

**The first list of Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians of London,
September 23, 1518.**

Contributors

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Royal College of Physicians of London

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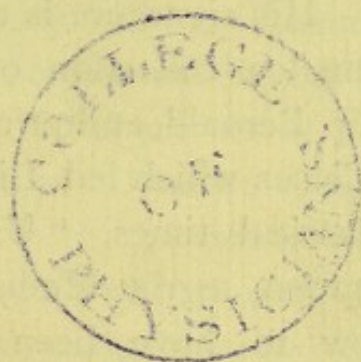
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THE FIRST LIST OF FELLOWS
OF
THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF
LONDON.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1518.



MOORE (Sir N)
c

MAY 26, 1910.

Another copy at the back of vol.

Vos exemplaria Græca
Nocturnâ versate manu, versate diurnâ.

IT is easy to imagine that Thomas Linacre, the founder of our College, now and then quoted this precept of Horace to its first fellows, and he certainly gave them an example by following it. Demetrius Chalcondylas, under whom he studied Greek at Florence, was a scholar of the Eastern empire to whom Homer and Plato were ancient authors in a living language. Demetrius directed the publication at Florence in 1488 of the first printed edition of Homer, and prepared the first edition of the Lexicon of Suidas at Milan in 1499. Both books are in our library. Linacre learned Greek from a member of the last generation of Greek men of letters, and through him we may trace a literary connexion between our College and Hippocrates himself. The first aphorism of Hippocrates which is printed upon every summons to our Comitia while it urges us to work also reminds us of our intellectual relation to the ancient world, and our descent from the founders of the study of medicine, the physicians of Cos.

We have two books which belonged to Linacre, as well as several editions of his works. His signature is to be seen in his copy of the "Opera Agricolationum," a collection of the Latin writers on agriculture edited by Philip Beroald, and printed in 1496. Perhaps it was the first sentence of Celsus which led Linacre to look into a book on the agriculture of classical times, "Ut alimenta sanis corporibus Agricultura, sic sanitatem ægris Medicina promittit." The other book which we know to have been touched by the hands of our Founder is a copy of his translation of Galen, 'De Sanitate Tuendâ,' which he gave to Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester, the founder of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. The book was printed at Paris in 1517. Linacre after addressing and justly praising the Bishop modestly writes, "Mitto igitur ad te hoc codice sex Galeni de tuenda

Sanitate libros, quos proxime ut potui Latinos feci," and ends with a few more well turned laudatory expressions.

Five physicians besides Linacre are mentioned in the Letters Patent of King Henry VIII for the foundation of the College, dated September 23, 1518, and it seems appropriate on this present day of the admission to the College of the most recently elected fellows to mention the names composing the first list of fellows of our College :

John Chambre.

Thomas Linacre.

Ferdinand de Victoria.

Nicholas Halsewell.

John Francis.

Robert Yaxley.

John Chambre was Censor in 1523, and survived all the other original fellows, dying in 1549. A book which he owned when a fellow of Merton College shows that he was not ignorant of the writers on medicine who preceded the Revival of Learning. It is a copy of the *Rosa Anglica* of John of Gaddesden, one of the two English physicians mentioned by Chaucer in his summary of the medical reading of the Doctor of Physic, in the Prologue to the *Canterbury Tales*. The book was printed at Pavia in 1492.

Portraits of Linacre and of Chambre hang in the Censors' room, so that we are familiar with both the features and the handwriting of these earliest fellows, either of whom could have told us from his own recollection whether our ancient portrait of Wolsey was a good likeness of the famous cardinal of Sta. Cecilia in Trastevere, whose palace is to this day so handsome a feature of the street leading from the bridge of St. Angelo to St. Peter's, and who deserves our grateful remembrance for the help which he gave to our college at its beginning. Of the six first fellows Linacre alone wrote books which have survived.

He lived in the world of letters of his day. Erasmus, Lilly, Archbishop Warham, Bishop Fox and Sir Thomas More enjoyed his conversation and admired his learning. Examples of both may be found in his works and their prefaces and in the writings of his contemporaries, but if I were to go into these I might be too long, so I will refrain, always remembering the proverb quoted by our founder's Greek teacher in his preface to Suidas :

ὁ πολλά λαλῶν πολλά καὶ σφάλλεται.

Norman Moore.