

Joseph Frank Payne, M.D., F.R.C.P., consulting physician, St. Thomas's hospital : obituary.

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Obituary.

JOSEPH FRANK PAYNE, M.D., F.R.C.P.,

CONSULTING PHYSICIAN, ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Dr. J. F. Payne, which occurred on November 16th, at his residence, Lyonsdown House, New Barnet, Herts, in the 71st year of his age.

Joseph Frank Payne was born in Camberwell on January 10th, 1840. His father, Mr. Joseph Payne, was a most successful teacher, the first Professor of Education at the College of Preceptors and the author of many educational works, which were popular in their day both here and in America, one of them reaching its eighteenth edition. Frank Payne possessed in a remarkable degree those four qualities which, Hippocrates said, are indispensable to the making of a good physician—learning, modesty, humanity, and probity. Some slight idea of the extent of his learning may be obtained from the brief outline of his work given below; to give a complete account of what he has done for the cause of medicine alone would take many pages. His modesty was such that few even of his friends realize how much he has done in the course of his busy life. Of his humanity and probity there is proof enough in the fact that he was revered and loved by all those with whom he came in contact.

At an early age Frank Payne was sent to University College, where he obtained a demyship to Magdalen College, Oxford. There he gained a reputation among his fellows as a zealous student, which was fully justified by his ob-

taining his B.A. degree with first class honours in 1862, the Burdett-Coutts Scholarship in Geology in 1863, the Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship in Medicine in 1865, and by his taking, in 1866, the B.Sc. degree at the London University.

He studied medicine for a time at St. George's Hospital, and then (in 1867) took his M.B. degree at Oxford; in the year following he became a Member of the Royal College of Physicians. Soon after, in compliance with the regulations of the Radcliffe Scholarship, Frank Payne went abroad. He spent a short time in Paris, three months in Berlin, where he attended, among others, the clinical lectures of Professors Frerichs and Traube, and then proceeded to Vienna. At the last-named town he came under the influence of the great pathological anatomist, Carl Rokitansky; of Professor Johann Skoda and of Johann Oppolzer; and there, also, he studied diseases of the skin under Hebra and Neumann. In 1871 he contributed to

the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL three articles, entitled, Recollections of the Medical School of Vienna, in which he gives a graphic description of his teachers and of their methods of teaching.

On his return to England, Payne was appointed Examiner in Natural Science at Oxford University; Assistant Physician to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street; and Demonstrator of Morbid Anatomy and Curator of the Museum at St. Mary's Hospital, where, according to a notice issued by the hospital, "*post-mortem* examinations are made by Dr. Frank Payne at 2 o'clock as opportunities occur."

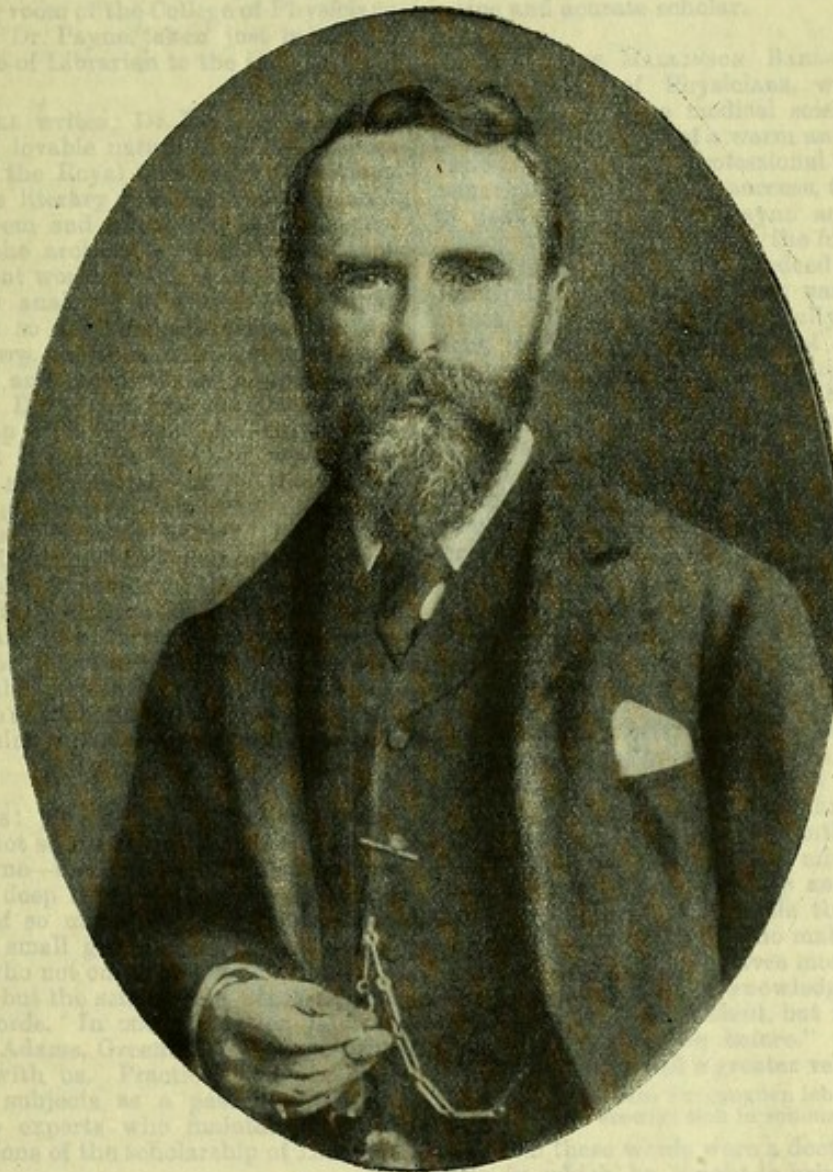
Leaving St. Mary's, in 1871 he began his long connexion with St. Thomas's by accepting the Assistant Physicianship; he was elected Physician in 1887, and became Consulting Physician in 1900. During his long and

