The Gresham professors of physic (Gresham Lecture, 1908) / by F. M. Sandwith.

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ON THE

GRESHAM PROFESSORS OF PHYSIC

Delivered at Gresham College on March 2nd, 1908

BY

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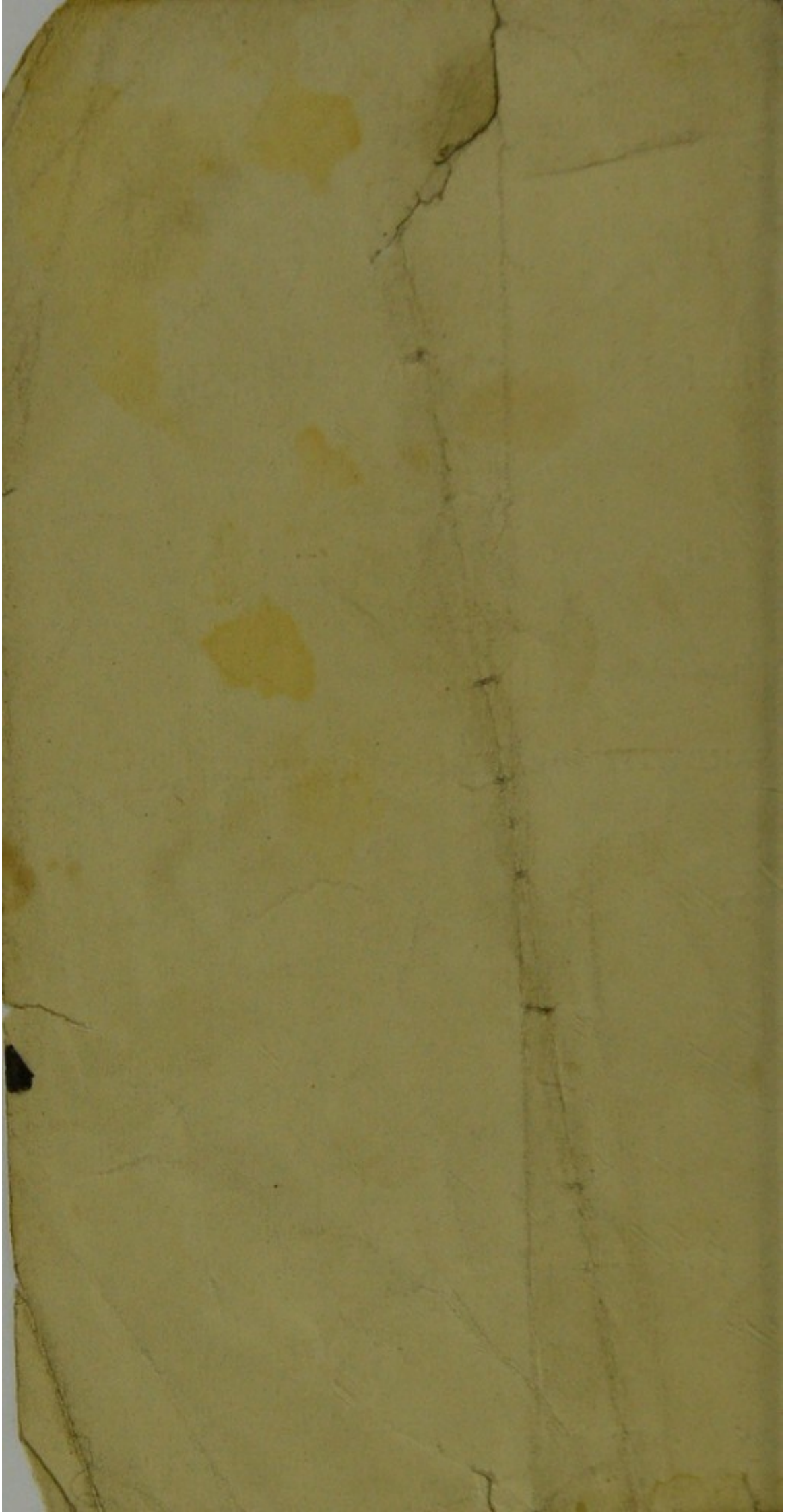
GRESHAM PROFESSOR OF PHYSIC.

Reprinted from THE LANCET, *April 25, 1908*



The Gresham Lecture

ON

THE GRESHAM PROFESSORS OF PHYSIC.

