye well and hath serued mannye Yearis here in England in the Warres boeth in Skotland and Sanct Qvyntines, I beinge heare and theare present, and because he had lost by a misfortune the saied writinge of admisione he ded require my helpe and testimonye that he maye not be vexed and trobled. Therefore according to the order that must be had in such things I will desyer such as haue a doo in the saied facultie to creditt him and me in this behalf. Written by me abouenamed, and have sett my Seale to the more creditt hereunto. The Twentieth of March, A<sup>o</sup> 1565.”

Bonesetting was at this period a speciality, recognised not only by the public, but also by the Mayor and Corporation of Norwich, who, amongst their salaried officers, had such a useful official for the benefit of those who could not afford to pay. This information is given from the Assembly Books by Mr. Knights, who remarks, “If there was no Hospital there was the spirit of the institution in existence.”

Mr. Richard Durrant, “a man very skilful in bone-setting,” appointed five years before Dr. Kurnbecke died, was of “good-will to dwell in the city by the request of Mr. Mayor and other worshipful and common of the same city,” for “the relief of some as shall fortune by misfortune to have their legs, arms, or the bones or other parts of their limbs to be broken, of such as be poor and not able to pay for their healing.” Mr. Durrant had £4 a year and a house to live in for his “pains and diligence,”

and his successor, a Mr. Reve, had £10 a year and a house.

The advocates of "women's rights" and of lady physicians can also find precedents in this city 300 years ago, as the following license shows:—"Wheras Adrian Colman Widdowe, late wife of Nicolas Colman late of the Citty of Norw<sup>ch</sup>, Practic'on of Phisick deceased . . . . . Nowe for as much as the saide Nicholas was dep'ted this lyfe and hath left the said Adrian experienced in the said arte and Mistery of Phisicke . . . . . Know ye that we . . . . . doe license . . . . . the said Adrian Colman to minister the best skill and Cuning to Women, Children," etc., etc. Signed by C. Howard and W. Knollys, 27th November, 1596. Cecily, wife of Edmund Baldrye of Great Yarmouth, had, in 1560, been licensed by the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Norwich to practice the art of Chirurgery. Rather more than a hundred years later (1785) the Bishop of this Diocese licensed one Robert Purland to practise as a dentist.

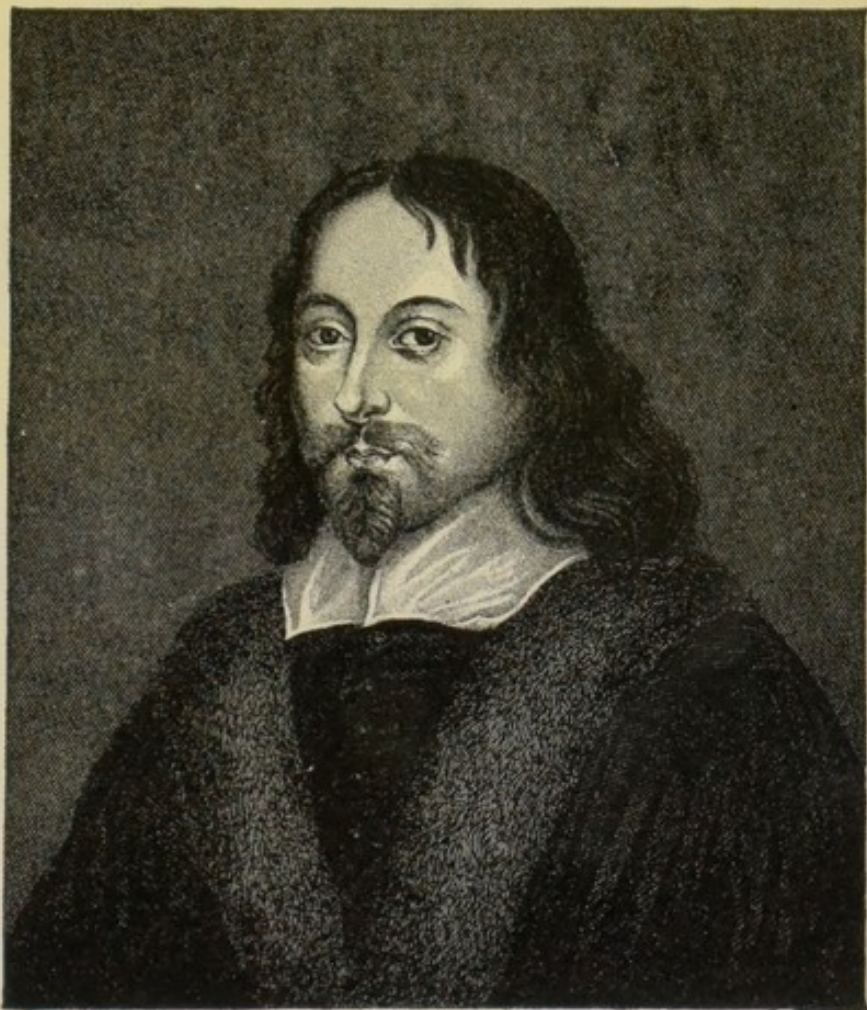
I am indebted to Mr. T. R. Tallack for some further curious information from the Assembly Books, showing that the Corporation took upon themselves some of the functions now discharged by our Hospitals. From 1670 to 1682 there occur entries of collections made for payment of a surgeon to perform the operation of cutting for stone. This Chirurgeon was a Mr. Guttridge, who seems to have been first treated with by the Assembly, in 1670, as to the case of a boy named Carr. In 1673 Mr. Guttridge was "to have £5 paid him upon cutting Mr. Augar's child of y<sup>e</sup> stone, and if y<sup>e</sup> stone be produced in this court, notwithstanding y<sup>e</sup> child shall die by reason of y<sup>e</sup> cutting." In the following year a poor boy was cut for stone by Mr. Guttridge "at public cost." In 1678, a "son of Samuel Joy of Colegate, 4½ years old much affected by stone," was "recommended to

the charity of the court and others to have the charge of cutting him defrayed," and Mr. Guttridge was "discoursed about it and contracted with for £4, to be raised by contributions in various Parishes." The Bishop was occasionally asked by the Assembly for a license to make a collection at churches in order to procure the means to pay for the operation. Here we have the germ of the "Hospital Sunday Fund."

#### SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

The records I have given you, extracted from reliable documents in this city, show that there were at this period "Physicians and Chirurgions" practising their art and mystery here; but it was not until the days of Sir Thomas Browne that Norwich comes once more to the front in medicine and literature. This distinguished physician, born in London in 1605, was educated at Winchester and at Oxford, where he graduated in arts and medicine; and then, as did Caius, a hundred years previously, he proceeded to Padua to acquire anatomical knowledge. Three years after his return to England, in 1634, he settled in Norwich, where he practised for forty-six years. When Charles II. visited this city in 1671 he offered to knight the Mayor; his Worship, however, declined the honour in favour of the learned author of "Religio Medici," who was thereupon knighted by the King. Sir Thomas Browne died on October 19th, 1682, in his 76th year, "of a colic, which, after having tortured him a week, put an end to his life." He was buried in St. Peter Mancroft Church, where may be seen his monument, erected by his wife, Dame Dorothy, with an inscription in Latin and English, differing much, both in length and character, from the epitaph on Caius.

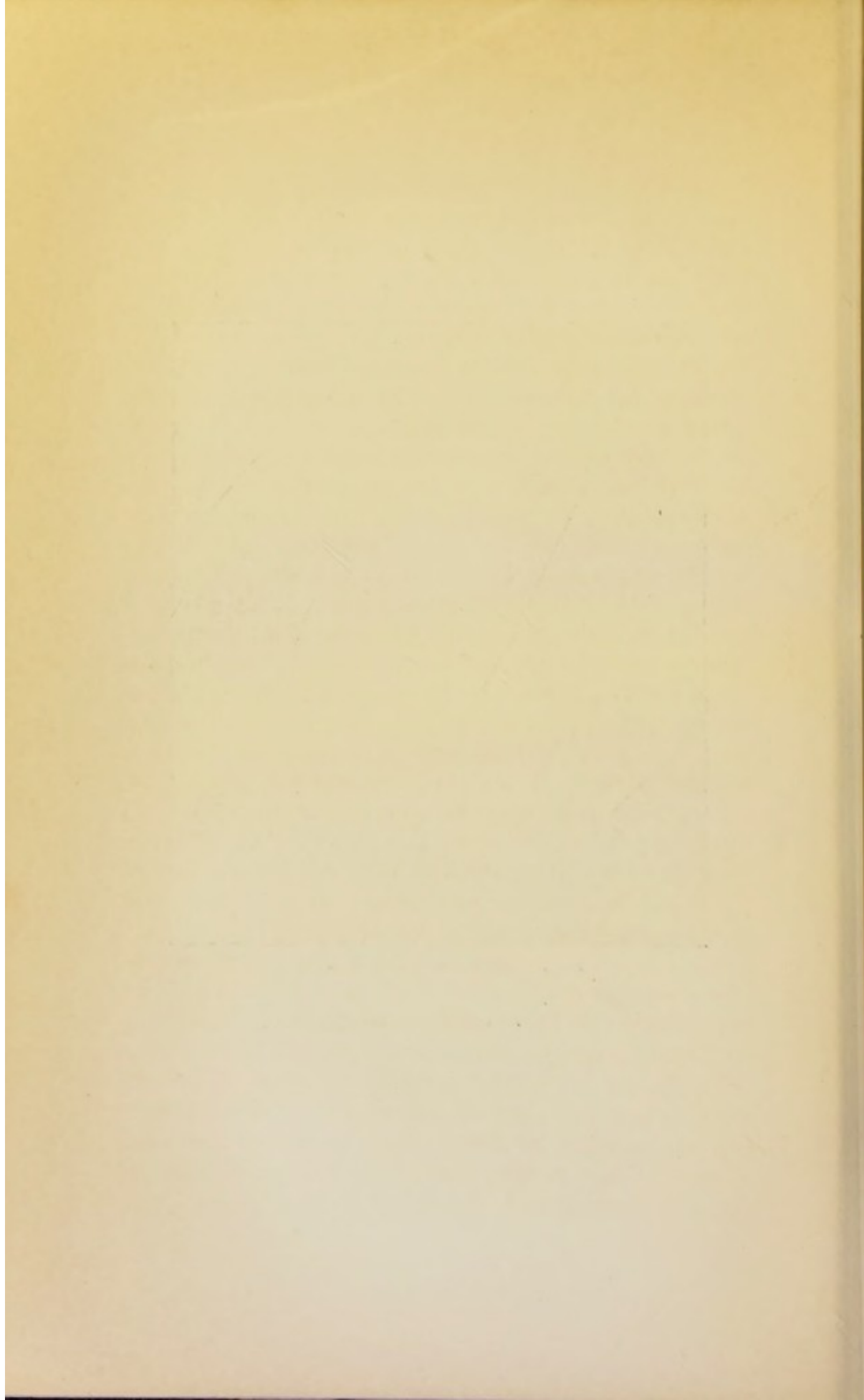
Before referring to the works of Sir Thomas Browne, it will be interesting to notice what is known of the personality and peculiar characteristics of so noted a



SIR THOMAS BROWNE, M.D.

*Author of "Religio Medici,"*

*Born 1605, Died 1682.*



Norwich worthy. The portrait which has found a resting place in this room really belongs to the Church of St. Peter Mancroft, in the vestry of which it hung for very many years, till at last it was rescued from that obscurity by my colleague, Mr. Charles Williams, to whose exertions are due the splendid collection of portraits which this Hospital now possesses, the value and interest of which are about to be increased by the publication of a complete historical catalogue by that gentleman.

One of Browne's contemporaries, who knew him intimately, has thus described him: "His complexion and hair was answerable to his name, brown, his stature moderate, habit of body neither lean nor fat; in clothing he had an aversion to all finery, and affected plainness both in fashion and ornaments. . . . He was never seen to be transported with mirth, or dejected with sadness; always cheerful but rarely merry, seldom heard to break a jest; and when he did he would be apt to blush at the levity of it; his gravity was natural without affectation. . . . Parsimonious in nothing but his time, whereof he made as much improvement with as little loss as any man in it, when he had any to spare from his drudging practice. He was scarce patient of any diversion from his study; so impatient of sloth and idleness that he would say he could not do nothing. He understood most of the European languages, Latin and Greek critically, and a little Hebrew; he might have made good the old saying, 'dat Galenus opes,' had he lived in a place that could have afforded it," but there was small scope at Norwich to acquire great professional gains.

