

A memoir of the life and writings of John Ayrton Paris ... / by William Munk.

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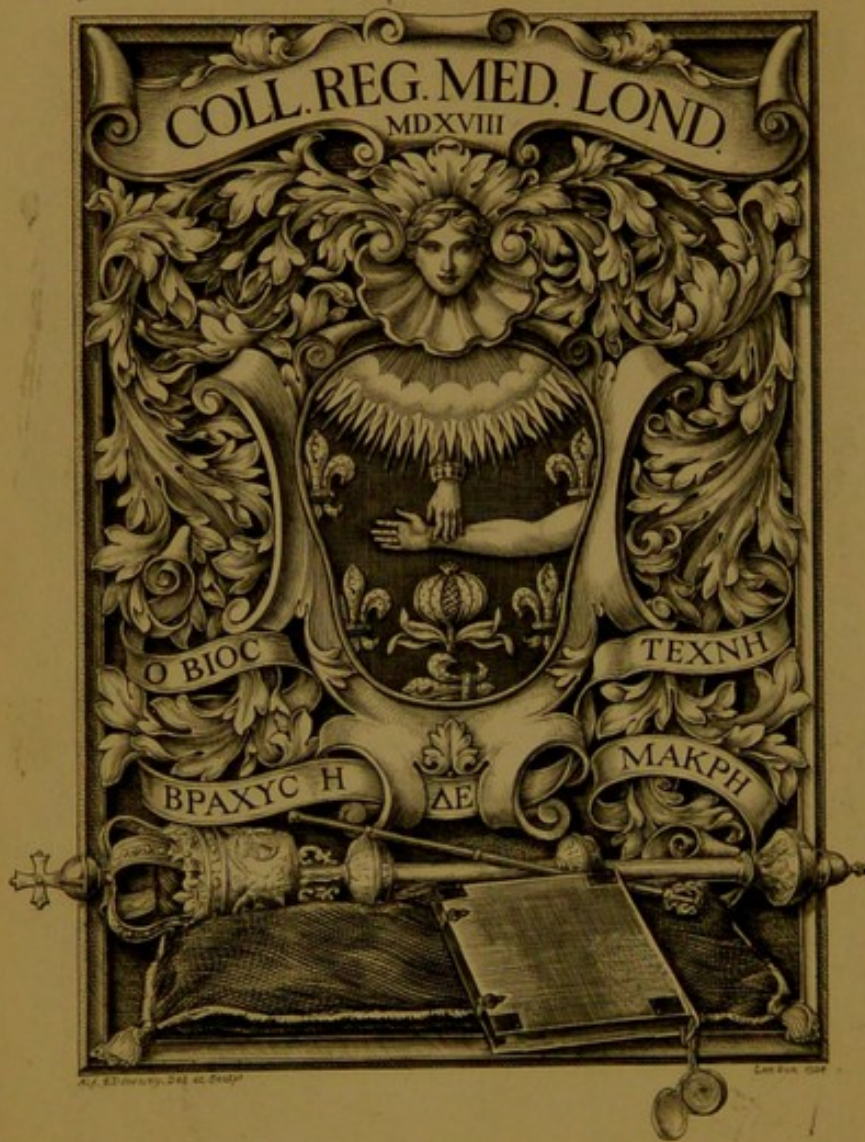


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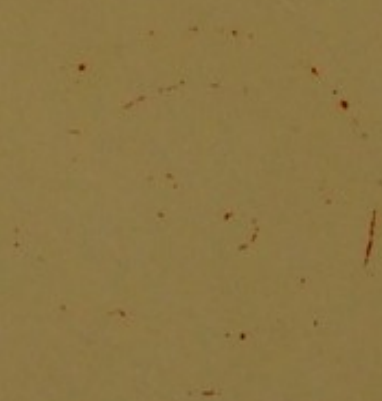
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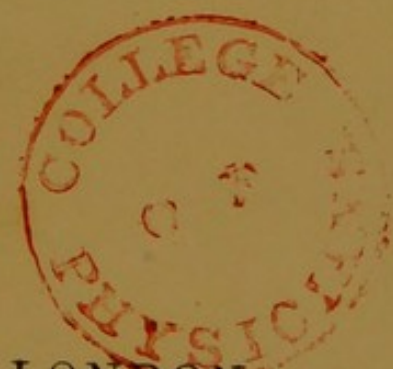
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A MEMOIR
OF
THE LIFE AND WRITINGS
OF
JOHN AYRTON PARIS,
M.D. CANTAB., D.C.L. OXON., F.R.S.
PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

By WILLIAM MUNK, M.D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS,
PHYSICIAN TO THE SMALL POX AND VACCINATION HOSPITAL,
CONSULTING PHYSICIAN TO THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES,
AND TO THE QUEEN ADELAIDE'S DISPENSARY.