"Vita mortuorum in memoria vivorum est posita."—*Cic. Philipp. XI.*

GENTLEMEN,—On Jan. 16th, 1597, 17 years after the death of Sir Thomas Gresham, a threefold agreement was drawn up between the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of London of the first part, the Master Wardens of the Mercers' Company of the second part, and the seven Gresham professors already in residence in Gresham House of the third part, with regard to the good government of Gresham House according to the intent and meaning of the last will and testament of Sir Thomas Gresham. For the credit of the place, the increase of learning, and the greater honour of the Founder, it was unanimously thought meet and convenient that, in order to decide weighty matters in controversy and for the teaching of the principal and most material heads in all the several arts and sciences, certain solemn lectures should be delivered with great care and diligence at set days and times. And forasmuch as the public reading of the said lectures should be performed in that manner as would most tend to the glory of God and the common benefit of the people of this city, most of whom "understand not the Latin tongue, whereby the said lectures may become solitary in a short time, if they shall be read in the Latin tongue only," it was decreed that the lecture should be read in English for the benefit of the citizens, while it should be

repeated in Latin for the sake of divers strangers of foreign countries "who resort to London and understand not the English tongue, yet will greatly desire to hear the reading of the said lectures, whereby the memory of the Founder in erecting the College for the increase of learning may be divulged, to the good example of foreign nations and the honour and credit of this honourable city." The bell which summoned merchants to the Royal Exchange was rung to give notice of the lectures, a practice which seems to have been discontinued after the Great Fire.

We are only concerned here with that clause of the ordinance which relates to the duties of the professor of physic:—

> And forasmuch as the greatest part of the auditory is like to be of such citizens and others as have small knowledge or none at all in the Latin tongue, and for that every man for his health's sake will desire to have some knowledge in the art of physick; it is thought good that the first lecture be read in the Latin, and the second in the English tongue. Touching the matter of the said solemn lecture, albeit the same is to be referred to the discretion of the reader; yet it is wished, that herein he follow Fernelius his method, by reading first physiologie, then pathologie, and lastly therapeutice'; whereby the body of the said art may be better imprinted by good method in the studious auditors, rather than be disjointed and delivered out of order by exposition of some part of Galen or Hippocrates.

You will like to have a few particulars about the Fernelius who was held up as a model for the Gresham professors of physic to follow. Jean François Fernel (1497–1558) was a French physician who, as a youth, so distinguished himself at Paris in mathematics, philosophy, and languages that he was offered a professorship in one of those subjects. This offer he declined, preferring to become a physician, and he was eventually named professor of medicine in 1534. His extraordinary erudition, and the skill and success with which he sought to inculcate a more intelligent study of the old Greek physicians, gained for him a great reputation and ultimately the post of physician to the court of Henry II. and Catherine of Medici, the parents-in-law of Mary, Queen of Scots. The sixteenth century is memorable for the number of universities founded in Europe and for the general impulse towards freedom and independence due to the overwhelming conviction that thought must be freed from the fetters which had so long restrained it. Fernel earned the title of reformer because he taught that physicians should study the human body and think for themselves instead of blindly accepting all the writings of

Galen and Hippocrates who had lived respectively 13 centuries and 19 centuries before him. Seeing the fruitlessness of mere speculation, he was one of the first to recommend that one ought to look for the cause of disease in the body itself and not in the fluids occasioned by the disease. The dissection of human bodies was not yet permitted, but we may assume that Fernel was of the same opinion as his Venetian contemporary, Realdo Colombo, who said that a man could learn more in one day by the dissection of a dog than by continually feeling the pulse and studying Galen's writings for many months together.

Let me now give you a brief account of the illustrious men who have preceded me in this post. Matthew Gwinne (1596–1607),[1] the son of a grocer, was a scholar and Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, and in his younger days was appointed "Regent Master to read upon Music," for this was before the days when public professors were appointed and supported by fixed salaries to teach the liberal arts. But when he had taken his degree in arts he embraced the profession of medicine and practised as a physician in Oxford for several years. He was allowed to discontinue the lecture on music because "suitable books were difficult to procure, and the practice of that science was unusual if not useless." In 1592 he was chosen to reply in a Latin debate at Oxford for the entertainment of Queen Elizabeth, and it is reported that his witty handling of the matter and his discreet behaviour seemed to please her Majesty much. In the following year he was created doctor of physic, and we next hear of him as professionally attending Sir Henry Unton, the Ambassador of this country at the French Court. In March, 1596, he was chosen as the first professor of physic at Gresham College, being one of the two who were nominated by the University of Oxford, and his introductory lectures in 1598 consisted of an oration in praise of the founder and his institution. In 1604 he was admitted a candidate of the College of Physicians of London, or, as we should now call it, a Member, and in the following year he was made physician to the Tower. During that year James I., with his Queen, Prince Henry, and their courts went to Oxford, where they were entertained for three days with academical exercises of all kinds. Dr. Gwinne was specially prominent on the occasion, and took

[1] The dates within brackets after the professors' names show the years during which each occupied the chair of physic.