Sir Thomas Browne will probably remain for all time the most celebrated of Norwich authors. His "Religio Medici" was no sooner published than it excited universal attention. Characterised throughout by extensive learning, that was illumined by the almost poetical flashes of an

exuberant and fervid imagination, "Religio Medici" presented to the literati of that day materials for criticism, which was often fierce and seldom friendly. "Vigorous but rugged, learned but pedantic, deep but obscure," was the judgment of Samuel Johnson, the great lexicographer. Browne's "Pseudodoxia Epidemica," or, as it is generally known, "Vulgar Errors," of which I have an original edition, contains as curious a series of rambling and ingenious articles as were ever penned. Besides these works, Browne wrote on subjects relating to natural history, an account of the antiquities of Norwich Cathedral, and a discourse on "Sepulchral Urns and Urn Burial," which was suggested by the discovery of some Roman urns at Old Walsingham. Although buried within the sacred precincts of St. Peter Mancroft Church, yet the bones of Sir Thomas Browne were not destined to remain undisturbed.

In August, 1840, some workmen, who were employed in digging a vault in the chancel of the Church of St. Peter Mancroft, accidentally broke, with the blow of a pickaxe, the lid of a coffin, on which was a large brass plate in the form of a shield, bearing the following inscription:—

Amplissimus Vir  
Dns. Thomas Browne Miles, Medicinæ  
Dr. Annos Natus 77 Denatus 19 Die  
Mensis Octobris, Anno Dni. 1682, hoc  
Loculo indormiens Corporis Spagy-  
rici pulvere plumbum in aurem  
Convertit.

This was thus translated by the late Mr. Firth:—"The very distinguished man, Sir Thomas Browne, Knight, Doctor of Medicine, aged 77 years, who died on the 19th of October, in the year of our Lord 1682, sleeping in this coffin of lead, by the dust of his alchemic body transmutes it into a coffer of gold." Mr. Robert Fitch, who communicated these facts to the Archæological Institute at their

annual meeting in Norwich, 1847, adds the singular fact that "the lead of which the coffin was made was completely decomposed and changed to a carbonate, crumbling at the touch." The above epitaph, written probably by Sir Thomas' son, Dr. Edward Browne, has given rise to some controversy, especially as to the exact meaning of the word *spagyricus*, of which Mr. Fitch says, if not classical, it was much used in Browne's time by medical writers. Johnson, no mean authority, gives it as signifying "chymical," and cites a paragraph from Boyle, who, using "spagyrist" for a chemical experimentaliser, in speaking of 'chemical change,' says—"This change is so unexampled, that though among the more curious *spagyrist*s it be very well known, yet many naturalists cannot easily believe it." Thus the passage in the epitaph alludes "to the doctrine of the alchemists," and the phrase, "sleeping in this coffin by the dust of his alchemic body he transmuteth lead into gold," means that he "renders the base metal precious by making it the repository of his honoured remains, and thus doing what the alchemists vainly pretended to do."—*(Fitch.)*

Of the skeleton Mr. Fitch says:—"The bones of the skeleton were found to be in good preservation, particularly those of the skull; the forehead was remarkably low and depressed, the head unusually long, the back part exhibiting an uncommon appearance of depth and capaciousness; the brain was considerable in quantity, quite brown and unctuous; the hair profuse and perfect, and of fine auburn colour, similar to that in the portrait carefully preserved in the vestry of St. Peter Mancroft."

The skull was taken possession of by the late Dr. Lubbock, who presented it to the Hospital Museum; hence those of you gentlemen who are craniologists have here the opportunity of studying the contour and characteristics of a skull which certainly contained one of the most

powerful, original, and prolific brains of the 17th century; and with one of the reflections evolved from it—a reflection which time and the curiosity manifested concerning it have caused to be singularly applicable to Sir Thomas Browne—I will conclude all I have to say about its possessor: “When the funeral pyre was out, and the last valediction over, men took a lasting adieu of their interred friends, little expecting the curiosity of future ages should comment on their ashes. But who knows the fate of his bones! or how often he is to be buried? Who hath the oracle of his ashes, or whither they are to be scattered?”

#### EDWARD BROWNE.

Edward Browne, son of Sir Thomas, was born in Norwich in 1642, educated in the Norwich Grammar School, graduated in medicine at Cambridge and Oxford, and subsequently, like his father, studied medicine in Italy. He practised in London, and became President of the College of Physicians. Charles II., to whom he was Physician, said of him, “Browne was as learned as any of his College, and as well bred as any at Court.” He published some interesting travels, among them “A Journey from Norwich to Colen,” 1681.

#### JOHN BROWN,

No relation to Sir Thomas or his son, was born in this city in 1642, and became Surgeon to William III. I have no special information about him, and mention his name only that I may show you an excellent work on the muscles—“*Myographia Nova*”—which he published in 1697, as well as a curious work, termed “*Adenochoiradelogia or Anatomick-Chirurgical Treatise of Glandules and Strumaes or Kings-Evil-Swellings, together with the Royal Gift of Healing or cure thereof by contact, or imposition of hands performed for above 640 years by our kings of England.*” An

illustration of this Royal gift of healing is given in the frontispiece of the book, which was published in 1648.

JOHN ROBINSON.

In my collection of books by Norwich authors, there is one entitled "Miscellaneous Propositions and Quæres by John Robinson, Doctor in Physick in Norwich, 1649," and, in truth, they are very miscellaneous, for they include articles concerning "Adam," "Marriage," "Sympathy," "Swimming," and "Remedies." The author candidly says that "they are a handful of abrupt conceptions, or rather abortions of mine, their birth for some reasons being precipitated; and neither my Genius, nor my calling, will allow me a sequestred time, to dwell long upon any subject." On remedies, he is in accord with the expectant physicians of the present day. "In the disquisition of Therapeuticks, I would first look into the *Pharmacopœia Universalis* of Nature: the sedulous culture whereof would abridge the number of exotick simples" by an appeal to the example often set by nature. He advocates phlebotomy when he says, "we see in most acute diseases, that by spontaneous bleeding, and that severall waies, either in Man or Woman, sometimes also in children, there is by the sole help of nature a critical solution. The long experiment of the concording Practitioners, with the confirmation of myriades of Patients, confessing the sudden refreshment by bleeding, when the blood is peccant, either in quantity, quality, or motion, may confirm the usefulness, yea, the necessity of Phlebotomy." He also advocates the internal use of hot water. "Daily experience doth teach that warme water doth, as a vehicle, often educe putrid and superfluous humours, with a great alteration of the Patient." He thus anticipated by nearly 250 years the fashionable practice of the present day, and possibly, like his successor in Chancery Lane (Dr. Towers