LONDON:

BELL AND DALDY, 186, FLEET STREET.

1857.

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TO
FRANCIS HAWKINS, M.D.

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FELLOW, ELECT, AND REGISTRAR OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF
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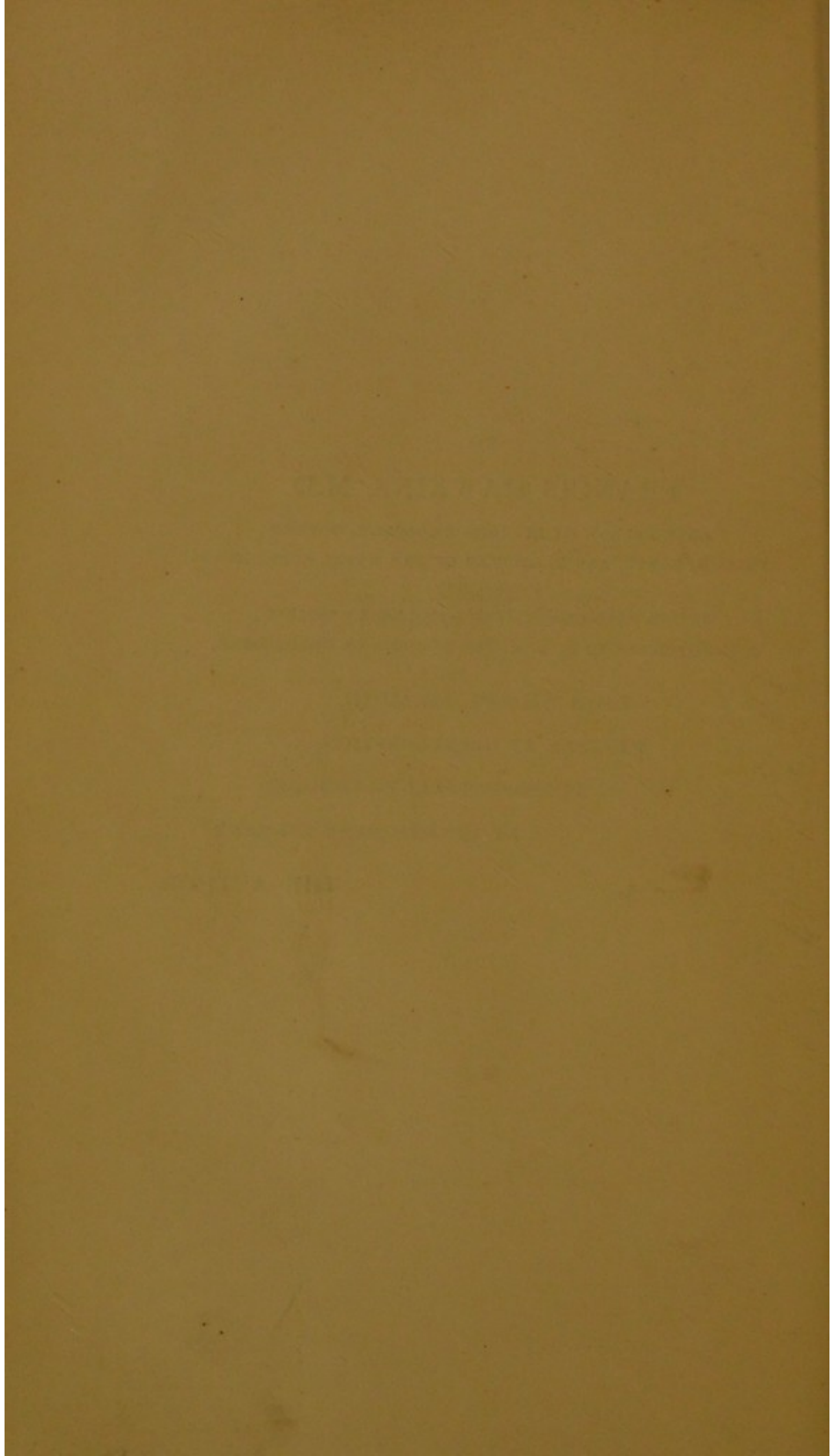
SENIOR PHYSICIAN TO THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL ;
AND PHYSICIAN TO H. R. H. THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER.