part in the two debates, whether the morals of nurses are imbibed by infants with their milk and whether tobacco smoking is wholesome or not. As the king was a professed enemy of tobacco and had written against the use of it this debate gave His Majesty an opportunity of expressing his own sentiments on the subject. On the same evening a Latin comedy was acted at Magdalen College, of which Dr. Gwinne was the author. The King was pleased with the acting of the students, although it did not keep him awake. A few months later Dr. Gwinne was admitted a Fellow of the College of Physicians and resigned his Gresham professorship in 1607, probably in order to marry. From 1608 to 1627 he was registrar of the College of Physicians and continued to practise in London where he was much esteemed both in the city and at court. In 1620, seven years before his death, he was appointed, with seven other Royal Commissioners, to draw up regulations for garbling (or sorting) tobacco before it was exposed for sale. He wrote several papers and was a man of intelligence, lively fancy, and poetic genius. He had read much and was well versed in all sorts of literature, accurately skilled in modern languages, and was much valued for his knowledge and success in the practice of his profession. His only medical work was an able treatise in Latin to prove that Francis Anthony's celebrated but secret remedy, called "potable gold," contained no gold at all, and that even if it did the virtues of gold as a medicine were much exaggerated. This Anthony (1550–1623) was a successful empiric who when examined in medicine before the President and Censors of the College of Physicians and being found ignorant was forbidden to practise. He disregarded this injunction and was in consequence fined and sent to prison more than once. He claimed that his secret remedy would cure all diseases and offered to exhibit his process of dissolving gold, which his adversaries declared was impossible. Accordingly a trial was held at the College of Physicians in 1609 before the Master of the Mint and other experts but when Anthony was given an ounce of gold he failed to dissolve it. Dr. J. F. Payne suggests that any efficacy which the cordial may have possessed was due to certain ethers formed in the process of distilling or to the good canary wine employed in the mixing.

A tablet in memory of Francis Anthony, who lived in St. Bartholomew's-close, may be seen on the north wall of the Church of St. Bartholomew the Great. Gwinne had at least four famous colleagues at Gresham College—namely,

Henry Briggs, the great mathematician, who improved Napier's table of logarithms; John Bull, the organist and composer and the latter's successor as Gresham professor of music; Thomas Clayton, who became professor of physic and anatomy at Oxford. He had the reputation of being a great linguist "to whom the great Avicenna might speak and be understood without an interpreter." Also George Mountayne (Montaigne or Mountain), Professor of Divinity, who eventually became Archbishop of York. The story is that he strained every nerve to get this last preferment and that when Charles I. was discussing the question of the vacant see in his presence he wittily remarked to the King: "Hadst thou faith as a grain of mustard seed thou wouldst say unto this Mountain, 'Be removed into that see!'"

Peter Mounsell (1607–1615) studied medicine in Oxford, Cambridge, Paris, and Padua, and afterwards made a second tour on the continent to visit the Universities of Basle, Strasburg, and Leyden, where he apparently took the degree of doctor of physic. He was Gresham Professor for eight years and practised in the city, being buried, like our founder, in St. Helen's Church.

Thomas Winston (1615–1643 and 1652–1655) was the son of a carpenter and was born in the year 1575. He was educated at Clare Hall in Cambridge, where he had a Fellowship and took the degree of Master of Arts, after which he became Doctor of Physics at Padua. While abroad he attended the lectures of celebrated anatomists, Fabricius and Prosper Alpinus at Padua and Caspar Bauhine at Basle. He eventually settled in London, where he became eminent in his profession. He received a doctor's degree at Cambridge and became Fellow of the College of Physicians in London. Among his unsuccessful competitors for the post of professor of physic at Gresham College in 1615 was the younger son of Mr. John Fox (the celebrated martyrologist), Dr. Simeon Fox, who was the last President of the College of Physicians who used to ride on horseback in London to visit his patients. Dr. Winston held his professorship in this College till the year 1642, by which time he had acquired a handsome fortune, when he suddenly and somewhat mysteriously left England, possibly compelled to do so for political reasons. When he had been absent from this country for six months Dr. De Laune was chosen in his place. Dr. Winston remained in France some ten years and returned to this country in 1652, when he made his peace with the Govern-

ment and was restored to the possession of what he had lost upon going abroad. But by this time he was advanced in years and did not long enjoy his professorship, for he died in 1655, being then 80 years of age. Meric Casaubon called him "the great ornament of his profession" and Dr. Hamey commended him for keeping up the dignity of the faculty against the apothecaries. He never seems to have published anything during his life but after his death a treatise came out with this title: "Anatomy lectures at Gresham College by that eminent and learned physician, Dr. Thomas Winston, London, 1659." A second edition was called "The Compleat Anatomist" and is said to have been in some ways better than any other work on anatomy then extant in English. Its chief interest at the present time to us is that the book contained no mention of Harvey's great discovery of the circulation of the blood which had been announced at the College of Physicians in 1616 and given to the world at large since 1628. Winston was well read in Galen and in Latin authors, but held the old belief that there were openings between the two ventricles of the heart, and that the arteries transmitted as well as blood vital spirit formed in the left ventricle. During Winston's first term as professor Sir Kenelm Digby, Admiral, philosopher, and chemist, spent two hermit-like years at Gresham College, with beard unshorn, in sorrow for his beloved wife, whom he was supposed to have poisoned by accident by giving her viper's flesh in broth to heighten her beauty.