valuable service to the hospital, lasting nearly thirty years, he contributed thirteen papers to the Hospital Reports, of which he was editor. One paper was on Plagues, Ancient and Modern. In 1875 he delivered the introductory address to the students, and in his speech he pointed out, among other things, that "medical studies, properly understood, contained many of the elements of a true liberal education," and that the "value of medical training as a liberal education depended chiefly upon its connexion with the physical sciences." Even in his early days at St. Thomas's, Dr. Payne's reputation as a pathologist was such that he was appointed to make a *post-mortem* examination in the Bravo case. While still at St. Thomas's, he was made Surgeon to the Hospital for Skin Diseases in Stamford Street, Blackfriars.

In 1873 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and was, as one of the four junior Fellows, at once appointed to

deliver the Goulstonian Lectures; for these he chose as his subject, "The Origin and Relation of New Growths." Later on he delivered the Lumleian and the FitzPatrick Lectures, and in 1896 he was appointed by Sir Russell Reynolds to deliver the Harveian Oration. In 1892 he was asked to act as Secretary to the Committee appointed to revise the "Nomenclature of Diseases," and to edit and to bring out a new edition of the same.

In order to investigate and report on the plague then prevalent in Russia, commissioners were sent out to that country in 1879 by most European Governments. The British Commissioners selected for the purpose were Surgeon-Major Colvill and Dr. Payne. They arrived in Russia too late to view the actual epidemic, which, though fatal in its effects, was not widespread. No doubt it was his experience on this expedition which led Dr. Payne to take such a keen interest in the plague. He not only wrote a



DR. JOSEPH FRANK PAYNE.

paper about it in the St. Thomas's Hospital Reports, but lectured on it in the Parkes Museum, and also contributed an article on the subject to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. In this article he expressed his conviction that "personal contagion is inadequate to explain the transmission of the disease in certain circumstances, and its continued existence in certain places between the epidemics of human disease," and suggested "that infection or miasma of plague must reside in the soil like that of malaria, as well as in the bodies of infected persons." He added:

"If we take the expression 'soil' in a wide sense, meaning external nature, outside the human body, this belief has been confirmed since the discovery of the bacillus, for it is certain that it has a mode of existence quite independent of man in animals living underground, especially in rats."

Some years later he contributed an article on the plague to the *Quarterly Review*, October, 1901, which contained information invaluable to all subsequent investigators of the subject.

In 1899 Dr. Payne succeeded Dr. Munk as Harveian Librarian to the College of Physicians. Soon after his appointment he began to prepare a new catalogue of the valuable library, adding many volumes to it from his own collection of rare books. One gift he made was that of one of the earliest books printed at Cambridge—bearing the date of 1523, and was a volume much treasured by him.

Dr. Payne was a representative of the University of Oxford in the General Medical Council for the five years ending June 1904. He was also a member of the Executive, the Examination, and the Pharmacopoeia Committees of that body. As a member of this last committee he rendered valuable service in the arrangement of the Council's excellent library.

Dr. Payne was a member of the Royal Commission on

Tuberculosis, and also an active member of the Pathological, the Epidemiological, the Dermatological, the Royal Medical and Chirurgical (now the Royal Medical), and many other societies, and a regular attendant at their meetings; he was President of the first three societies named and Vice-President of the last. He was also Examiner to most of the English Universities, to the University of Edinburgh, and Examiner in Medicine for the Murchison Scholarship and for the Parkes Weber Prize to the Royal College of Physicians.

Dr. Payne's literary productions are numerous—too numerous by far to be given here in full. Some idea of their character may be gained by the following inadequate enumeration:

Whilst Curator at St. Mary's Hospital he brought out a revised and enlarged edition of Jones and Sieveking's *Manual of Pathological Anatomy*. His own *Manual of General Pathology*, designed as introduction to the practice

of medicine, was published in 1888; the preface to this is a model of clear and cogent reasoning, and shows how well he was acquainted with the works of Locke.

In 1889 he published *Observations on Some Rare Diseases of the Skin*.

