

Contributions to the history of medicine in Ireland. Part I, The history of periodic medical literature in Ireland, including notices of the medical and philosophical societies of Dublin / [W.R. Wilde].

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TO THE

HISTORY OF MEDICINE
IN IRELAND.

BY

W. R. WILDE, M.R.I.A.

PART I.

THE HISTORY OF PERIODIC MEDICAL LITERATURE IN IRELAND, INCLUDING
NOTICES OF THE MEDICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETIES OF DUBLIN.

EXTRACTED FROM THE DUBLIN QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE, FOR FEBRUARY, 1846.

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THE EDITOR'S PREFACE.

THE HISTORY OF PERIODIC MEDICAL LITERATURE IN IRELAND,
INCLUDING NOTICES OF THE MEDICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL
SOCIETIES OF DUBLIN.

IN presenting our Readers and the Public with the first Number of *THE DUBLIN QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE*, we beg leave, before we enter upon the claims which we conceive we have on the Profession, or the mode in which we intend conducting this work, to give a brief sketch of the periodical medical literature of this country.

Prior to the present century there did not exist any journal of the medical sciences in this part of the United Kingdom. During the days of the Boates, and even in those of Petty, the Molyneauxs, Willoughby, John Madden, Chamberlain, Mullen, Dun, Threlkeld, Steevens, Proby, and other eminent Physicians and Surgeons, about the close of the seventeenth and the beginning of the last century, the few detached papers that emanated from the Profession in Ireland were chiefly published in the *Philosophical Transactions*. The Transactions and Proceedings of learned societies were at that time, and, indeed, for a long period subsequent to it, the only medium through which men of science and letters could make known their investigations, except in the form of separate and distinct works: and even in the middle of the last century the extent and power of periodical literature on the world of letters, as it now exists, could not possibly have been imagined. The influence of the Medici, and the Society of the Del Cimento in Italy: and the Danube Society, in Austria, instituted so early as the

end of the fifteenth century, by the celebrated Conrad Celtes, progressed medicine; afterwards the Academia Naturæ Curiosorum, founded in 1652, by Bauschius, but since known under the title of the Leopold Academy, published papers connected with medical science; subsequently, the Medical Academy of Palermo, and the Montpellier physicians, together with the academies and chartered societies of London, Paris, Petersburg, Berlin, and other European capitals, to a certain degree fostered the healing art, and encouraged medical discoveries, by printing articles on such subjects in their literary records. At the conclusion of the seventeenth century, there were no learned societies in existence in Ireland, and, therefore, the few essays that emanated from the Dublin literati on scientific subjects were published by the Royal Society of London, which was at that particular period, by the influence of Boyle, W. Molyneaux, St. George Ashe, and other distinguished Irishmen, induced to look favourably on the productions of their brethren in the West.

It is scarcely necessary to observe, that in this brief sketch we do not include the history of medicine in Ireland, nor even attempt to catalogue the names and labours of the many distinguished writers, both in the original tongue, and in Latin and English, who flourished during the last five centuries in this island. Sir James Ware has enumerated several of these, and we have in another place thrown our mite into this valuable treasury(*a*). Those who have taken any interest in the scientific and literary progress of this country during the last ten years, must be aware of the valuable collections of manuscript medical works in the Irish character which the Royal Irish Academy and the University have, with becoming taste, possessed themselves of;—besides which there are several in the hands of private individuals.

When all these shall have been thoroughly examined and investigated by competent persons, and their contents arranged

(*a*) See notices of Irish medical Manuscripts in the Census for Ireland, 1841.

and collated, with those detached notices of medicine, disease, and medical men, which exist in the literary annals of our country, they will form, we fear not to assert, a record of medicine in point of interest not inferior to, and extending from a period as remote, as that of any country in north-western Europe. It is not a subject, however, to be put forward hastily, nor without due consideration, and the examination of a vast number of authorities, but we promise our readers to take it up in detached portions, from time to time, in our subsequent Numbers, as materials shall be afforded us.