During Winston's long term of office he had many eminent contemporaries at Gresham College, of whom at least four must be singled out for special mention. 1. Edward Gunter, his colleague in the astronomical chair, invented the sector, and was the first to calculate tables of logarithms for sines and tangents, besides making many other inventions and improvements in mathematics. He was the first to coin the words cosine, cotangent, and cosecant, and his name has been perpetuated in "Gunter's scale" and "Gunter's chain," still constantly used in land surveying. 2. Henry Gellibrand, his successor, contributed much to the improvement of navigation by following up Gunter's work on the variation of the magnetic needle. He seems to have been a plodding, industrious mathematician, without any special genius. 3. Daniel Whistler, professor of geometry, was M.D. of Leyden and Oxford Universities, one of the original Fellows of the Royal Society, and died as President of the College of

Physicians. His thesis on taking his degree at Leyden was "On the English Disease of Childhood, called Rickets," and this is the earliest printed account of that disease. Dr. Norman Moore tells us that the author was dissatisfied with the vulgar name "rickets" and proposed to substitute for it "pædossplanchnosteocaces," which fortunately no one has been barbarous enough to adopt. Whistler practised his profession in London, but died very much in debt, and was accused of having taken insufficient care of the property of the College of physicians. Samuel Pepys described him as "good company and a very ingenious man," and Evelyn called him "the most facetious man in nature." 4. More remarkable than any of these was Sir William Petty, professor of music. Though the son of a clothier he proved to be an universal genius, statesman, and one of the earliest political economists. He took the degree of M.D. Oxford, where he became professor of anatomy, then physician to the army in Ireland, Fellow of the College of Physicians of London, one of the founders of the Royal Society, and eventually Surveyor General of Ireland. While acting as deputy to the professor of anatomy at Oxford in 1650 he obtained a wide reputation by reviving the supposed corpse of one Ann Greene who had been hanged for the murder of her illegitimate child and pronounced dead by the sheriff. The medical evidence at the trial corroborated the woman's statement that the child was still-born, in spite of which she was condemned to death. After hanging for the usual time she was cut down and handed over to the doctors for dissection. It was then discovered that she was still breathing, and, by the aid of restoratives, regained her health and was granted a free pardon. The event was regarded as a special Divine interference on behalf of an innocent and betrayed woman, and several pamphlets and poems were written in Oxford upon the occasion, one set of Latin verses being by Christopher Wren, who was then an undergraduate.

Among many other inventions Petty invented a double-bottomed ship to sail against wind and tide, which was considered one of the most wonderful discoveries of the day. On one occasion, being challenged to fight a duel and having the right to name the place and weapon, he proposed a dark cellar and an axe, in order, being short-sighted, to put himself upon an equality with his adversary. The challenge was thus turned into ridicule and the duel never took place. When in London his house was in Piccadilly, where Lincoln and Bennett now sell hats. Petty was twice offered and

refused a peerage and one likes to think that possibly some of the statesman-like qualities of this great man have been handed down to his descendant, the present Marquis of Lansdowne.

Paul de Laune (1643–1652) was appointed to Dr. Winston's professorship during his absence. He was the brother of Gideon de Laune, a wealthy apothecary in London, who was one of the first assistants appointed by the Charter of the Apothecaries when they became separated from the grocers in the year 1617. He was also related by marriage to Dr. Argent, who was eight times President of the College of Physicians. De Laune studied at Cambridge and afterwards at Padua, where he was created Doctor of Physic. Later, he took the same degree at Cambridge and became a Fellow and senior Censor of the College of Physicians. He practised in Dublin, where he was physician to the Viceroy of Ireland, until he succeeded Dr. Winston at Gresham College. The restoration of the latter was a great blow to him, as it removed from him his chief means of support. Though then about 70 years of age he accepted an offer from Oliver Cromwell and was appointed physician-general to the fleet upon an expedition to Hispaniola under Admiral Penn. The expedition was repulsed by the Spaniards and the troops then sailed to Jamaica where they had better success, for they took the town, drove the inhabitants into the woods, and made a settlement, which has been one of our flourishing colonies ever since. Dr. de Laune apparently died in or near Jamaica, for he was never heard of after that time. As he had children Ward presumes that he must have been a widower when he officiated at Gresham College. You will notice that most of the Gresham professors to whom I have referred went to Italy to complete their medical studies, and especially to Padua, which was then at the height of its renown as a school of anatomy and medicine.