THIS SHORT MEMOIR,
WRITTEN AT HIS SUGGESTION,

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY HIS OBEDIENT SERVANT

THE AUTHOR.



THE substance of the following pages has appeared in one of the weekly Journals—"The Medical Times and Gazette."

They are now reprinted, in order to meet a wish expressed by some of the writer's colleagues, of the Royal College of Physicians, to possess in a more convenient form this brief Memoir of their late and much respected President.

26, Finsbury Place,
Feb. 1857.

“ Ipse Philosophus, qui scientia Chemica, tanquam Medicinæ ancilla, non domina, usus, et quasi veteres avias de formulis et præscriptis nostris revellens Pharmacologiam veram instituit.”—*Oratio Harveiana Auctore Franc° Hawkins, M.D. A. D. 1847.*

A MEMOIR, ETC.

JOHN AYRTON PARIS, M.D., was born at Cambridge on the 7th of August, 1785, and was baptized at St. Benedict's in that town on the 7th of September following. He was the son of Thomas Paris, of Cambridge, Gent., by his wife Elizabeth Clay, the eldest daughter of Edward Ayrton, of Trinity College, Doctor of Music. Of the former I can recover no particulars ; the latter, who is represented as a woman of strong and cultivated mind, survived to witness her son's eminence, and died at Chester on the 8th of January, 1847, aged 84.

His early education was of a domestic nature, and, if I am correctly informed, his mother was for many years his only tutor. When about twelve years of age he was placed under Mr. Barker, of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, with whom he remained one year. He was then sent for two years to the Grammar School of Linton, under Dr. Curteis. Of the progress which he made at Linton, I have not been able to obtain any particulars. Subsequently he was removed to London,

and placed under the private tuition of Dr. Bradley,* one of the physicians to the Westminster Hospital, an accomplished mathematician and a good classical scholar. With him he read Latin and Greek, and acquired some knowledge of botany. He was matriculated at Cambridge, as a pensioner of Caius College, on the 17th of December, 1803, and was elected to a Tancred Studentship in Physic on the 3rd of January, 1804. In this capacity he made the Tancred speech in October, 1808.

From the commencement of his career at Cambridge, he evinced that strong predilection for natural philosophy which characterized his future life. He was a diligent student of chemistry under Professor Farish, and of mineralogy under Dr. Clarke. He obtained the special notice of these two distinguished teachers, and the friendship and countenance of Mr. Smithson Tenant.

* Thomas Bradley, M. D., was born in Worcestershire, and for many years conducted a school in that county, where mathematics, in which he was a proficient, constituted the prominent department of study. About 1786, he withdrew from the business of education, and, devoting himself to medicine, proceeded to Edinburgh, where he took the degree of Doctor of Medicine, 24th of June, 1791. (*Diss. Inaug. de Epispasticorum usu.*) He then settled in London, and was admitted a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, 22nd Dec. 1791. He edited the "Medical and Physical Journal" for several years, and was Physician to the Westminster Hospital. He died in embarrassed circumstances at his lodgings in St. George's Fields, in 1813, aged sixty-two.

From Cambridge he proceeded to Edinburgh, then at the zenith of its reputation as a school of practical medicine, and became the friend and intimate companion of some of the most distinguished men who then adorned the northern capital. His sojourn in Edinburgh was for improvement in the practical part of physic, and he attended with much diligence the lectures of Dr. James Gregory, whose masculine understanding, sound judgment, and extensive learning commanded his highest admiration. His love for chemistry and natural philosophy was, however, still predominant. He perfected the knowledge he had acquired at Cambridge, by attendance on Dr. Hope and Mr. Playfair, and was one of the most active members of the Apparatus, or Philosophical, Committee of the Royal Medical Society.

Dr. Paris took his degree of Bachelor of Medicine at Cambridge on the 2nd of July, 1808, a license *ad practicandum* from the University shortly afterwards, and then proceeded to London. Here he had the good fortune to attract the notice of Dr. Maton; who, struck by the extent and accuracy of his chemical knowledge and the versatility of his genius, held out to him the hand of friendship, warmly espoused his interests, and constituted himself in the highest sense of the term his patron.