Smith), he may have professed to alter the condition of his polysarcous contemporaries in 14, 21, or 31 days, according to the amount of hot water (*inter alia*) they could sip per diem. Robinson, who has been styled a somewhat pompous and coxcombical personage, attacked his fellow citizen and collegian, Sir Thomas Browne, in his "Still Gale," in which, says Simon Wilkin, there was little to ruffle a far more excitable antagonist than Sir Thomas. He also published what he called a "calm ventilation" of Browne's "Pseudodoxia Epidemica."

#### BENJAMIN GOOCH.

Amongst the portraits around you, that of Benjamin Gooch deserves especial notice, inasmuch as to him was mainly due the initiation of the movement which led to the foundation of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. In 1759, Dr. Hayter, Bishop of Norwich, consulted Gooch upon the erection of an infirmary in the city. At the Bishop's instance Gooch, to quote his own words, "visited all the great hospitals in London with the utmost attention, and procured, by the friendly and obliging behaviour and assistance of the Surgeons there and in other places, the necessary intelligence and information I possibly could." Owing to the death of Bishop Hayter, the project made no progress at that time, but Gooch never relinquished the idea, and, during his retirement at Shottesham, he succeeded in interesting in the work Mr. William Fellowes, whose portrait occupies the position of honour in this Board Room. Through his exertions the necessary funds were raised, and in 1772 the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, the eighteenth of the provincial hospitals of England, was opened. Gooch wrote a short account of its rise and progress, in which he asked in what place the sick were more likely to be cured than "in an hospital well governed and regulated, where all due care is taken

to have the benefit of suitable diet, pure air, cleanliness, and every other requisite, without having the wards crowded with patients? This last article is materially necessary to be observed, the neglect of which in some Hospitals, both at home and abroad, has been productive of deleterious effects, as must inevitably be the consequence of breathing in an impure atmosphere, so contaminated with the effluvia of morbid bodies, tending to the discredit of the institution and the gentlemen appointed to the care of the sick and lame."

It was from the long neglect of these essential elements of hospital hygiene, on the observance of which Benjamin Gooch at the very commencement insisted, that there arose the insanitary condition of the old Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, during the last decade of its existence. To that insanitary condition, as it affected the surgical mortality, I directed attention in a paper read at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association held in this city in 1874. The continuous prevalence of pyæmia and erysipelas doomed to destruction the grand old Hospital Gooch was instrumental in founding, save one wing, now utilised as the museum and out-patient department. Our new Hospital has been up to the present time nearly exempt from these calamities, and this, in my opinion, has been quite as much due to the absence of overcrowding as to the more complete system of ventilation and other perfected sanitary arrangements which this beautiful building possesses over the old Hospital. It was built for 200 beds, 50 more than it was computed would be requisite, or than its finances would permit. This was designed to carry out Gooch's principles, and secure the patients from the ill effects of over-crowding. One ward on each side of the Hospital was to remain empty, that patients might be removed into it when, from insanitary conditions, an occupied ward required to be emptied and

purified. It is greatly to be hoped that the "powers that be" will always maintain this essential provision for the salubrity of this beautiful new Hospital, for rest assured that if they neglect to uphold this principle—and of late there have been some indications of a departure from it—in spite of antiseptic surgery, a fate similar to that of its predecessor will befall it.

The surgical works of Gooch, in three volumes, published between 1766 and 1773, are evidence not only of his industry and skill, but of his painstaking and modest endeavours to place his experience at the service of his contemporaries. "By making," as he says, "observations carefully, communicating them faithfully, with the particular treatment of the most remarkable cases, as well unfavourable as favourable, these events will be of singular service and prove the surest guides of practice on various occasions." Gooch's works, translated into several foreign languages, will ever remain as the most complete classical clinical records published by any provincial surgeon during the last century. In the third volume is a good account of an epidemic which affected this city in 1741. The description given of it coincides very much with our experience of the recent influenza epidemic, especially in the more serious cases where there were pulmonary complications.

Gooch was an expert in the cerebral surgery of his day, and some excellent cases were recorded by him. The most notable was that of the Rev. Mr. Barker of Hedenham, who, falling from a runaway horse, injured his skull. Symptoms of cerebral abscess came on after the lapse of eleven days. He was trepanned by Gooch, who let out the pus, and the patient recovered and lived for several years after the operation. Another case bearing upon the present method of treating empyema is recorded under the head of "An abscess of the Pleura opened and cured."

Having given an accurate description of the case, and recorded his reasons for considering it an empyema, for which an operation was required without delay as the only chance of relief, he says:—"The operation was performed directly over the seat of pain, and a large quantity of fetid matter evacuated." Then follows his description of after treatment, to which I wish to direct your especial attention, as it shows that even the principle of drainage of suppurating cavities was known to and practised by Gooch. "In order to keep the aperture open for a free discharge of the matter, in the intervals of dressing, I introduced a flat hollow tent dipped into Belloste's Compound Samaritan Balsam," (the antiseptic paste of the period) "applying over it a piece of common plaster, having a hole in the middle corresponding to the mouth of the tent, with a soft compress—a laced flannel bandage and scapulary. The tent was made of a leaden canula, covered with a piece of plaster, with the ears of sufficient length and breadth to rest steadily upon the rib above and below, confined to the part with strips of plaster. This method of dressing I have found to answer the purpose perfectly well in such cases." The patient, who was *in extremis* when Gooch undertook his treatment, recovered in six weeks from the date of the operation. Benjamin Gooch was the first consulting surgeon to this Hospital, appointed, as he says, "in his absence and without his desire," for he was then living in retirement at Shottesham, where he completed the last volume of his "Surgical Observations."