Jonathan Goddard (1655–1674) was the son of a rich shipbuilder and was educated at Oxford and elsewhere. He then became a practitioner in London, a doctor of physic of Cambridge, and a Fellow and Censor of the College of Physicians. He was a promoter and one of the original council of the Royal Society, to which he made 14 communications. After being chief physician to Cromwell's army in Ireland and Scotland he rode into London in triumph with that general in 1651 after the battle of Worcester. He then became Warden of Merton College, Oxford, one of Cromwell's Little Parliament, and

and was appointed a member of the Council of State. Upon Dr. Winston's death he was elected Gresham professor of physic and when the fire of 1666 occurred in London he removed for a time from Gresham College with the other professors to make room for the Mayor and Corporation who for some years transacted their business there until the City was rebuilt. He died at the College in 1674 and was buried in St. Helen's Church. He was the first Englishman to make telescopes, and being a clever chemist he worked hard in his laboratory at Gresham College at that science. One of his papers read before the Royal Society was entitled "A Discourse upon Eggs, containing Ten Signs whereby to Distinguish New Eggs from those which are Stale." He not only prescribed but concocted medicines and published a treatise recommending that physicians should prepare their own remedies, on the grounds that apothecaries were ignorant and that they dared to prescribe for the sick as well as to compound medicines. His reputation was kept alive for years by certain volatile drops, which were his invention and bore his name; though long in great repute this nostrum is now entirely forgotten. The drops were used in faintings, apoplexies, lethargies, or other sudden and alarming attacks, and were praised by the great Dr. Sydenham who found them better than any other volatile spirits "for energetically and efficaciously attaining the end for which they are applied" On the continent they used to be prescribed under the name of the "English drops." It is believed that they consisted of spirit of ammonia, to which other ingredients were added, such as dried viper and the skull of a person who had been hanged. Goddard is said by some to have sold the secret of his drops to Charles II. for £5000 and it is to be noted that traffic in secret remedies was not held to be improper at that time.

Three of his distinguished contemporaries can hardly be passed over in silence, Wren, Barrow, and Hooke. Sir Christopher Wren, versatile genius and most famous of English architects, became Gresham professor of astronomy in his twenty-fifth year. His rooms in the College soon attracted those men of science who founded the Royal Society, of which he eventually became President. Within a week after the great fire of London had been extinguished Wren was ready with a plan for rebuilding the City, which was not accepted, chiefly because it was too thorough and too far-seeing. He thus had time to reconstruct St. Paul's Cathedral, 52 churches, no two of which were alike, 36 of

the companies' halls, the Customs House, and several private houses, so that all that part of London seen from Blackfriars Bridge seemed to have sprung from his energy. Of the churches I may single out one, a gem of architecture, St. Stephen's, Walbrook, which was greatly admired by Wren's contemporaries on the continent. I need hardly remind you of his grand epitaph in St. Paul's Cathedral, which states that he lived more than 90 years, not for himself, but for the public good. "Reader, if you are searching for his monument, look around you!"

Isaac Barrow, the professor of geometry, celebrated divine and scholar, showed but little promise in early life of his great talents, for he had to be removed from Charterhouse School because of his propensities for fighting and for stimulating other boys to fight, while at home he was so troublesome that his father was once heard to say, that if it pleased the Almighty to take any one of his children he could best spare Isaac! We hear little of his fighting in after life, though at the age of 26 years, while sailing from Leghorn to Smyrna on his way to Constantinople to read the works of St. Chrysostom, he had the opportunity of showing marked courage during an attack on the vessel by an Algerian pirate ship. He was at one time tutor to the famous Isaac Newton. His learning was prodigious and when he became chaplain to Charles II. the king called him "an unfair preacher, because he exhausted every topic and left no room for anything new to be said by any one who came after him." I do not know whether his sermons would be appreciated in the present day, for they usually took more than one and a half hours to deliver. He died at the comparatively early age of 47 years and was buried in Westminster Abbey, where the inscription on his monument was composed by his great friend, Dr. John Mapletoft.