In the early part of 1809, Dr. Maton resigned his

office of Physician to the Westminster Hospital, and owing probably to that gentleman's recommendation, Dr. Paris, by a resolution of the House Committee, was requested to undertake the duties until a successor could be appointed. Shortly after this he was attacked with fever, and was unable to attend on the day fixed for the reception of candidates. His credentials were however, presented by his relative, Mr. William Ayrton, and on the 14th of April, 1809, being then but twenty-three years of age, he was elected Physician to the Hospital by an overwhelming majority over his competitor, Dr. Donald Mackinnon. Dr. Paris entered on the duties of his office with ardour, and soon afterwards commenced a course of lectures on Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

On the 11th of December, 1809, he married Mary Catherine, the eldest daughter of Francis Noble, Esq. of Fordham Abbey, Cambridgeshire.

By his lectures and his writings (for he had published "A Memoir on the Physiology of the Egg," 8vo. London, 1810; "A Syllabus of a Course of Lectures on Pharmaceutic Chemistry," 8vo. London, 1811; and "Pharmacologia, or the History of Medicinal Substances," 12mo. London, 1812), Dr. Paris had already attained a name among his contemporaries, and was regarded as one of the most rising members of his profession, when a circumstance oc-

curred which exerted an important influence on his future career. The death, in 1813, of Dr. John Bingham Borlase,* the early instructor of Sir Humphry Davy, and for many years the leading physician at Penzance, left a vacancy in that part of Cornwall, which many of the resident families were anxious to have efficiently supplied. Some influential gentlemen applied to Dr. Maton to recommend them a physician. He named Dr. Paris, who, after some hesitation, was induced for a time to forego his prospects in London and remove thither. Previously thereto he returned to Cambridge, was created Doctor of Medicine, July 6, 1813,† resigned his office at the Westminster Hos-

* John Bingham Borlase, M.D., was descended from a family long celebrated in Cornwall for intellectual attainments. He was born at Penzance in 1753, and practised in his native town as a surgeon-apothecary for more than a quarter of a century. Having been created Doctor of Medicine by the University of Aberdeen, he withdrew from the more laborious branch of the profession, and practised thenceforward as a physician. In this capacity he was much and deservedly esteemed. He was a man of good taste and extensive classical attainments. The name of Borlase, says Polwhele, awakened the hope of information and entertainment, but the performance far exceeded the promise. At a trial at the Launceston assizes, he displayed such a knowledge of anatomy, and gave his evidence in so masterly a manner as to excite the admiration of the court. His familiarity with the subject (as Baron Thompson observed to the jury) was in nothing more discoverable than in the ability to divest his language of technical terms. Dr. Borlase died at Penzance, universally lamented, in 1813.

† Dr. Paris was *admitted* M.D. July 8, 1812, the earliest day

pital, and having, on the 30th of September, 1813, been admitted a Candidate of the Royal College of Physicians, he proceeded to Penzance, carrying with him letters of introduction and recommendation to the first families in Cornwall, most of which had been procured for him by Dr. Maton.

Dr. Paris's progress in Cornwall was rapid beyond his expectations. His first year's receipts more than doubled the largest amount which Dr. Borlase had ever obtained within the same period, and his progress onwards was uninterrupted. He was admitted on terms of friendship and intimacy by the best families in the county. He co-operated with them in every effort for the advancement of science, and he urged them to exertions which without him would never have been made. At Cambridge he had applied himself with enthusiasm to mineralogy ; and when settled in Cornwall, a county beyond all others favourable to the study of that and the allied science of geology, he devoted his leisure hours to these attractive subjects. Lamenting that such vast opportunities for original research as were there presented should be neglected, and anxious to systematize efforts, and foster them to

possible, viz. the day after Commencement Tuesday, but he could not be *created* Doctor till Commencement Tuesday, 1813, viz. July 6. He is technically called a Doctor of the year 1813.

maturity, he proposed, and with the co-operation of scientific and influential friends established, the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall.

The first meeting was held on the 11th of February, 1814, when Dr. Paris delivered an able address, and was appointed Secretary. The objects of the Society, as stated by himself, were to cultivate the sciences of mineralogy and geology in a district better calculated perhaps for such pursuits than any other spot in Europe—to register the new facts which are continually presenting themselves in the mines; and to place on permanent record, the history of phenomena which had hitherto been entrusted to oral tradition. But above all, its object was to bring science, in alliance with art, to prevent the accidents which had so frequently occurred from explosion, in the operation of blasting rocks; and, in short, to render all the resources of speculative truth subservient to the ends of practical improvement.