His *Life of Sydenham* in the Masters of Medicine Series appeared in 1900. In this work he has given the world an entertaining and instructive picture of Sydenham himself, and also of the period in which he lived. The book is written with great clearness, and impresses one with the author's sound knowledge of his subject, and with his evident admiration of Sydenham.

A *Life of Linacre* had appeared nine years earlier (in 1881), written after the preface to *Galenus Pergamensis de Temperamentis Thoma Linacro interpretis*.

The FitzPatrick Lectures (delivered in 1903) on English

medicine in Anglo-Saxon times were published by the Clarendon Press. The second series of the same lectures (delivered in 1904), on "Gilbertus Anglicus" and "Ricardus Anglicus," and the Teaching of Anatomy in the Middle Ages, he was preparing for publication at the time of his death.

He wrote in Sir T. Clifford Allbutt's *System of Medicine* the history of medicine in modern Europe.

Besides all this, Dr. Payne contributed articles on the "History of Medicine" to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and a large number of lives to the *Dictionary of National Biography*, fifteen being in the letter "A" alone. Dr. Payne's addresses before different societies (and they were also numerous) were always interesting, full of suggestions and of information. Among some of the most noteworthy is that given before the Pathological Society on the "Morbid Anatomy and Pathology of Chronic Alcoholism." In this he gave a history

of the subject from the first recorded case (one of cirrhosis of the liver, in 1626) down to recent times, and mentioned that Harvey began the study of its morbid anatomy, but unfortunately all his papers on the subject were lost. Another interesting address was that on the "Herbarius" and "Hortus Sanitatis," read before the Bibliographical Society in 1901. He also gave one on "Tuberculosis as an Endemic Disease" and another on "The History of Epidemiology" before the Epidemiological Society.

This sketch of Dr. Payne's life, which has been drawn from many sources, gives only a very inadequate conception of the man and his work. Johnson says the business of a scholar is to "talk in private, to think in solitude, to inquire, and to answer inquiries." Dr. Payne was certainly a scholar. As Congreve says of Dryden, it might also be said of him, "As his reading had been very extensive, so was he very happy in a memory tenacious of everything

that he read. He was not more possessed of knowledge than he was communicative of it; but then his communication was by no means pedantic or imposed upon the conversation, but just such and went so far as by the natural turn of the conversation in which he was engaged, it was necessarily promoted or required."

It is also true that he was "of a nature exceedingly humane and compassionate." "His friendship, when he professed it, went beyond his professions."

Notwithstanding his devotion to the care of the library for which he worked and over which he so long presided, he was ever ready to assist from his vast store of knowledge those who sought his advice, and the Library of the British Medical Association is indebted to him personally for fine folio copies of Hippocrates, *Opera Omnia* (Charterius), thirteen volumes in nine, 1679, and Morison, *Plantarum Historiae*, 1680-1699, and other volumes.

There is in the reading room of the College of Physicians a portrait, by Sargent, of Dr. Payne, taken just before his retirement from the office of Librarian to the College.

Sir R. DOUGLAS POWELL writes: Dr. Payne was a man of singularly gentle and lovable nature, and the respect in which he was held by the Royal College of Physicians for his learning and fine literary qualities was associated with great personal esteem and affection. He was possessed of that love for the archaic in literature and that zest for hunting up ancient works and first editions which rendered him a worthy analogue of Davy Wilson, that archetype of book lovers so amusingly described by Mr. Oldbuck in *The Antiquary*. Although he conspicuously lacked the dusty habits and greed of gain characteristic of the original "Snuffy Davy," he had his "scent of a slow-bound and the snap of a bulldog" for anything of value in literature, and there was no one who more enjoyed a good find and subtle bargain in the form of an old book for the College library. He was, moreover, generous in many personal gifts to the library. Dr. Payne, during my presidency, instituted the plan of arranging a selection of the literary treasures of the College for inspection after the quarterly College Club dinners; these are greatly appreciated, and have increased the popularity and social interest of the dinners. The Fellows of the College and his many other personal and literary friends will greatly miss Payne's charming personality, but all their recollections of him will be sweet and pleasant memories.

Professor OSLER writes: The dominant feeling in the minds of many of us is not so much regret at the death of our dear friend Dr. Payne—for had he not reached the Psalmist's limit?—but a deep sense of the tragedy of the extinction in the grave of so much sound learning. For Payne belonged to that small group of men in the profession of this country who not only possess an interest in the history of medicine, but the scholarship necessary for fruitful work at the records. In our generation he was the worthy successor of Adams, Greenhill, and Ogle—the last named happily still with us. Practical men who, like myself, dabble in these subjects as a pastime, owe an immense debt to these experts who maintain in the profession the fine traditions of the scholarship of Linacre, Caius, and Freind.