Robert Hooke, the inventor and author, was also a Gresham professor of geometry. Unlike Barrow, he showed extraordinary cleverness as a school boy and astonished his teachers at Westminster School by mastering the six books of Euclid in one week. He also prepared a model for rebuilding the city after the great fire and, though it was not accepted, he obtained the appointment of city surveyor. In 1674 the Royal Society returned to Gresham College to hold its scientific meetings there and in the same year the Gresham committee "in order to encourage Mr. Hooke in his curious and useful enquiries" allowed him, at the cost of £40, to erect an astronomical turret over his quarters in the

College. He was curator of the treasures of the Royal Society and received the compliment of being created Doctor of Physic at Doctors' Commons by a warrant from Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury. Engaged to the last in philosophic research, he died in Gresham College and was buried in St. Helen's Church. He was the greatest mechanic of his age, but his brilliant erratic genius seldom allowed him to finish one investigation before hurrying on to the next. He divined the doctrine of universal gravitation before Newton but had not the mathematical ability to prove it.

It was in Goddard's time that Samuel Pepys was admitted a member of Gresham College and paid £2 for that privilege. It should not be forgotten that Gresham College was the cradle of the Royal Society.

John Mapletoft (1675–1679), physician and divine, after travelling on the continent and studying medicine in Italy became Doctor of Medicine at Cambridge and afterwards at Oxford, and practised in London, where he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was on intimate terms with many eminent men, including Dr. Thomas Sydenham and John Locke. The former dedicated to him the first edition of his "Medical Observations," and at the author's request Mapletoft translated some of Sydenham's works into Latin. He and Sydenham are said to have been for seven years closely associated in medical practice. Mapletoft began his lectures at Gresham College by describing Harvey's work and his discovery of the circulation of the blood, but he resigned the professorship in 1679 in order to marry, after which he relinquished the study of medicine for divinity, being then more than 50 years of age. Locke's friendship for him is shown by what he wrote to him on his entering into Holy Orders: "I like our calling the worse since you have quitted it." Locke himself had at that time renounced the practice of medicine and was devoting himself to his 17 years' study as to what questions the human understanding was or was not fitted to deal with. Mapletoft took his doctor's degree in divinity and eventually became vicar of St. Lawrence Jewry, where he continued to preach until he was over 80 years of age. Ward says of him: "He showed a great neglect, if not contempt of riches, and esteemed it sufficient, if he had enough to pass easily through the world, and something to spare for good and pious uses.

Henry Paman (1679–1689) became a doctor both of medicine and laws at Cambridge, where he was Public Orator

and Master of the Faculties. He also took the degree of Doctor of Medicine at Oxford, became a Fellow of the Royal Society, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and delivered the Harveian Oration in 1688. He enjoyed the friendship of Sydenham, who addressed one of his published writings to him. His only printed medical treatise seems to have been an epistle written to Sydenham just before he became himself Gresham professor. He resigned his professorship six years before his death.

Edward Stillingfleet (1689–1692), the son of a learned but militant Bishop of Worcester, became a Doctor of Medicine at Cambridge and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. After holding his post at Gresham College for less than three years, he resigned it in order to marry, and he, too, went into Holy Orders after marriage and died as a Norfolk rector. He does not seem to have risen to any great eminence in either of his professions. He offended his father by his Jacobite opinions and by marrying against the Bishop's wishes.

John Woodward (1692–1728) on leaving school at 16 was apprenticed to a linen-draper in London, but escaping from that uncongenial employment he devoted himself entirely to study until he met with Dr. Barwick, physician to Charles II., who took him into his own house and for four years gave him instruction in anatomy, medicine, and other sciences. His patron obtained for him at the age of 26 the Gresham professorship of physic. In the following year he became a Fellow of the Royal Society and was often elected on its council, for his geological writings had already gained him a considerable reputation. He was created Doctor of Medicine by Tenison, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1695, and afterwards received a similar degree at Cambridge. He became a Fellow of the College of Physicians, and also Censor and Goulstonian lecturer. As a practitioner Woodward seems to have relied chiefly on emetics and purges, and he is only remembered in medical circles in consequence of his controversy with the "princely" Dr. Mead and Dr. Freind on the utility of purging in the secondary fever of small-pox. Several abusive pamphlets were circulated on the subject and one day Mead and Woodward met accidentally under the gate of Gresham College and fought a duel. Several accounts of this duel have been published. One new to me has lately reached me through the kindness of Dr. J. F. Payne. It appeared in *The Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer* of Saturday, June 20th, 1719. As the account was

written by Woodward it does not give Mead's version of the story. Woodward says that an accidental fall during the duel put him at Mead's mercy, when he was driving Mead before him. Afterwards Mead upbraided him with not having asked his life; Woodward replied that Mead had shown himself a coward and added: "that had he been to have given me any of his Physick, I would rather than take it have asked my life of him; but for his sword, it was very harmless; and I was ever far from being in any the least apprehension of it."