In the early volumes of the Philosophical Transactions the writings of the Hon. Robert Boyle (*b*) facetiously styled by a lecturer at the Dublin Society, "the father of Chemistry and the son of the Earl of Cork," played no inconsiderable part, but they relate chiefly to chemistry and the abstract sciences. The works of Dr. John Stearne, the first President of the College of Physicians (1661), were chiefly theological, and we do not find any notice of him in the transactions of the Royal Society;—neither does Edmund O'Meara, who wrote the "*Examen Diatribæ Thomæ Willisii de Febris, * * * cui accesserunt Historiæ aliquot Medicæ rariores*" (London, 1665, 8vo.), figure among the worthies of that body: and his father Dermot O'Meara, a distinguished Irish physician and poet, flourished before the days of periodical literature.

About this time flourished the celebrated Valentine Great-

(*b*) Several of Boyle's works, not published by the Royal Society, treated more immediately on medicine than his education or the general tenor of his writings would lead us to expect, for instance:

Physiological Essays. London, 4to., 1662, and 1669.

Memoirs for the Natural History of human Blood, especially the Spirit of that Liquor. London, 8vo. 1684.

Of the Reconcilableness of specifick Medicines to the Corpuscular Philosophy, to which is annexed, a Discourse about the Advantages of the Use of simple Medicines, proposed by Way of Invitation to it. London, 1685, 8vo.

Medicina Hydrostatica, &c. London, 8vo. 1690. And among his posthumous works edited by Dr. Shaw, are:—*Experimenta et Observationes Physicæ*. 1691, 8vo.; and also *Medicinal Experiments*. London, 1718, 8vo.

reaks, generally known as the "*stroking doctor*" for his supposed cures of scrofula, rheumatism, and epilepsy, or, as Ware informs us, his "wonderful gift of healing king's evil and other ulcers and pains, by stroking the parts affected;" so that the Members of the "Royal Society and other modern philosophers," not able to dispute the fact, found words to define it, and called those strange effects "a sanative contagion in his body which had an antipathy to some particular diseases and not to others."

This influence (so called) had, nearly two hundred years ago, as great an effect on the public mind as, under another title (that of Mesmerism), it has at the present day—nay, even more so, for the cures said to be performed by its means were printed in the Philosophical Transactions by Mr. Thoresby; and the observant and learned Boyle annexed his testimonial of their efficacy, along with those of Drs. Whichcote, Cutworth, Patrick, and other eminent men of science and reputation, to the account which Greatreaks published of his wonderful cures(*d*).

(*d*) "A brief Account of Mr. Valentine Greatreaks, and divers strange cures by him lately performed; in a Letter to the Honourable Robert Boyle, Esq." London, 1666, 4to.

This work was written in answer to an attack made upon him by Mr. David Lloyd, Chaplain to the Charter House, entitled, "Wonders no Miracles; or, Mr. Valentine Greatreaks' Gift of Healing examined." London, 1666. From this period his star ceased to be in the ascendant, and what the Royal Society, and the wise and learned wondered at, sanctioned, and applauded, the common sense and truthful narrative of a Welch parson, and the ridicule and satire of an English novelist, completely dispelled, for "I am mistaken," says Ware, "if it was not on this occasion that Mr. St. Evermond wrote a novel called the 'Irish Prophet,' wherein he ingeniously exposes the people's credulity." See also The Dublin Penny Journal for 1833, vol. i. p. 401, for some further account of Greatreaks.

Touching for the evil has long been in vogue among the lower orders of the Irish, either by the hand of a person of a particular family believed to be endowed with the power of healing, or with a piece of linen supposed to be marked with the blood of King Charles the first. We remember seeing the late worthy Abbot of Cong (who possessed the celebrated Cross of Turlogh O'Connor and the shrine of the *Fiacail Phadraig*, both now in the splendid collection of

Richard Peers, though a Doctor of Physic, as well as an elegant writer and profound Latin scholar, has not left any medical works after him; and with the exception of an inaugural Essay, the same may be said of Dr. Joseph Pratt.

Dr. Allen Mullen, or Moulin, was the first medical man of eminence in this country who published in the *Philosophical Transactions*; but his original work was "An Anatomical Account of the Elephant accidentally burnt in Dublin, on Friday, June the seventeenth, in 1681, in a Letter to Sir William Petty"^(e), and which was allowed to be the best description of that animal at the time it was written. The same volume contains his relation of "new anatomical observations in the eyes of animals," in a letter addressed to Boyle.