The Society thus inaugurated, has been long established on a firm and lasting basis. It now ranks among the leading scientific associations of the age; and has issued several volumes of transactions, containing essays of the utmost value and interest. Dr. Paris's contributions were neither few nor unimportant: they comprise papers, "On a recent Formation of Sandstone occurring in various parts of the

Northern Coasts of Cornwall.”—“ On the Accidents which occur in the Mines of Cornwall in consequence of the premature Explosion of Gunpowder in blasting rocks, and on the Methods to be adopted for preventing it, by the introduction of a Safety Bar, and an instrument termed the Shifting Cartridge.”—“ Observations on the Geological Structure of Cornwall.”—“ On Gregorite (Manacchanite) discovered at Lanarth.”—“ On a New Substance found accompanying Welsh Culm,” and “ Stones and Clays annually exported from Cornwall, for the purposes of Architecture, Manufactures, and the Arts.”

The Safety Bar, described in the second of the papers above mentioned, has come into general use, and has proved an inestimable boon to the Cornish miner. In practical value, it is second only to the Safety Lamp of Davy, and like that, should confer immortality on the name of its inventor. “ By this simple but admirable invention,” says a writer in *The Times*, “ Dr. Paris, no doubt, saved more lives than many heroes have destroyed.”

Agriculture also attracted some portion of Dr. Paris’s attention, and he communicated to the Penwith Agricultural Society a valuable essay “ On the Soils of Cornwall, with a view to form a rational System of Improvement by the judicious application of Mineral Manure.” This was printed at the request

of the Society and published at Penzance in 1815. About the same time he issued, anonymously, an interesting little work, entitled "A Guide to the Mount's Bay and the Land's End." The first edition was soon exhausted. A second, much enlarged and improved, appeared some time after its author had quitted Cornwall.

Dr. Paris had never intended to make a lengthened stay in Cornwall; and he took leave of the county in 1817, in a "Memoir of the Life and Scientific Labours of the Rev. William Gregor, A.M.," an attached personal friend, who had distinguished himself by the discovery of Manacchanite, or as it has since been termed, Gregorite. This elegant biographical sketch was read before the Geological Society of Cornwall at the anniversary meeting of 1817, and was published by request. In it he announces his approaching departure, and takes an affectionate farewell of the Society he had himself founded.

Dr. Paris's brief sojourn in the country probably exerted no unimportant influence on his subsequent career in London. He had made friends among the aristocracy and gentry of Cornwall, and their influence was now exerted to advance his interests in the metropolis.

On Dr. Paris's return to London in 1817, he took up his abode in Sackville Street, but in the following

year removed to Dover Street, Piccadilly. At this period he began a course of lectures on *Materia Medica* in Windmill Street, which were continued for several successive years, and contributed greatly to his reputation. To a perfect knowledge of chemistry and botany, sound common sense, and a keen perception of the fallacies with which his subject had in the lapse of ages been encumbered, he added the charms of elegant language, abundant classical illustration, and a fund of anecdote which could not fail to rouse and rivet the attention of his pupils. He soon became one of the most popular lecturers on *Materia Medica* in London, and attracted a considerable class, among which were many of the most distinguished physicians of the present day.

The College of Physicians (of which he had been admitted a Fellow, September 30th, 1814) had about this time become possessed of one of the most complete collections of *Materia Medica* in Europe. That collected by Dr. Burges, and presented to the College after his death by Mr. E. A. Brande, to whom it was bequeathed, had recently been collated with the cabinet of Dr. Coombe, purchased for that purpose; and the College, anxious to make it available for instruction and improvement, instituted (out of their own funds) an annual course of lectures on *Materia Medica*.

The scientific attainments of Dr. Paris, and the reputation he had already acquired as a lecturer, pointed him out as the proper occupant of the new chair. In June, 1819, he entered upon the duties of the office by the delivery of a short series of lectures on the "Philosophy of the *Materia Medica*." The substance of these elegant discourses was introduced into the third edition of the *Pharmacologia*, and its publication constitutes an epoch in the history of the science and art of prescribing. Dr. Paris retained his office at the College until 1826, in which year he took for his subject the recent additions to the *Materia Medica*, with all the new discoveries in chemistry which had reference to that subject. The attendance on these, the first lectures delivered at the new College in Pall Mall East, was so large, that numbers went away unable to obtain even standing room in the theatre.

Of Dr. Paris's subsequent career, but little need be said. The unvaried tenor of a physician's life affords few opportunities for remark, and rarely furnishes any extraordinary incidents. From the period at which we have now arrived, his fame and his practice steadily increased, and although he never attained to the extensive professional engagements of a Baillie, a Haldord, or a Chambers, he enjoyed for more than a quarter of a century a very select and highly respect-

able practice. To Dr. Paris, writes one who evidently knew him well, the office of physician was no hireling's work to be hurried through for the purpose of accumulating a fortune or earning distinction. It was the business and glory of his life.