Woodward seems to have been somewhat quarrelsome, for in 1710 he was expelled from the Royal Society for conduct unbecoming a gentleman. Sir Hans Sloane, the celebrated physician and naturalist, was reading a paper before the society, when Woodward made some grossly insulting remarks. Sir Hans complained, and stated that this was not the only occasion on which Woodward's conduct had been offensive. Woodward was required by the Fellows to apologise but refused and was therefore expelled. Sir Isaac Newton was in the chair when the question of expulsion was discussed; and when it was pleaded in Woodward's favour that he was a good natural philosopher Sir Isaac remarked that "in order to belong to that society a man ought to be a good moral philosopher as well as a natural one." Woodward brought an action against the council to get reinstated but was unsuccessful. His merits as a geologist were of a very high order and the Woodwardian Professorship and Museum at Cambridge still exist as memorials alike of his learning and his munificence. He was also well versed in botany and was one of the founders of experimental plant physiology. He died at Gresham College and was buried near Sir Isaac Newton in Westminster Abbey, where his monument may be seen. During Woodward's residence in Gresham College he had as colleagues in the chair of rhetoric Charles Gresham, F.R.S., a kinsman of our founder, and John Ward, LL.D., F.R.S., F.S.A., the author of "The Lives of the Professors of Gresham College," published in 1740, a valuable biographical work upon which I have freely drawn in preparing this lecture.

Henry Pemberton (1728–1771), mathematician and physician, began his studies under the care of John Ward, Gresham professor of rhetoric, who was then a schoolmaster. On choosing the profession of medicine he went to Leyden to study under Boerhaave who was the most eminent physician of his time. From Leyden he proceeded to Paris to

continue his mathematical and anatomical studies and thence to London, where he attended the wards of St. Thomas's Hospital in order to become acquainted with English practice. At the age of 25 years he took the M.D. degree at Leyden and on his return to London became the intimate of some of the most distinguished men of the day, including Sir Isaac Newton and Dr. Mead. He assisted the former in preparing the third edition of the "Principia" and in writing an account of his philosophical discoveries, while the latter had his literary assistance in his "Treatise on the Plague." He became Professor of Physic at Gresham College at the age of 34 years, but delicate health prevented his entering actively on the duties of medical practice. In 1746 the fifth London Pharmacopœia appeared as practically a new work, for the former editions were more mediæval than scientific. The first London Pharmacopœia was printed in 1618, just one century after the foundation of the College of Physicians, and was a small folio of 184 pages; its formulæ were distinguished for the multiplicity of inefficient substances massed together; no less than six contained more than 40 ingredients, and one consisted of more than 130 constituents.

Thanks to Pemberton, who was one of the best chemists of his age, and who devoted seven long years to chemical and pharmaceutical experiments necessary for the purpose, the fifth Pharmacopœia may be considered the first scientific one published in this country. On the eve of its appearance Dr. Mead reminded the College of Physicians of Dr. Pemberton's valuable services, and considered that these entitled him "to a suitable acknowledgment such as might be worth his acceptance, not as an operator, but consistently with his true character as a gentleman, scholar, philosopher, and physician." It was then resolved that Dr. Pemberton should have the copyright of the new Pharmacopœia, the sum of 100 guineas, and be reimbursed for all his expenses. Three years before his death the trustees sold Gresham College to His Majesty's Government for a paltry £500 a year, they contributing £1800 towards the expense of pulling down the college and building an Excise Office on the spot. As a necessary consequence of this unfortunate decision the professors were obliged to vacate the college and were granted £50 per annum in lieu of residence. But Dr. Pemberton seems to have refused these terms and would not leave until he was granted a further sum of £50 per annum, free of all taxes and deductions. He died at the

age of 76 years, having been a voluminous writer all his life. His contributions to the Transactions of the Royal Society, of which he was a Fellow, extend from the thirty-second to the sixty-second volume.

Thomas Healde (1771–1789) was a Doctor of Medicine of Cambridge, a Fellow of the Royal Society, and physician at the London Hospital. He was a Fellow and Censor of the College of Physicians and seems to have delivered all possible lectures there—Gulstonian, Harveian, Croonian, and Lumleian. He died in 1789 in very reduced circumstances, leaving his widow and family in the greatest destitution. The College granted his widow a special bounty of £100 and helped to start her as midwife. He was the first of the Gresham professors of physic who was allowed to be married.

Christopher Stanger (1789–1834) began his medical education by an apprenticeship to a surgeon at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, after which he proceeded to Edinburgh, where he took the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He then spent four years in visiting the more celebrated medical schools on the continent, Paris, Montpellier, Vienna, Göttingen, and Leyden. On settling in London he became a Licentiate of the College of Physicians, Gresham Professor of Physic, and physician of the Foundling Hospital. He retained his professorship until his death at the age of 75 years. Munk says that he was a person of extensive attainments and great energy of character, and he obtained much notoriety in his day in consequence of his contest with the College of Physicians, for he maintained that it was the right of every well-educated London physician of fair character and mature age to be admitted a Fellow of that corporation, if found competent. The case was argued in the Law Courts for three days in 1797, but his petition was unanimously rejected.