The year 1683 is memorable in the annals of scientific literature in Ireland for the formation of the DUBLIN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, the great prototype of all our existing learned bodies, but in particular of the Royal Irish Academy. It was commenced in October in that year by William Molyneux, "the friend of Locke," and the distinguished mathe-

the Royal Irish Academy), rubbing persons affected with various diseases, but principally scrofula, with a small piece of linen rag, on which were some dark-coloured stains, said to have been the blood of the martyr. This relic was always preserved by him with the greatest care, along with the two interesting antiquities above mentioned; it passed after his death into the hands of his relatives, the Prendergasts, of Ballindangan, in the County of Mayo. The venerable Abbot was himself convinced of the authenticity, if not the efficacy of it. The blood of the Keoghs, when transmitted unmixed on either side for three generations, is still used even in the vicinity of this city, and considered by the ignorant, only next in infallibility to that of a black cat, for the cure of St. Anthony's Fire: and it is believed throughout Munster, that the blood of any of the Walsh family will relieve the same disease,—because St. Patrick was a Welchman!! Ware informs us that "One James Fienachty, an Irish priest, made a great noise before and after the Restoration for cureing all sorts of diseases (which he held to be the effects of possession) by *exorcisms and stroking*, and was followed for some years by vast numbers of people, but at last was discovered to be a mere cheat. He printed a small book of his own, done in London. There is a long history of him in the *Irish Remonstrance*."

(e) London, 1682, 4to.

matician and astronomer, who was the first secretary of this society, in which the chief medical men in Dublin of that time took a conspicuous part.

Periodical literature is the natural offspring of learned and debating societies, and as that just alluded to gave rise to many interesting papers and discussions upon anatomical and medical science, it here presents us with a legitimate subject for our investigation. As there is no detailed account of this body in print, and as the notices of it which have as yet appeared are always exceedingly brief, and frequently incorrect, we have for some years past endeavoured to collect as much of its history and proceedings as the scanty records scattered here and there in works and libraries afford. With these materials—with the manuscripts and correspondence of both William and Thomas Molyneaux placed in our hands by Sir Henry Marsh—from a careful examination of the documents belonging to it in the Manuscript Library of our University; and from the Minute Book still preserved in the British Museum, which has been accurately noted for us by a kind friend(*f*), we have made, through these and other sources, some more memoranda of the history of the Philosophical Society than the usual accounts afford, which we here offer without apology to our readers: being the substance of a communication lately made by us to the Royal Irish Academy.

In the manuscript correspondence just alluded to, we find in a letter from William Molyneaux to his brother Thomas, then in Leyden, and dated 30th October, 1683, N.,S., the following:—"I have also here promoted the rudiments of a society, for which I have drawn up rules, and called it *Conventio Philosophica*. About half a score or a dozen of us have met about twelve or fifteen times, and we have very regular discourses concerning philosophical, medical, and mathe-

(*f*) Mrs. R. Lee, Author of *The Memoirs of Cuvier*,—*Taxidermy*,—*Elements of Natural History*, &c. &c.

matical matters. Our convention is regulated by one chief, who is chosen by the votes of the rest, and is called *Arbiter Conventiois*, at present Dr. Willoughby (the name 'President' being yet a little too great for us). What this may come to I know not; but we have hopes of bringing it to a more settled society. The event you shall know. Sir W. Petty and all the virtuosi of this place favour it much; and have at some times given us their company."

From this it would appear that Dr. Willoughby was virtually, though not in name, the first President, and Molyneaux the original Secretary, although the former honour has been generally conferred on Sir William Petty, who, however, was not elected till the 1st of November, 1684(*g*).