Dr. Payne's ambition was to see the story of the evolution of British medicine worthily presented. In his first Fitz-Patrick Lectures, 1903, he dealt, as no one else could have done, with the Saxon period, and in the second series, 1904, with the Anglo-Norman period. It is to be hoped that he has left the MS of the last series in a state fit for publication, as a companion volume to the first, as he had spent an extraordinary amount of labour in working out the history of Ricardus Anglicus and Gilbertus Anglicus. Dr. Cholmeley has in hand John of Gaddesden and his times. D'Arcy Power has recently given us the results of his valuable studies on John Arderne. Dr. Norman Moore has dealt with several aspects of medical education in the Middle Ages, and in numerous monographs and lectures, many by Dr. Payne himself, we have had presented the story of British medicine in Tudor and Stuart periods. Dr. Payne had made a special study of Sydenham, and his volume in the *Masters of Medicine* series is a model of careful biographical study. One of the great pleasures of his last illness was

the Grangerizing of a copy of this work, extended into two large quarto volumes; and a pleasant memory of my last visit, after the Caius dinner at Cambridge, was the delight with which he showed me these beautiful volumes. A keen collector, his splendid private library bears testimony to a judgement ripened by long experience, while his generous gifts to the college showed that his mind kept pace with his riches. My first acquaintance with Dr. Payne takes me back to 1873, when he was interested in the Medical Microscopical Society, to a meeting of which, after a pleasant dinner, he took me one evening, and where I read (with many vasomotor accompaniments) my first scientific paper on the action of atropine on the white blood corpuscles. From that time, by correspondence at first, and then during my frequent visits to London, I came to know him intimately as a friend, and to appreciate his great work as a man and as a ripe and accurate scholar.

Mr. HORACE MALLINSON BARLOW, Assistant Librarian, Royal College of Physicians, writes: In the lamented death of Dr. Payne medical science, history, and bibliography are deprived of a warm and loyal friend. With the various phases of his professional career, which was one of remarkable activity and success, the writer is incompetent to deal, but with Dr. Payne as historian and scholar, bibliographer and librarian, the following imperfect appreciation is concerned. It is indeed difficult to give any brief description of a man of such varied interests and attainments, and the writer is painfully conscious of his limitations in dealing with the life of one whose wide literary culture and inborn love of learning have been a source of inspiration and pleasure. To Dr. Payne, as Harveian Librarian of the Royal College of Physicians, it has been the writer's privilege and honour to serve as assistant for the all too brief period of three years, but from one who has profited by his wide knowledge of books and erudite scholarship these few impressions, it is hoped, will be received with indulgence.

Dr. Payne's services to the history of medicine can hardly be overrated. The reputation for scholarship and historical research which he made at an early period in his professional career has more than been confirmed by his medico-historical works. His life of Linacre, a most scholarly contribution to Renaissance biography, prefixed to the translation of Galen, *De Temperamentis*, is one of many proofs that he, like Linacre himself, was "possessed from his youth till his death by the enthusiasm of learning." With a profound knowledge of the great masterpieces of literature, scientific as well as classical, he illumined and enriched the minds of all who had the good fortune to seek his help and advice. He was fully conscious of the great principle that in every literary and scientific line of work he who makes use of the experience of his predecessors both saves most time and makes most progress. "No kind of knowledge has ever sprung into being without an antecedent, but is inseparably connected with what was known before." For the classic lines of Goethe no writer had a greater veneration:

In dem Vergangnen lebt das Tüchtige
Verewigt sich in schöner That.

To him these words were a doctrine, and many were the ways in which he sought to bring this doctrine a greater recognition. It is to be seen in his watchful and incessant care over the interests of the beloved library of his college. No work of a permanent historical interest would be cast aside without receiving the utmost consideration, and none would be added to the treasured collection until it had gone through a process of critical examination. Dr. Payne was of the true type of historian. His medico-historical studies reveal his love of the past, which, he says, is worthy of our study, and ever more so the further we advance. By these studies Dr. Payne has rendered a signal service to medicine, and for this service he has been and will continue to be held in grateful remembrance. These can only be referred to briefly. His *History of Medicine* in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, and his many medical lives in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, are pieces of elegant writing and sterling worth. In 1881 appeared his facsimile edition, already mentioned, of Galen, *De temperamentis et de inaequali intemperie libri tres*, T. Linacro interpr., with his masterly life prefixed. In 1894 he edited William Boghurst's *Loimographia: An Account of the*

Great Plague in London in the Year 1665, with an introduction giving an account of the author, a description of the manuscript, which had hitherto remained unpublished, a critical estimate of the treatise and of the plague literature of the period, and a short general history of plague in England. His *Life of Sydenham*, 1900, a biography constructed from original sources, is one of the most readable, and certainly one of the most scholarly, volumes which have appeared in the Masters of Medicine Series, and for the task of writing this no one was more eminently fitted than the author. In October, 1896, he was entrusted with the honourable duty of delivering the Harveian Oration. For this he selected as his subject *The Relation of Harvey to His Predecessors, and Especially to Galen*. This important contribution to the history of medicine was published the following year. The article on the History of Plague in the *Quarterly Review*, 1901, was also from his pen.