#### THE CHEVALIER TAYLOR.

Far different in personal character, in self estimation, and in literary style was John Taylor, a contemporary of Gooch. Taylor thus writes of his birth:—"In Norwich I first beheld the light. It was in that happy city I first

began to breathe. It was there I first became acquainted with the glories of the sun—a city memorable for many great events in our English annals, and it is possible that its having been the place of my birth may not one day be judged unworthy the notice of posterity.” In this vain and self-glorifying style, which pervades all his writings, John Taylor, the celebrated ophthalmic surgeon, commences the record of his life and travels.

Taylor was oculist to King George II., and, as he announces in the title page of his books, to almost every reigning Sovereign in Europe. He published forty-five treatises in various languages on the structure and diseases of the eye and their treatment. One of them is dedicated to Cheselden, of whom, when in London, he was a pupil. Sir W. Farquhar says, “I have often seen him perform the operation of couching for cataract. His manual dexterity appeared to be the touch of magic.”

John Taylor came of an old Norwich family, still represented in this city by the Howard Taylors. The Chevalier's grandfather and father were surgeons here, and his son and grandson followed on the same lines, selecting ophthalmic surgery as specialties. John Taylor is described—and his portrait confirms it—as a tall, handsome man, a great favourite with the ladies, as he himself unblushingly proclaims. Addicted to splendour in dress, and very expensive in his style of living and habits, he died, in consequence, in comparative poverty, for, as a continental paper records—“Having given sight to thousands, the celebrated Chevalier Taylor died blind at an advanced age in a convent at Prague.”

#### SIR BENJAMIN WRENCH.

In the Guildhall there is an oil painting of a worthy old Norwich physician, Sir Benjamin Wrench, who practised here in the middle of the last century. From his bland

and urbane manner he was called "the silver-tongued Sir Benjamin." He had for his pupil Messenger Monsey, who afterwards became Physician to Chelsea Hospital. Monsey regarded Wrench with the greatest affection, and considered him and old Dr. Heberden to be two of the wisest and most excellent physicians he had ever known. He kept to his dying day a portrait of Wrench in his drawing-room at Chelsea Hospital, and it is said that he never looked at it without paying an affectionate tribute to his memory. Monsey relates the following story of his old master:—"Sir Benjamin had been consulted by a patient who, after a tedious and long examination, gave him only a guinea for his fee. This he deemed insufficient, and although it was noon he called for a candle, with which he looked about the room; whereupon he was asked if he had lost anything. Replying that he feared he had dropped a guinea, the patient took the hint, and the doctor was satisfied by an augmentation of his fee."

#### DR. MONSEY.

It may not be generally known that Messenger Monsey, the celebrated Physician of Chelsea Hospital, lived for sometime in this city, where he had been a pupil under Sir Benjamin Wrench. He was a friend and correspondent of Gooch, as may be seen in the works of the latter. Subsequently, he settled for a time at Bury, where, his Biographer states, "he experienced the common fate of county physicians: constant fatigue, long journies, and an inadequate income; his receipts not exceeding £300 a year. . . . Wearing a rusty wig, dirty boots and leather breeches, he here might have degenerated into the hum-drum Country Doctor, with the common place questions by rote, the tongue, the pulse, the guinea; his merits not diffused beyond a county chronicle, and his fame confined to a country churchyard." Fortunately for him, Lord

Godolphin was seized of an "apoplectic complaint, near Bury, and nature or Dr. Monsey were so successful as to secure his life, and, what was more, his gratitude and assistance." Under Lord Godolphin's auspices, he went to London, where "he trod the pleasantest path of life, the midway between leisure and fatigue, while friendship and polished society and literary amusement might be said to strew it with flowers." He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society, and had amongst his *clientele* most of the literati and many of the nobility of his day. With Sir Robert Walpole, whose acquaintance he made in Norwich, Lord Chesterfield, and David Garrick he was on terms of the closest intimacy. Monsey was one of the most celebrated raconteurs and humourists of the time, while he certainly was, judging from his portrait, the ugliest of mortals. He was extremely heterodox in his religious opinions, and very free in giving expression to them, as may be seen from the epitaph which he composed for himself in his 90th year. He died at the age of 92, having, it is said, outlived the numerous applicants for his lucrative post, who had not unfrequently annoyed him during his declining years by the persistency with which they interviewed him and surveyed his comfortable quarters at Chelsea. He intended that his body should be buried in the Hospital Garden, with the following epitaph for his tombstone:—

Here lie my old bones, my vexation now ends ;  
 I have lived much too long for myself and my friends.  
 As to churches and churchyards which men may call holy,  
 'Tis a rank piece of Priestcraft and founded in folly.  
 What the next world may be never troubled my pate ;  
 And, be what it may, I beseech thee, oh Fate !  
 When the bodies of millions rise up in a riot,  
 To let the old carcase of Monsey lie quiet.

#### HARMER.

In the middle of last century, Mr. Harmer lived in Norwich. Gooch speaks of him as an "experienced

lithotomist," and figures in his works a stone, which he successfully removed from a man, aged 48, who had been the subject of it since infancy. The operation," says Gooch," was performed on June 8th, 1746. It was found impracticable to extract the stone through a wound of the common size, which the operator had made, or to break it by the force of the forceps; therefore, at his desire, I divided the parts occasionally as he continued a gentle extraction." This calculus, which weighs 15 ounces, is figured in Gooch's work, where he says of it, "I believe it is the largest we have upon record, taken from a living subject;" and, so far as the Norwich collection goes, I believe it so remains to this day. Thus, of the calculi, as well as of the lithotomists, it may be said, "There were giants in those days." The patient recovered, but, as might be expected, with a urinary fistula. Gooch writes, "There was no reason to expect the wound would ever be perfectly healed, after the extraction of a stone of that enormous size, but he had no symptoms which threatened his life in consequence of the operation. He died in April, 1751, and constantly walked about till a few days before his death." In a foot note, Gooch adds the curious information that the patient instructed a little dog to lick his perineal wound, "which afforded him a pleasing sensation, and gave him more ease than any applications his surgeon furnished him with. As long as he lived his dog was his surgeon, and kept the wound tolerably clean and easy, to his great comfort and satisfaction, as he often told me."

The supra-pubic operation is not alluded to in Gooch's Works.