As a practical physician he was deservedly esteemed. His medical knowledge had been matured with care, and his discriminating sagacity enabled him to apply his collected stores with equal readiness and accuracy. His retentive memory and unruffled observation permitted him to meet each exigence by resources well adapted to regulate the operations of nature in circumstances the most alarming.

In the sick room he was cautious and thoughtful, impassive and imperturbable. His examination of a patient was peculiar, and to the rising generation of physicians might appear superficial and insufficient. He laid much stress upon the information to be derived from the general aspect of his patient, and his knowledge of the physiognomy of disease was minute and accurate. A few well-directed questions led him to the seat of the malady; and this once established, three or four more sufficed for all the purposes of diagnosis and treatment. In the last-named, the all-important part of the physician's office, Dr. Paris was probably unrivalled. Few have possessed a more accurate knowledge of remedial agents—none of his contem-

poraries employed them with greater accuracy, confidence or success. Fully sensible of the importance of properly directed combination, his prescriptions were at once elegant and efficient. Notwithstanding (it may rather be in virtue of his knowledge) he was no lavish prescriber of drugs. He knew when these were no longer necessary; when diet, or regimen, or Nature alone was sufficient for the contest. He dwelt much on general principles, and was loath to act without a precise indication. In the last case in which I met him, a case of much anxiety and, during many days, of imminent danger, he studiously avoided all medicines, and after dwelling on the absence of any definite indication, concluded the consultation with the aphorism of Boerhaave,

“Abstine si methodum nescis.”

The result proved the wisdom of his advice.

By his colleagues of the College of Physicians he was held in the highest respect. He served the office of Censor in 1817, 28, 36, 43, and of Consiliarius in 1836 and 1843. He was constituted an Elect on the 25th of June, 1839, and he delivered the Harveian Oration in 1843. On the 20th of March, 1844, at the vacancy occasioned by the death of Sir Henry Hallford, he was elected President of the College, an office to which he was annually re-appointed, and which he continued to fill to the time of his death.

For twelve years he occupied this distinguished position, and conducted the affairs of the College with exemplary firmness, judgment, and kindness. Superior to his predecessor in scientific knowledge, he was inferior to him in classical attainments. The one was an accomplished philosopher, the other an elegant scholar. Dr. Paris was educated at Cambridge, Sir Henry Hallford at Oxford. Both were brilliant examples of the peculiar discipline and tendencies of their respective Universities at that period, and both were calculated, though in different ways, to shed lustre on the learned body over which they so long and so ably presided.

We now approach the close of Dr. Paris's career. He had long suffered from disease of the urinary organs; and although subject to frequent attacks of agonizing pain, he preserved so calm an exterior that few suspected the existence, none the degree of the malady which was bringing him to the grave.

The death of Mrs. Paris, to whom he was tenderly devoted, added mental anguish to bodily suffering. She died, June 24, 1855, of a disease which his skill could not cure, and which it could not always alleviate. His distress was that deep feeling of the heart which disdains the weakness of complaint. The feeling itself was probably too acute to admit of this alleviation—for trifling afflictions are alone querulous—or his philoso-

phy might have checked the rising sigh. From this bereavement he never thoroughly recovered. For several months before his death, indications of failing bodily powers might be perceived. He became perceptibly thinner, and was exhausted by efforts which a short time previously had been borne with impunity. His mental powers remained, however, as vigorous as ever.

The last ten days of his life were spent in the midst of excruciating sufferings, which were borne with the most remarkable fortitude. His chief concern appeared to be, to console and comfort those around him, who could ill disguise their grief at the impending and irreparable loss. His intellect remained to the last as clear as at any time of his life; and while power of speech remained, no one who listened to him could believe that the end was so near at hand. He died at his house, in Dover Street, on the morning of the 24th of December, 1856, in the 72nd year of his age, and was buried by the side of his wife, at Woking Cemetery.

Dr. Paris's mental powers, which were naturally strong, had undergone that discipline which a complete university education and a deep study of chemistry are so well calculated to impart. His memory was large, and singularly tenacious—a fact once acquired was never lost, a passage once read he could re-produce

at pleasure. The leading feature of his mind was, a comprehensive clearness: what he perceived, he saw distinctly; what he had contemplated, was present to his mind under all its different relations and with all its varied connections. He possessed a vigorous imagination and a ready wit, and was keenly alive to the *facetiæ* of human character. His reading had been extensive, but discursive rather than deep. The impressions he had received were preserved in their primitive strength and in their original words; and his good sense and sound judgment led him to apply them with admirable effect. To an extensive knowledge of natural philosophy he added a competent acquaintance with ancient and modern literature, of which his excellent memory enabled him to make the best use. He had a great command of language, and his choice of words was singularly happy. His writings are characterised by an elegance peculiarly his own. Their diffuseness, depending as it does on the number and variety of his illustrations, and the frequency and beauty of his metaphors, adds to rather than detracts from the pleasure of their perusal.