In 1903 Dr. Payne was appointed first FitzPatrick Lecturer to the Royal College of Physicians. With his accustomed modesty, he expressed the wish that his eminent friend Dr. Norman Moore, to whom the conception of the lectureship and the plan under which it is to be carried out are due, had been appointed in his stead. The outcome of these lectures was a volume entitled *English Medicine in the Anglo-Saxon Times*, 1904, a learned work, like his *Life of Sydenham*, full of original research. For some idea of the thoroughness with which he prosecuted these investigations, and of the difficulties attendant on the production of a treatise of this type, we turn to the introduction: "When we inquire into the state of medicine among ancient peoples in any bygone age, there are several sources of information which we have to examine. We have to inquire what general history and literature tell us about the medical profession, since we assume that there have always been doctors of one kind or another. We ask whether any laws are still extant showing the relations of the profession to society. Besides written documents, we search for monuments or inscriptions, often more trustworthy than books, bearing on the subject. We examine contemporary works of art for representations of medical scenes or personages. We look over the material antiquities preserved in museums, such as weapons, instruments, household gear, to discover surgical instruments as evidences of the state of medical and surgical art in those periods. Finally, more important and more copious in the supply of information than all these put together, we examine the literature of medicine itself, for where this is wanting, we can form but a very inadequate notion of the state of medicine at any particular time." These, mainly, were his authorities, and when we remember that the Anglo-Saxon depositories of learning—the churches and monasteries throughout the land—were at one time or another pillaged or burnt by the heathen invaders, there can be very few MSS. preserved to us for direct investigation. Indeed, the number of MSS. of the period in existence do not exceed a score. The most important of these is the "Leech Book of Bald." This, along with the Anglo-Saxon translation of the *Herbarium* of Apuleius Platonius, and the Greek treatise *Peri Didaxion*, the only existing MS. of which belongs to the twelfth century, are dealt with exhaustively. In 1904 Dr. Payne again delivered the FitzPatrick Lectures. These appeared in abstract form in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, and treated of (1) "Gilbertus Anglicus," and (2) "Ricardus Anglicus and the Teaching of Anatomy in the Middle Ages." At the time of his death he was engaged in completing and extending them. It is fervently to be hoped that he had proceeded far enough to allow the work to be published.

Well known as a scholar and historian, Dr. Payne was no less famous as a bibliographer. His knowledge of early English medical works and of the various schools of botanical illustration, both English and foreign, was extensive and profound. Indeed, among bibliographers of his own class he stood *facile princeps*. With the writings of Dioscorides, Fuchs, Matthioli, Cesalpino, Gesner, Dillenius, Lobel, and Dodoens, and of all the great botanists of our own country he had an intimate first-hand acquaintance. One of the most distinguished members of the Bibliographical Society, and an occasional contributor to its *Transactions*, he delighted his fellow members with two of the most learned disquisitions on

the early history of herbals that have ever been penned—and, indeed, in recent years the only two works of any importance on the subject. One of these, *On the Herbarius and Hortus Sanitatis*, which appeared as a separate work in 1901, was a successful attempt "to describe the earliest printed books in European literature devoted to the illustration of natural history; to fix the date and order of the several works known by the names of *Herbarius* and *Hortus Sanitatis*; and to show their connexion one with another, and with some other works of the same class." The patient, laborious, and exhaustive research which the composition of this essay involved must have been enormous, as the materials were mainly derived from actual inspection of the works themselves. And, as some of the editions were not accessible in this country, the treatise shows Dr. Payne's intimate acquaintance also with standard bibliographical works, such as Hain, Panzer, Pritzel, Proctor, Choulant, and others. To the second paper, which has not yet been published, the writer had the pleasure of listening, and also of inspecting the unique collection of early Herbals which were brought from Dr. Payne's own library at New Barnet to illustrate the subject. This paper was received with enthusiasm and astonishment. The foremost bibliographers of the day who were present at the meeting, and who are in the habit of following up each discourse with learned and abstruse discussions, were unable to make any material additions to the subject. All were loud in their praises of Dr. Payne's mastery of the subject. For these two pioneer works the medical bibliographer of the future must ever feel grateful.

It is the business of the true bibliographer to deal with editions, peculiarities, title pages, colophons, printers, dates, types, places, sizes, illustrations, and collations, and with all these, with the possible exception of types, Dr. Payne was concerned. As an example of the thoroughness with which he prosecuted his inquiries, of his sound critical judgement in determining the relations of one copy to another, the *Herbarius* of 1484, the first work printed in Germany with woodcuts of plants, may be taken. For a long time the Venice editions gave rise to the error of attributing this work to Arnold de Villa Nova, a physician of the thirteenth century, who never wrote any such book. Here is Dr. Payne's explanation of the error. "In the original preface names of Arnold de Villa Nova and Avicenna are quoted, which induced the printer of the Vicenza edition of 1491 to place on his first leaf a large cut of these two philosophers with their names underneath. In the edition of Venice, 1499, these figures are wanting, the printer apparently not possessing the block, but the names were allowed to remain, and thus appeared to be those of the authors; or, the name Avicenna being regarded as a sort of title, it appeared in the misleading form given by Hain—'Arnoldus de Villa Nova de virtutibus herbarum seu Avicenna.' The error of attributing the work to Arnold is peculiar to the Latin editions printed in Italy, and appears to this day in the catalogues of Italian booksellers."