#### WILLIAM DONNE.

William Donne, a celebrated lithotomist, was one of the surgeons first appointed to this Hospital, which he served for thirty-two years. He operated upon the first stone

patient in this Hospital, and on forty of the earliest fifty. Between 1772 and 1780, he performed 172 operations for stone, effecting 147 cures, while one is described as relieved, and twenty-four died. In looking through the cabinets of calculi in the Museum, one cannot fail to notice that Mr. Donne was one of the largest contributors to that unrivalled collection. Among them is a most beautiful example of mulberry calculus, weighing two and half ounces, which he successfully extracted by means of the lateral operation. Gooch, who speaks of Donne as an expert lithotomist and a very able surgeon, records, in his work on surgery, a case where he extracted sixteen stones, of which he gives illustrations. Sir Astley Cooper (who was born at Brooke, near Norwich), says, in his Autobiography—"Seeing Mr. Donne of Norwich operate when I was a boy gave me the first desire to be a surgeon." Donne, who at first practised at Dereham, lived in St. Andrew's, near the present Museum, in a house which, in common with many others, has been recently levelled by the Haussmanizing process, which this part of the city is undergoing (and not before it was needed) at the hands of an enterprising and highly scientific citizen, the present Deputy-Mayor, a descendant of Mr. Harmer, the lithotomist, to whom I have referred. William Donne was a reserved, methodical man, of a highly nervous temperament; and though, it is said, the prospect of a serious operation would keep him awake for a night or two, yet, according to contemporary testimony, he was a bold and skilful operator. Further, he is reported to have been a mortal foe to any form of compression by dress, more especially to stays, then, as now, much in fashion. As he was an opponent of vaccination, then being introduced with so much zeal by his colleague, Dr. Rigby, he would have found much favour amongst a certain section of the community of the present day. The champions of

æsthetic garments and the opponents of vaccination may thus fairly quote Donne amongst their very early supporters.

EDWARD RIGBY,

Who was born in 1747, served the highest offices in this city. In 1762 he was apprenticed to David Martineau, an ancestor of the Norwich surgeon of the same name, to whom I shall presently have to refer. In 1769, he began to practice in Norwich, and, on the completion of the Hospital, was appointed one of its first Assistant Surgeons, becoming, in succession, Surgeon and Physician. He spent thirty-five years in hospital work. The late Mr. Crosse (his biographer) says of Rigby—"As a surgeon, he was undoubtedly devoid of manual dexterity; but he was a most intellectual man, even to his maturest years, possessed not only of the best knowledge of his profession, but he had a very extensive acquaintance with general science and literature. He has left several estimable publications, the product of his ready pen, for he had a great facility of composition . . . Possessed of commanding person and affable manners, he soon got employment in his profession, and the experience he gained by attending midwifery amongst the poor in this populous city, was made the basis of future celebrity, and gave rise to the essay on 'Uterine Hæmorrhage: Accidental and Unavoidable', with which his name will ever be associated." This work—five editions of which were published in his lifetime—was translated into French and German. He wrote on a variety of topics: "Peruvian Bark in the Cure of Intermittents;" "Chemical Observations on Sugar," and "Animal Heat." He included also Agriculture and Arboriculture in his accomplishments, as may be seen from his publications on Holkham and Framingham. On these he was well qualified to write, for it was at his country seat at Framingham, near Norwich, that he spent his hours of relaxation. "There," says

Crosse, "he enjoyed himself to a singular degree, and would point out to his friends fruits improved by cultivation, flowers brought from abroad, trees planted and grown under his long and frequent inspection; it was there he renovated himself for the more harassing duties of public life; it was there he delighted to entertain with mutual benefit the scientific traveller, for Framingham was equally consecrated to science and hospitality."

Dr. Rigby had a family of twelve children, of whom four (three boys and one girl) were the production of one birth. The Hospital Museum possesses the quadruple placenta of this interesting event. His son, Dr. Edward Rigby, who practised in London, obtained there a great reputation as an accoucheur. He was Lecturer on Midwifery at St. Thomas' and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals, and Examiner in Midwifery at the University of London. Rigby was the first to introduce vaccination into Norwich. During his active professional life, two severe epidemics of small pox occurred in the city, and, in grappling with them, he strenuously advocated isolation, and succeeded in inducing the Corporation to take a house at Framingham, to be used as a Small-Pox Hospital. This House he subsequently purchased from the Corporation, and converted it into his country residence.

Rigby was an extremely abstemious man. He advocated temperance amongst his patients and the community at large to such an extent that a local artist dedicated to him the picture of an antique pump, still in existence in the parish of St. Lawrence, to which a quaker gentleman, Thomas Ransome, affixed the following *jeu d'esprit* :—

Wine, spirits, ale and porter, stout,  
Rigby denounces in the lump.  
The artist hence was led, no doubt,  
To dedicate to him—a pump.

For his services to the city as Mayor and Sheriff, for his devotion to the poor during the epidemic of small-pox

and in recognition of his abilities as Surgeon and Physician to the Hospital, Dr. Rigby was presented with the Honorary Freedom of the City, a circumstance which escaped attention amongst the precedents referred to on the recent occasion of a similar and equally deserved honour being conferred by the Mayor and Corporation of this city on our distinguished *confrere*, Mr. Cadge.

#### PHILIP MEADOWS MARTINEAU

was a descendant of David Martineau of Dieppe, who, on the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes emigrated to this country and settled in Norwich. Born in this city, in 1752, he was apprenticed to Mr. Donne, with whom he subsequently became partner. He was appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the Hospital in 1777, and Surgeon in 1793, and in these two capacities he served the Institution for more than half-a-century. At the suggestion of his colleagues, he was then appointed consulting Surgeon. Martineau has left but two publications, both of considerable historic interest. One relates to ovarian dropsy, the other to lithotomy. The former was communicated to the Royal Society of London, by no less a personage than John Hunter, and and was subsequently published in the Philosophical Transactions for 1784. It was entitled, "An Extraordinary Case of Dropsy of the Ovarium, with Some Remarks, by Mr. Philip Martineau, surgeon to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, communicated by John Hunter, Esq., F.R.S." The case was intended to demonstrate that "the operation of tapping may be indefinitely repeated, with ease and safety, under favourable circumstances, without producing injury to the parts or fatal derangement of the general health." It is singular that this communication by two such distinguished men as Martineau and Hunter should have escaped the lynx eye of Mr. Lawson Tait,

whose antiquarian proclivities are so well known. It might have found a fitting place, in his recent work on Abdominal Surgery, among such monumental inscriptions as the Romsey tombstone to "Mary Dawlings, aged 90, who had been tapped for dropsy 46 times," and the epitaph to the courageous "Lady Dame Mary Page, who in 16 months was tapped 66 times, had taken away 246 gallons of water, without ever repining at her case or fearing the operation."