His general attainments, conversational powers, quickness of repartee, and fund of anecdote, which he told with the happiest effect, rendered him an acquisition to any society. Under a plain exterior, he possessed many of the best qualities of our nature.

To a manly straightforwardness of purpose and action, and an intense hatred of dissimulation or pretence, were added, considerable self-possession and marked decision of character. He was slow, but sincere and firm in his friendships. Those admitted to his intimacy can testify to the kindness of his disposition and the warmth of his heart.

Dr. Paris has been represented as an accomplished classical scholar. I can discover no ground for the assertion that he was distinguished at Cambridge for classical attainments; and those who knew him best are aware that he made no pretensions to excellence in that department of literature. He possessed that amount of classical knowledge which marks the educated English gentleman, but he could lay no claim to the character of a finished or critical scholar. His Harveian Oration was characterized rather by the beauty of its ideas, than by the elegance of the language in which they were conveyed.

His knowledge of chemistry was extensive and profound. To this fascinating science he had early devoted himself; and he attracted notice, on first settling in London, by the extent and precision of his chemical attainments. These brought him into communication with Wollaston, Davy, Young and others, at a period when chemistry was undergoing one of the most important revolutions which its history presents,

and was assuming its rank among the most exact and demonstrative of the inductive sciences. The association with these distinguished philosophers maintained his interest in that science. Notwithstanding the distractions of an increasing practice, he still devoted much of his time to chemistry; and until within a short period of his death, kept himself on a level with the rapid advances it was making. Although his name is not associated with any great discovery, the respect in which he was held, and the deference paid to his opinions by the first chemical philosophers of his age, suffice to attest the extent of his attainments.

Dr. Paris's writings are numerous and important.

The "Pharmacologia," the work on which his professional reputation was founded, and upon which it will mainly rest with posterity, appeared as a small duodecimo volume in 1812. A second edition, somewhat enlarged, appeared shortly afterwards; but it was not until 1820, when the third edition was issued, that the "Pharmacologia" presented those claims to public notice and approbation by which it was afterwards distinguished. To this edition Dr. Paris prefixed the substance of the lectures he had delivered from the Chair of Materia Medica, at the College of Physicians in 1819. This consisted of two parts: the first, or Historical Introduction, comprised a philosophical and searching inquiry into the different

moral and physical causes which have operated in swaying the opinions of practitioners, and in producing the revolutions which have taken place in the belief of mankind with regard to the power and efficacy of different remedial agents. The second part, "On the Theory and Art of Medicinal Combination," though founded on Gaubius's work, "*De Methodo Concinnandi Formulas Medicamentorum*," contained a fund of new and most valuable information, and had the effect of directing the attention of the profession to a subject of great importance, which had been generally neglected in this country. This edition met with a rapid sale, and was exhausted in three months. Repeated, and large impressions were henceforward demanded. The fourth appeared in the same year (1820) as its immediate predecessor; the fifth, in 1822; the sixth, in 1825; the seventh, in 1829; the eighth, in 1833. Several of these consisted, we believe, of two thousand five hundred copies. The ninth edition, which bears the date of 1843, was the last professional work of Dr. Paris's pen. This was entirely rewritten, in order to incorporate the latest discoveries in physiology, chemistry, and materia medica; and in some points of view it may be regarded as a new work. It no longer comprised, as did the previous editions, a treatise on special Pharmacology, or a history of the individual articles which constitute the

Materia Medica, but was devoted to an extended inquiry into the *Modus Operandi* of Medicines, and a fuller exposition of that province which the author had made, and with justifiable complacency claimed, as peculiarly his own, namely, the philosophy of medicinal combination, from which alone can be deduced the theory and art of prescribing.

The Pharmacologia was no less successful in a mercantile than in a literary point of view; and while it established its author's reputation, it added considerably to his pecuniary resources. I know, on the best authority, that Dr. Paris realized by it more than five thousand guineas.