For many years it was Dr. Payne's delight, at the college dinners, to arrange small exhibitions of rare and interesting books taken from the shelves of the College Library, and on these occasions one could never enter the Great Hall without finding a little band of book enthusiasts surrounding a table case, listening with interest, profit, and pleasure to the masterly expositions of obscure points in the authorship, printing, and publication of the various works exhibited. His catalogue of the numerous MSS. in the Library of the College is a model of neatness and accuracy, of patient and painstaking industry. In all his bibliographical pursuits it may indeed be said of him: "Nihil tetigit quod non ornavit." Every line bears the stamp of scientific inquiry.

The loss which the Royal College of Physicians has suffered by his death is difficult to estimate. In 1899 he succeeded Dr. Munk as Harveian Librarian, and for more than ten years he held the office with unceasing faithfulness and devotion. Having retired from active practice, he found the work thoroughly congenial to him. Dr. Payne was the ideal type of scholar-librarian. As the later years of his life were occupied in literary work and historical research, one wonders how so much of his valuable time could have been given to the various details in the active administration of the library. But nothing

was ever too great or too trivial for his attention. Day after day found him at work probing into the obscurities of some dead and forgotten manuscript, or collating some old and rare edition with all the care and accurateness of the scientific bibliographer. His zeal for the acquisition of old historical works and the manner in which his profound knowledge of the College and its associations led him to detect almost by intuition as it were the various items of importance in the numerous catalogues of second-hand booksellers were remarkable. His attention, even to the smallest detail in the equipment and organization of the library system, was never divided, and his intimate acquaintance with almost every work of interest in the vast collection of old and rare medical works in the College Library testify to that thorough and whole-hearted manner in which he fulfilled his duties in every phase of his busy life. Volume after volume, in which one finds such phrases as "editio princeps" and "liber rarissimus" lightly and carefully pencilled on a fly-leaf or inside cover, have come with remarkable frequency before the writer's notice, thus showing that at some period or other during his term of office probably every book had passed through his hands.

Dr. Payne had the interests of the library dearly at heart. Elected to the office in January, 1899, he set to work almost immediately to increase its utility by introducing a number of reforms. He found that the increase of the collection fell far short of what it should have been, whether by presentations or purchases, and his suggestion to the Library Committee that Fellows of the College be requested to present copies of their works was embodied in a resolution passed at a subsequent comitia. He studied the convenience of readers with a sympathy as earnest as it was practical. Numerous alterations in the arrangement of the books were effected. All reference works were collected together, as they should have been, and placed within the reach of readers in the reading room. The general state of the library was reported on, and various periodicals of a non-professional character were discontinued, and others more in keeping with the nature of the library were acquired. At his instigation the separate catalogues of the various bequests were incorporated into one general alphabet, thereby increasing the facilities for reference work. In addition to these improvements he caused a subject index to be prepared of all books published since 1880, and a matter of far greater moment was his drafting of rules to safeguard the priceless literary treasures the library contained. On his recommendation certain classes of books were not allowed to be taken away. These included all books before 1500, if printed abroad, and all before 1600 if printed in England, books valuable for their associations such as first editions of the works of Celsus, Harvey, Sydenham, and others, or those with important inscriptions and autographs, and manuscripts of every age. These decrees revealed the spirit of the true librarian and bibliographer, whose duty it is to preserve these "monuments of antiquity" from the hands of careless readers. The college library was enriched to a considerable extent, not only by his constant and assiduous attention to the catalogues of second-hand booksellers, both English and foreign, but also by his own numerous gifts. Many choice examples of the typographic art were taken from his own private library to fill up gaps in the shelves of the College. Among these may be mentioned exceedingly rare and valuable works, such as Galen, *De Temperamentis*, T. Linacro interpr., 1521, from the press of John Siberch, the first Cambridge printer; Galen, *De Naturalibus Facultatibus*, 1523; *De Pulsuum Usu*, T. Linacro interpr. [1522]; and *De Motu Musculorum*, N. Leonicensi interpr. [1522]—all from the famous press of Richard Pynson, one of the earliest London printers. When it may be safely asserted that works such as these rarely, if ever, find their way nowadays into the sale room's, it must be apparent with what degree of self-denial he stripped his own unique collection of these priceless treasures to enrich the library of the College. His gifts were first editions of Servetus and Sydenham, the 1532 edition of Linacre's Latin grammar, and the second printed Greek text of Hippocrates, Basle, 1538.