Martineau's paper "On Lithotomy" was published in the transactions of the London Medico-Chirurgical Society, in 1822. In it he describes what was then known as "The Norwich operation for Stone," and relates, in simple style, the brilliant and uncommon results of his own experience and practice during a period of 17 years, giving the record of 84 patients whom he had cut for stone, of whom only two died, together with the names, ages, and dates, with weights of the stones, &c. Of them he says, "No selection of patients were made, as I have never rejected anyone who was brought for operation. . . . In the operation itself I have deviated but little from the directions given by Cheselden." Then he proceeds to give a minute and most intelligible description of the manner in which he performed the lateral operation for stone. This paper is historically interesting at the present time, when the supra-pubic operation is being revived, as it was written by Martineau mainly to give the reason why he preferred the lateral perineal operation to the supra-pubic operation, then, as now, exciting considerable attention. It was then recommended in preference to the perineal operation by Mr. Carpue and Dr. Souberbielle of Paris. His biographer says, "To Mr. Martineau this operation" (lateral lithotomy) "presented irresistible attractions and charms. To excel, in this, the most anxious, responsible, and perhaps, also the most difficult department of his art, seems from the com-

mencement to the conclusion of his long career to have been the leading object of his ambition. To accomplish this, he willingly gave up his days and nights, and applied all the powers of his strong mind. His efforts were eminently successful; his triumph was complete, and when he retired from the scene of his many and hard earned honours, he retired in the full possession of head and hand, which had long placed him at the head in provincial surgery, and which entitled the senior surgeon of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital to a distinguished rank amongst the most eminent lithotomists of his age and country."

Like Rigby, Martineau had a great love for country life and scenery. To this end, he purchased an estate at Bracondale, where, after the fatigues of the day, he frequently resorted with his friends. It is recorded that "his hospitalities there were various and elegant, and that he lived in constant intercourse with the best society of the county and city." The landscape gardening and groves of Bracondale remain to this day evidence of the excellent taste and good judgment of Philip Meadows Martineau.

#### WILLIAM DALRYMPLE,

of Scotch descent, was born in Norwich, in 1772, commenced practice in the city in 1793, at first in a small way in his father's house, and then slowly, but surely, rose in his profession, and in the estimation of the public, until he obtained a great reputation in county and city, particularly in association with the Hospital, to which he was surgeon 27 years. To him belongs the credit of being the Founder of the Hospital Museum, towards which he presented his valuable collection of Anatomical and Pathological Specimens. His son, Mr. Donald Dalrymple, was its first Honorary Curator. The original museum disappeared with

the old Hospital, but its contents have been arranged with even greater convenience than formerly in that portion of the old building which alone remains.

Mr. Crosse, the present Consulting Surgeon, is still its Honorary Curator. To him the duties appertaining to the office have ever been a labour of love, born of his well-known zeal in all which relates to pathology, and also, in no small degree, owing to the fact that his father, John Green Crosse, took such an active part in its foundation, and delivered the inaugural address on its opening in 1845. In the concluding sentences of that address John Green Crosse said, "Posterity will have to thank not only Mr. Dalrymple on the origination of this undertaking, but all those who have in any way contributed to it—an undertaking so engrafted into my warmest feelings, that I will adhere to it fervently as long as I shall continue capable of performing any active services within the walls of your renowned and valuable institution. I only claim leave to add in reference to this Museum, *sit perpetuum*. May it remain to benefit your children's children, and their posterity, to many succeeding generations." Thus spoke the father, and in the same spirit the son has never ceased to act.

#### JOHN GREEN CROSSE.

Of John Green Crosse, his biographer, the late Dr. Copeman, has written, "He would have been great in whatever sphere his lot had been cast. His persevering industry, unwearied application, his determination to accomplish whatever he undertook, his undeviating punctuality" (inherited in a marked degree by his son), "and sound judgement, could not fail to produce good results." In 1823, Mr. Crosse became attached to the Hospital as Assistant Surgeon, and, in 1826, he became Surgeon. His rise was rapid and his devotion to his

Hospital duties was remarkable. Punctual in his attendance and lucid in his clinical teaching, in 1830-31, he gave a complete course of lectures in surgery, and received from the students, in acknowledgment, a handsome piece of plate.

Mr. Crosse founded the Medical Library, and established the old Pathological Society, the progenitor of the present Norwich Medico-Chirurgical. His first publication was "A History of the Various Epidemics of Norwich;" but that for which he obtained his greatest reputation and distinction, was his "Essay on the Formation, Constituents and Extraction of Urinary Calculus." For this he obtained the Jacksonian Prize, in 1835, was given the Diploma of M.D. of the University of Heidelberg, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Gentlemen, were my conscience as elastic as my inclination, I should still have much to say of Norwich Medici and their works. Long as is the sketch I have given you, it is, however, imperfect, for I have been obliged to pass over many names, including those of such distinguished scientific members of our profession as Sir James Smith, Sir William Hooker, and Mr. Lindley, a trio of Botanists of world-wide reputation, of whom Norwich may well be proud.

To several of those who have come and gone, since the days of Crosse, I should have been glad to refer more than by simply recording their names, for they include LUBBOCK, who, although an Hospital Physician, emulated and even practised surgery; HULL, whose writings, if they provoke a smile from their pedantry, give abundant proofs of classical attainments and shrewd common sense; RANKING, that courtly physician, whose translation of Lugol "On Scrofula" first brought him into notice, and whose name will ever be honourably associated with Braithwaite in their unrivalled "Abstracts;" COPEMAN, well known and esteemed by so

many of us now present, whose name will ever live in our memory for his advocacy of the vectis in preference to the forceps in midwifery; and who was President of the British Medical Association at the Norwich Meeting in 1874; FIRTH, than whom no greater classical scholar or erudite *gentil homme* has lived in this city since the days of Sir Thomas Browne, whose memory he held in such reverence, and in whom I often used to trace a resemblance to the author of "Religio Medici;" and, lastly, NICHOLS, who combined unquestionable dexterity and skill as an operating surgeon with social qualifications and *bonhomie*, which will ever be remembered by all who enjoyed his friendship. Of these, suffice it to say—*Requiescant in pace et in honore.*

Gentlemen, do not for a moment suppose that, in selecting these memorials of the past as material for my Presidential address, I wish in any way to detract from the advantages we possess in the present. None of us, however favourably we may regard what are termed the "Good Old Times," would be willing to return to their conditions.