The first meeting took place on the 15th of October, 1683, when papers were read by Mr. William Molyneaux, Dr. Narcissus Marsh, afterwards Archbishop of Dublin, Mr. Foley, and Mr. St. George Ashe. It is remarkable that although Ware, Birch, and Whitelaw(*h*) have agreed in dating the origin of this society in 1683, Mr. Halliwell has, in a "Collection of Notes on the early History of Science in Ireland," published in the proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, stated that its first meeting took place on the 28th of January, 1684. In the winter of 1683, writes Archbishop Marsh in his Diary, "was set up the Philosophical Meeting in Dublin, that

(*g*) "At this election Sir W. Petty and Dr. Willoughby had equal marks for President, but upon a second election Sir William carried it by four votes, so he stood. Afterwards we had a handsome dinner at a tavern, so finished the day."—*Molyneaux Correspondence, Dublin University Magazine*, vol. xviii., p. 489.

(*h*) The History of the Writers of Ireland, in two books, &c., by Sir James Ware, Knt.; edited by W. Harris, Esq., Dublin; 1764, fol.

The History of the Royal Society of London for improving of natural Knowledge, &c., as a Supplement to the Philosophical Transactions; by Thomas Birch, M.D., Secretary. 4 vols., London, 4to., 1754-57.

History of the City of Dublin, &c., by J. Warburton and Rev. J. Whitelaw, and edited by the Rev. Robert Walsh, 2 vols. London, 1818, 4to.

met and formed itself into a society, in the Provost's lodgings. There, at the first opening of it, as a prelude to what we were to do, I in three or four days' time, composed *An Introductory Discourse to the Doctrine of Sounds*, which was sent to the Society in Oxford, and then printed in the *Philosophical Transactions*(*i*)."

Not having facilities for publishing their proceedings in Ireland, it appears that they determined upon offering them to the Royal Society; accordingly, on the 18th of December, 1683, the Provost, Dr. Robert Huntingdon, wrote a letter to Dr. Plot, of the Royal Society, giving an account of "a weekly meeting of several ingenious men about philosophical subjects in Dublin." This notice, which is recorded in the letter book of the Royal Society (vol. ix. p. 103), informs us that W. Molyneaux, then residing near Ormond's Gate (now Wormwood Gate), and who was at that period engaged in writing an "Atlas for this Country," was Secretary:—"And since," he writes, "you so generously, as well as charitably, offer your assistance, I think this will be the best method of conveyance, to transmit our notices to the Secretary of the Royal Society, who, after he has perused them, can send them to Oxford" (where a similar society, under the care of Mr. Musgrave, had just been established), "as you likewise by him may send hither. After Christmas that we next meet, our Secretary will pursue that course; you smoothing our way at London once again, as it seems you have already done.—After awhile we may perchance ease ourselves of that expense, and have our intelligence for nothing(*k*). However, you may be sure we shall never grudge to defray all manner of charges that

(*i*) The Diary of Archbishop Marsh, from a transcript in "Marsh's Library," Dublin, published by the Rev. Dr. Todd in "The British Magazine" for July and August, 1845.

(*k*) The Royal Society charged only half payment to the Members of the Dublin Society (see Minutes for 4th July, 1685.)

shall be incident to our correspondences, and we have raised a fund of which to do it. By Moses Pit(*l*), if not before, you may expect one or two of their discourses at large : for the way is for particular subjects mentioned in the foregoing meeting to be treated on by particular persons the next, and when they have done, every one that has anything to add or object has his time to express it. I don't give you the names of our society, because you know few of them except the Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin, Sir William Petty, and Dr. Willoughby, and besides you will receive it more authentic from the Secretary. Several of the number meet on Sunday nights, as the whole company does on Mondays, to discourse theologically, of God, suppose, and his attributes, and how to establish religion and confute atheism by reason, evidence, and demonstration."

Having complimented Dr. Plot, and conveyed to him the thanks and acknowledgements of this "young society for the promotion of philosophy, on account of the advantageous correspondence offered to it by the Royal Society," he encloses him an account of some previous meetings tending to its "better regulation, settlement, and future transactions," and also the Minutes for October 15, 1683.

When we first commenced this inquiry some years ago, we were under the impression that the Transactions of this society were still in existence, and would one day or another be discovered, and acknowledged by some of the public libraries or private collections in these kingdoms. We have since, however, convinced ourselves of the contrary being the fact, and feel assured that no manuscript volume of the Transactions of the Dublin Philosophical Society is, or perhaps ever was in being.