Even the smallest details were the object of Dr. Payne's patient attention. In the library he worked, the scholar librarian and bibliographer, imparting to all who sought it, in the spirit of the true philanthropist, without noise or

display, the knowledge he accumulated during long years of intellectual activity and persistent study. His severe accuracy and desire for absolute perfection—although none was ever more willing to own a mistake—his forbearance with the faults and failing of others, made him a model worker, despising no suggestion, evading no difficulty. This inestimable quality is to be found in the opening lines of his Harveian Oration. All progress was to him the final resultant only of all the endeavours of men in past times to penetrate the secrets of Nature. "When," he writes, "we look back upon those strivings, they often seem perverse and contradictory; men at certain periods seem to have gone backward rather than forward; we are struck less by the few grains of truth than by the great mass of what we call errors. But let us speak gently of those errors, and call them rather imperfect truths, for, in science at least, the truth of to-day is error to-morrow." This is the spirit in which he laboured, in which he criticized and corrected the work of his pupils and subordinates. A few months before his death ill-health caused him to resign his office, and for his distinguished services he was honoured with the title of Emeritus Harveian Librarian. He is succeeded by his learned friend and Fellow of the College, Dr. Norman Moore.

As a collector of books, not in extent, but in the choiceness and rarity of his copies, Dr. Payne follows in the steps of Mead, Radcliffe, Askew, and other great bibliophiles. His collection of Incunabula and rare first editions of the works of early English medical writers in the old historic founts of the early English printers must be the envy and delight of every antiquarian of moderate means. The shelves in his library at New Barnet are packed in double rows with unique specimens of early typographic art. And his collection of Miltoniana, including also first editions of the rarer works of the great poet, would be the boast of any institution. And how great was the delight with which he produced his coveted tomes for the inspection and admiration of his visitors and friends! The few occasions on which the writer has been privileged to spend amidst such a brilliant assembly of choice and valuable works have indeed been "crowded hours of glorious life."

In his home life Dr. Payne was probably seen at his best. With a mind well balanced, full of a knowledge of the best men and things of the world, always ready to yield to the opinions of those whom he considered better informed than himself, ever eager to listen to the conversation of those beneath him; genial, kindly, and sympathetic, a profound scholar, without any signs of pedantry, utterly devoid of self-interest and self-seeking, no one more genuinely humble, he endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact. His death we deeply mourn.

Is it not written, "By their deeds ye shall know them"?

Dr. H. SELFE BENNETT writes: I am grateful for the opportunity afforded to join my voice in the chorus of eulogy that must follow the news of the death of J. F. Payne. We are bidden to "speak no evil of the dead," but in this case it would be impossible so to do, for he had no enemies who could disobey this charitable injunction. It is not mine to sing of his professional attainments; these will be dealt with by abler pens than mine. It is concerning his personal qualities I am permitted to speak of that which I know; for, although, whilst all members of the profession who were privileged acquaintances will mourn his loss, those of us—and they are many—who were proud to count themselves amongst his friends will sadly miss his advice and companionship.

It falls to the lot of but few men to arrive at that Corinth of affectionate admiration and esteem reached by him over whom the grave closed on Saturday last. That this goal was attained by Frank Payne, as his familiars called him, was evidenced by the distinguished company that assembled to render homage on that last occasion on which the Royal College of Physicians, his university and hospital colleagues, the Local Government Board (all fully represented at the funeral) could show the respect in which he was held. How came it that he whom his brethren delighted thus to honour obtained such tribute? The answer is undoubtedly by honest merit and high character. It is true that Payne was an eminent and exceptionally learned man, but if he had used his mental

attainments for purposes of self-advertisement and aggrandisement his learning alone would certainly not have produced this effect upon his fellows.

It was the natural modesty of true greatness which prevented any glitter or parade of his learning. There is an illustrative story told of him many years ago, that one wet Sunday, in Switzerland, a young lady came into the salon of the hotel, and found a semicircle round Payne, who was distributing his golden store of information to any who cared to listen. Her comment at the close was: "To think that I sat next to him at *table d'hôte* for three nights, and all he said was 'Please pass the salt!'" The story is probably true; at any rate it demonstrates what has been already said—namely, that there was an entire absence of any attempt to shine in conversation, or of self-assertion. Yet you had only to ask and it was given to you; you had, as it were, simply to scratch the soil, and the treasure was apparent. If you went to Payne for information on any subject, whether it might be pathology, Chinese ware (not music), furniture, binding, medical and other history (ancient or modern), so mention only a few matters on which he was an authority, you would be rewarded abundantly with full measure, running over. If you were in his library, he would get down from his shelves the book from which his knowledge had been acquired, not for the purpose of refreshing his memory—which was extensive and peculiar—but to confirm what he had already told you. Whilst you sat in an old Chippendale armchair he would discourse at large on any matter of interest, interspersing his remarks with an occasional "What?" after the royal manner attributed to George III. He seemed to be of Dr. Johnson's opinion, "All knowledge is of itself of some value. There is nothing so inconsiderable, that I would not rather know, than not." Yet Payne was no mere bookworm, no dry-as-dust, no dictatorial pedant, nor was the so-called "Oxford manner" at any time in evidence. As to his "bedside manner," it is possible that it was not impressive, but if so, the reason, partly at any rate, was because he knew so much that his knowledge included that of his own ignorance and mental limitations; partly also, no doubt, because his bodily presence was not imposing; there was, in fact, nothing at all "imposing" about him—his learning, indeed, was colossal, though his physical structure was not. This, however, did not preclude his being what the ladies call "a dear," for he was both a lovable and a dable man. He had, moreover, the saving grace of humour which seldom accompanies profound learning. He enjoyed a joke or a good story as much as any one; in other words, he was not in any way dehumanized by mental excess.