The Gresham professors have occupied the chair of Physic, since its foundation, for an average period of more than 20 years each, while two of them, Pemberton and Stanger, each held their post for more than double that time.

Henry Herbert Southey (1834–1865) was the brother of Robert Southey, the poet-laureate. He began the study of medicine under a surgeon at Norwich, and at the age of 20 proceeded to Edinburgh where he acquired an unusual facility in the use of Latin, which he wrote and spoke fluently. This accomplishment was fully valued at Edinburgh and gave him a reputation which

caused his society to be sought after by some of the best of his contemporaries. He retained his fondness for Latin all through his life and seldom failed to carry in his pocket either Horace or Virgil, or the letters of the elder Pliny. He graduated Doctor of Medicine at Edinburgh, settled as a physician at Durham, and then moved to London, where he successively became physician to the Middlesex Hospital, physician in ordinary to George IV., physician extraordinary to Queen Adelaide, Gresham professor of physic, which office he held until his death at the ripe age of 82, and Commissioner in Lunacy. Oxford University conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law, he was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and at the College of Physicians he became Fellow, Censor, and Harveian Orator.

According to Sir Thomas Watson, Dr. Southey was not unworthy of the name that his elder brother, the poet, had made famous. He was a great favourite among his acquaintances and friends, and on at least three occasions valuable legacies were bequeathed to him by men who were bound to him by no ties of blood or of professional obligation. As a consequence of his official appointment his practice lay chiefly, though not exclusively, among the insane. He lived in Queen Anne-street. He became an Elect of the College of Physicians in 1848 and lived to see the abolition of that order in 1860. The Elects were eight seniors of the College, who for more than three centuries, by a special statute of Henry VIII., had annually elected the President. Since 1860 their functions have reverted to the whole body of Fellows, as was originally the case under the provisions of the Charter.

Henry Powell (1865–1867), after studying at Guy's Hospital, took his M.D. degree at Oxford in 1839 and in the following year became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. He successively became physician to the Tunbridge Wells Dispensary and Infirmary, senior physician to Coventry Hospital, and consulting physician to Rugby School. He died on May 18th, 1867, aged 58. I have not been able to find that he made any contributions to medical literature.

Edmund Symes Thompson (1867–1906), son of Dr. Theophilus Thompson, F.R.S., was born in 1837 and became a scholar and gold medallist at the University of London, where he took his M.D. degree, a Fellow of the College of Physicians, assistant physician to King's College Hospital,

consulting physician to the Brompton Hospital for Consumption, and a Fellow of many scientific societies. His first Gresham lecture was delivered on Nov. 6th, 1867, at 1 P.M., which was then the appointed hour. Following in the steps of his 14 predecessors, his Latin lecture was followed by one in English, until 1876, when the Latin discourse was discontinued on account of the small audience. I am told that those who attended the Latin lecture were chiefly masters and "Grecians" from Christ's Hospital and St. Paul's School, both then within the City limits, and that they were more interested in the style of the dead language than in the matter of the lecture. The attendance, however, at his lectures in English averaged more than 200, a sufficient proof of his popularity. His last lecture was given on April 27th, 1906, for he was taken ill in August and died on Nov. 24th of that year. His memory is yet very green in the minds of his friends and I may refer others who want to know more of his life's work to the obituary notices of only a year ago.

"Were honour to be scann'd by long descent
From ancestors illustrious, I could vaunt
A lineage of the greatest, and recount
Among my fathers, names of ancient story,
Heroes and god-like patriots, who subdued
The world by arms and virtue;
But that be their own praise:
Nor will I borrow merit from the dead,
Myself an undeserver."

—*Nicholas Rowe.*

1596 - 1906
1596
310

1876
1596
280 years

6 Gregson 11 years
7 Manuel 8 "
16 [illegible] 30 "
2 DeLanne 19
3 Goddard 19
6 Mapleton 4 "
8 Parnay 10
14 Stillingfleet 3
19 Woodward 36
9 Pemberton 43
5 Heaton 12
13 Stevens 45
12 Southey 31
10 Powell 2
15 Thompson 39
11 Sandhurst
1 Annesley 318

Annesley - [illegible]
DeLanne
Goddard
Gregson
Heaton
Mapleton
Manuel
Parnay
Pemberton
Powell
Sandhurst
Southey
Stevens
Stillingfleet
Thompson
Wood
Woodward

52
364