In 1823 he published (in conjunction with Mr. Fonblanque,) a treatise on "Medical Jurisprudence," in three vols., 8vo., and in 1825, "The Elements of Medical Chemistry." The former was a valuable contribution to a subject then beginning to attract the attention of the profession, and ere long to become an essential branch of study by the medical student. In many respects this was superior to any existing work on the subject, and in some it still remains unrivalled. It is written, says a contemporary reviewer, in a more classical and attractive style than most medical works. It embraces the subject throughout its remotest branches. It is interspersed with objects of curiosity to catch the attention of the general reader,

while it handles ably and minutely the more essential topics of pure science. It abounds in allusions to interesting cases decided in the English Courts, and upon the whole no work yet exists in which the precision of medical inquiries at law is more forcibly instilled by precept, or more beautifully illustrated by example.

The "Elements of Medical Chemistry" was intended for the exclusive use of the medical student. It made no pretension to the character of a complete manual of the science. Its author purposely excluded whatever had no direct application to the profession; his sole object being to collect all the chemical facts of professional interest, to conduct the student to a knowledge of their principles by the shortest path, and to remove from his road every adventitious object that might obstruct his progress, or unprofitably occupy his attention. The design was felicitous, its execution able. The work was on a level with the most recent discoveries in chemistry, and many of its facts are placed in original and striking relations. The volume, strange to say, failed to attract attention. It never became popular, and, after lingering long on hand, the remaining copies were disposed of at a sacrifice by the publisher.

The "Treatise on Diet, with a view to establish, on practical grounds, a System of Rules for the Preven-

tion and Cure of the Diseases incident to a Disordered State of the Digestive Organs," appeared in 1827. It had an extensive sale, passed through several large editions, and was only less successful than the "*Pharmacologia*." The fifth and last edition, enlarged and almost rewritten, was issued in 1837. This, like all his other works, is characterized by strong good sense, and is written in a style to please the most fastidious reader. The author studiously avoids unnecessary refinements in his distinctions, and keeps steadily in view the object he has before him, namely the simplification of a difficult subject, and the correction of errors which, though sanctioned by names eminent in the profession, are founded on an incorrect or imperfect view of the laws which govern the animal frame. The most valuable and original portion of the Treatise is that on Dietetic Observances:—on the periods for and intervals between meals, the quantity and quality of food at each, and the conduct to be observed prior and subsequent thereto.

These, with an able essay on Dietetics in the *Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine*, comprise the whole of Dr. Paris's medical writings.

"The Life of Sir Humphry Davy, Bart.," Lond. 1831, at once established Dr. Paris's reputation in a department of literature unconnected with those in which he had already distinguished himself. In this

work, to quote the words of an eloquent writer, "Dr. Paris has ably discharged the duties of a biographer, and with a powerful eloquence, and a lofty enthusiasm, has raised an imperishable monument to the memory of his friend." The Life of Davy will remain one of the classical biographies of our language, and is one of the most perfect we possess of any scientific man. For this work Dr. Paris received one thousand guineas.

The qualities of Dr. Paris's mind were peculiarly adapted to biography, for which, with a consciousness of his powers, he had ever shown a predilection. I have already mentioned his elegant little "Sketch of the Life and Scientific Labours of the Rev. William Gregor," and have now to add as the product of his pen, "A Biographical Memoir of W. G. Maton, M.D." and "A Biographical Memoir of Arthur Young, Esq. Secretary to the Board of Agriculture." The former, read at one of the evening meetings of the College of Physicians, was printed in quarto, for private circulation only. The latter was published in the ninth volume of "The Journal of Science, Literature, and the Arts."

His delightful little book, "Philosophy in Sport made Science in Earnest," is too well known to require more than a passing notice. It appeared anonymously in 3 volumes, small 8vo. in 1827, but its author's

name soon transpired, and became generally known. It attained an enormous popularity, and has passed through numerous large editions. The work is now out of print, but a new edition (the eighth) is on the eve of publication. The last sheets were corrected by its lamented author within a few days of his death, we believe in the midst of suffering, and after he was confined to the bed from which he rose no more.

Dr. Paris was a Fellow of the Royal Society, Honorary Doctor of Civil Law of Oxford, and Honorary Member of the Board of Agriculture; and in virtue of his position as President of the Royal College of Physicians, was President of the National Vaccine Establishment, a Member of the Medical Council of the Board of Health, and a Trustee of the British Museum.

His bust, by Jackson, is at Falmouth, in the Hall of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society. His portrait, by Skottowe, engraved by Bellin, has since Dr. Paris's death been presented by his family to the College of Physicians. A portrait, representing him in his robes as President of the College, was painted by Pickersgill a few years since, and is now in that artist's studio.