Some years ago Payne expressed his pleasure with a present he had received from a friend—namely, a copy of *The Gold-headed Cane*, a little book published in 1834, written by Dr. MacMichael, containing the history of the celebrated physicians who had owned the cane which is now in the library of the Royal College of Physicians; this copy was "Grangerised," or extra-illustrated, with a number of portraits and views of persons and places mentioned in the text. He was still farther pleased, in his capacity as Harveian Librarian, when a similar copy of the same book was presented to the library of the College. These gifts probably engendered in him the desire which he subsequently developed to illustrate in the same way his life of Thomas Sydenham, which he had written and which had been published by Fisher Unwin in 1900 as one of the series of Masters of Medicine. To this end he had his crown octavo work enlarged by "inlaying" to large quarto size and then divided into two volumes, with specially printed titles. In these volumes were inserted and subsequently bound up 120 fine portraits and views. About Whitsuntide of this year he wrote to the man who had so successfully inoculated him with the virus of his hobby. "I am making an index to the additional plates of the Sydenham. . . . The total number is nearly or quite equal to the number of leaves in the book," and shortly before he took to his bed in his final illness he had the satisfaction of being able to show to his friend, Professor Sclater of Oxford, the completed work handsomely bound in morocco. This pursuit had doubtless been a source of much pleasure to him since his impaired health necessitated retirement from active work. Yet he still continued

until within a few weeks from the end of his labours to take an active interest in all matters that related to science, medicine, and literature. Although he attained the three score and ten years of the Psalmist he never appeared to be an old man; many younger gray-haired men looked his seniors, but his strength was unabated, and, realizing that his life's work was finished, he faced the common fate with courage and philosophy: he became a good patient as he had been a good doctor; happy in his domestic relationships, he left a widow, son, and daughters to mourn his loss; his friends and the whole profession are the poorer for his death. Our friendship dates back close upon forty years, but it was not till his retirement to "the northern heights" that he constituted my P.S.A. society, where I "sometimes counsel took and sometimes tea," and thus became more intimate with him. Medicine has ever been recognized as a learned profession, and Payne was emphatically a learned physician; there are doubtless others of whom we are proud, but the type which he so well represented in these days of depreciation of classical training, is unfortunately getting rapidly "small by degrees and (?) beautifully less." Nevertheless, there be some still amongst us who do not recognize the new style as necessarily an improvement upon the old, who do not always and altogether believe in the adage, "Uno avulso non deficit alter." The race may replace him, but those who loved him cannot.

In a letter to Dr. Sharkey which has kindly been placed at our disposal, Dr. Payne's son, Mr. BURNELL PAYNE writes:

As to father's domestic and holiday life, you probably know enough of his character to guess what they were like in some respects. He was all his life a great reader, not only in the subjects with which he was immediately concerned, but in general literature, of which he had not only great knowledge but the artistic appreciation. He had also very strongly the antiquarian's interest in books—in rare editions, printing, bindings, etc.—and was a great devourer of booksellers' catalogue, being always on the look-out for rare medical works. In his younger days he collected china, and he had a great appreciation of all forms of art. He did not go in for games or any kind of sport, but he loved the country and the sea, and for a holiday liked to go away to some quiet country place where he could rest and enjoy Nature. In his younger days he walked a good deal, and from his boyhood he had a great love of natural history; he was always collecting flowers or fossils when in the country. He had enjoyed his garden very much in the last few years, and took a great interest in it.

I hope I have said enough to give you some idea of his domestic life. He had, as you probably know, a wide circle of friends and liked few things better than talking. I should say that with congenial people he was a decidedly sociable man. With us he was always tolerant, genial, and humorous, and so self-effacing and modest that I feel now that when he was alive I never appreciated him enough.

Universities and Colleges.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

ANNUAL MEETING OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

ABOUT sixty Fellows and Members attended the annual meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, which took place on November 17th. The President, Mr. Henry T. Butlin, was in the chair.

The President made a commentary upon the annual report of the council, an abstract of which was published in the JOURNAL of November 12th, p. 1568, dealing especially with the paragraphs relating to the amendment of the Midwives Act, the regulations with regard to the administration of anaesthetics, and the acquirement of the Odontological Collection of the Royal Society of Medicine. The college had now, he said, the finest odontological museum in the world. It was true that it was upon loan, but if the Royal Society of Medicine desired at any time to regain its possession they would have to reimburse the college for the sum spent upon installing it. The contingency was, he thought, unlikely to arise.

A number of questions were put by Members, chiefly relating to the procedure adopted in removing names from