Think for a moment of what we can now offer towards mitigating the sufferings of mankind, compared with what was at the command of the men of whose lives and labours I have been speaking! Contrast, in Therapeutics, the Herbal of Gerarde, with the Pharmacopæia and extra Pharmacopæia of to-day! Think for a moment of the horrors of surgery before the days of chloroform, of the torture of the patient, of the mental suffering of the surgeon, and how few of the advanced operations now performed could be done at all without the aid of anæsthetics! What advantage in obstetrics and what saving of life and pain has been secured by the administration of chloroform, of which, I heard Sir James Simpson relate, in one

of his lectures, her present Majesty was one of the very first in this country to avail herself. Compare, with the practice in vogue in the days of Caius and Browne, the advance in physical diagnosis, and consequent treatment secured, by the armentarium of the modern physician. No better record of this has been given than that contained in the Thurston Speech of my friend and co-secretary, Dr. Anningson, on "The Progress of Medicine since the Days of Caius," delivered in the Chapel of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, at Dr. Caius' Commemoration, May 10th, 1874.

Look, in our Hospital Museum, at the collection of mediæval surgical instruments, and compare them with those which the perfected skill of the surgical instrument maker now places at our disposal! Think for a moment of the advantages secured by the cat-gut and other organic texture ligatures in arresting arterial hæmorrhage, and of the enormous saving of human life by the principles of antiseptic surgery, in whatever form Listerism may be carried out! Think of the position in which these discoveries have placed abdominal surgery, compared with that which prevailed when Martineau, through John Hunter, communicated his case of Paracentesis Ovarii to the Royal Society! And, lastly, think of the treatment of stone in the bladder by Bigelow's improved lithotrity, or, rather, Litholapaxy, which, at one sitting, removes vesical calculi, even of considerable magnitude, *reductio in pulvere*, robbing, it is true, our Hospital Museum of further specimens of the chief feature which has made it celebrated, but, nevertheless, offering to the patient, as a relief from his sufferings, an operation without cutting, from which even the boldest are glad to escape. All these advancements in the science we practice—a science which is becoming every day more and more exact—whilst they incite us to move continually onwards

with the flowing tide, ought not to lead us to ignore or despise the past, with the good work which our predecessors accomplished in their day and generation.

In conclusion, I cannot do better than quote another passage from the address of John Green Crosse, who fifty years ago thus eloquently referred to some of the very men in whose lives and works I have endeavoured to interest you to-day. "Let me," he says "recall to you the example of Sir Thomas Browne, and, be like him, impatient of sloth and idleness; ponder over the writings of Benjamin Gooch, and let them be golden rules for daily observance; take a lesson from what is recorded of Rigby, 'that he entered the hovel with as little reluctance as the mansion;' keep constantly before you the courteous and high-minded deportment and practical tact of Martineau, and aim at the untiring zeal of Dalrymple. By selecting traits of character from such local models as these, may each and all of us, under their guidance, and yet without servile imitation, mark out a line of conduct, and effect the formation of character as are best suited to the demands of society, thereby laying a good and sure foundation for usefulness and prosperity in life."

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#### APPENDIX.

*Information gathered by the Rev. W. Hudson, Hon. Secretary of the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society, from Deeds of the xiii<sup>th</sup>. Century, preserved in the Guildhall, Norwich, and supplied to me by that gentleman after my address was in type :*

##### 1.—HERVEUS, MEDICUS.

October, 1260. "Magister Herveus de Smalberge,\* Medicus," gave a house in St. Clement to his daughter Matilda, on her marriage.

\* It is certainly curious that the earliest name should be that of Hervey, spelt almost the same as that of the discoverer of the circulation of the blood. Mr. Hudson does not exactly know what is meant by "magister." In these old deeds he says, "It seems to be mostly applied to ecclesiastics; but, as Hervey was married, perhaps it implies some scholastic attainment. Smallborough, in Norfolk, would be the place of origin, either of himself or his family."

July 1286. William, son of "Herveus, Medicus," declared himself in court to be of the age of 21 years and upwards.

1290. A house in St. Clement, described as "formerly of Herveus, Medicus."

2.—ALANUS LE MUNDREY, MEDICUS.

Died before 1290, when his *widow* is mentioned.

3.—RANULPHUS DE MORLEE, SURGYON.

10 May, 1288. "Ranulphus de Morle le Sursyen," mentioned in a deed relating to St. George Colegate.

1289. "Ranulphus de Morlee, surgyon," in a deed of St. Peter Permoungate. (The word "surgeon" is in English; the rest of the deed is in Latin.)

4.—Besides the above, there were persons described as "apothecarius" and "unguentarius," and portions of the Market were called "Apothecaries' Market" and "Ointment Market." There were also some persons described as "le Lekman" and "le Lekwoman," and there was a Row in the Market called "le Lekmarket." This most likely meant "Herb-market."

? a Surge,  
Lek -

All these three seem to have been mixed up together, and it is a probable suggestion that the herbs as well as the ointments were chiefly sold for medicinal purposes. The apothecaries dealt in spices, some of which would be purchased with the same object.

The English word "surgyon" and the French "le sursyen," being introduced into the Latin deeds, are evidence that Ranulph de Morlee was so called in popular language, and was thereby distinguished as doing something different to others.

Perhaps we may not be wrong in concluding that the "apothecarius," "unguentarius," "lekman," and "lekwoman," were the vendors of the popular specifics of the traditional pharmacy of the day; that the "medicus" was the more skilled physician who had studied medicine either at a university or in some of the larger monasteries; and that Ranulphus de Morlee had advanced so far as to become acquainted with the improved methods of operating recently practised in France and Italy, to which the new name of "chirurgy," or surgery, was beginning to be applied.

Norwich was one of the chief cities in the Kingdom, and might be expected to be in the forefront of scientific progress.

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