The Minute Book of this society, from 1683, to November, 1686, with its revival in 1693 and again in 1707, is still preserved in the British Museum (Addit. MSS.,

(*l*) Moses Pit, a celebrated London bookseller, and publisher of "The Atlas."

4811). In the Manuscript collection in the Library of Trinity College we find among some scattered papers lately collected by the Rev. Dr. Todd, rough drafts of the minutes of the Dublin Philosophical Society, in the handwriting of William Molyneaux, from January the 28th, to June the 9th, 1684, all of which accord with the notices of this body still existing in the papers of the Royal Society. On the first of these dates we read that the officers for that year were appointed, and the "obligation subscribed." At that time there was no President (as already stated in the Molyneaux correspondence); Dr. Willoughby was appointed Director, and William Molyneaux Secretary and Treasurer. The members present were Dr. Narcissus Marsh, Sir William Petty, and Messrs. Bulkeley, Cuff, Foley, Baynard, Ash, Mullen, Follet, Baggot, and Mr. Keogh, who was represented by proxy. At this meeting Sir William Petty read a paper on Concentric Circles.

On the 18th of February the Minutes closed with this notice. "Nicholas Hudson, our operator, attended on us." (MS., T. C. D., Cl. I. Tab. 4, No. 18, p. 11).

The unpublished Letter Books of the Royal Society, and Birch's History of that body, likewise contain the Minutes of the Dublin Philosophical Society from its first meeting on the 15th of October, 1683, to the end of 1687, after which we have not been able to discover any record of its proceedings from these sources.

The principal papers read to this body, all of which are enumerated in the Minutes, were either printed in the Philosophical Transactions, or formed the material for distinct works or monographs, which were published by their respective authors, and many of the communications were delivered in form of *viva voce* discourses at one sitting, and debated at the next.

There are two manuscript volumes of county histories in the library of the University of Dublin (from which the History of West Connaught is now about to be printed by the Irish Archæological Society), which have generally been supposed

to have formed part of the transactions of the Philosophical Society, but as some of the papers in these are dated in 1682, prior to the creation of that body, and as we have no notice or allusion made to any of them in the Minutes of the society, which are in every other respect so full and explicit, we feel assured that they were written and intended for the general survey of Ireland under Sir William Petty.

Dr. Plot was desired to acquaint the Provost of Trinity College that the Royal Society very willingly embraced the correspondence of the Society in Dublin, and had ordered their secretary to write to them in the manner proposed: accordingly Mr. Aston wrote to Mr. Molyneaux to that effect, a letter, dated the 26th of February, 1684, which is inserted in the unpublished Letter Book of the Royal Society (vol. ix. p. 111).

This courtesy of the Royal Society is alluded to in one of the letters of William Molyneaux to his brother Thomas, then residing in Holland, which we extract from the interesting correspondence of those gentlemen published by ourselves some years ago in the *University Magazine*.—"I know," says William Molyneaux, "you would willingly hear what has become of our meeting here in Dublin, of which take this following account. Since my last to you concerning this particular, we have constantly every Monday had a meeting, at which one or other would produce discourses no ways contemptible, till about a week before Christmas, we received a letter from Dr. Plot, directed particularly to the Provost, Dr. Huntingdon, but designed in general for us all, in which he takes notice of our design here on foot, for Dr. Huntingdon had formally given him an account thereof, and encourages us to go on vigorously therewith, promising us all the assistance we can desire, as, likewise, the favourable countenance and encouragement of the Royal Society, as also of such another philosophical meeting as our own, begun within these three months at Oxford: assuring us also of the constant correspondence of them, and that we may at any time command

whatever we may please to hear communicated from them. This encouragement from so great a man, as he is secretary both to the Royal and Oxford Societies, made us think upon modelling ourselves into better form; and accordingly, the Bishop of Ferns, Sir Wm. Petty, Dr. Willoughby and I, were pitched upon to draw up rules, to be presented to the consideration of the rest after the holidays; so that yesterday (Jan. 7, 1684) our rules were presented, and are ordered to be read at three several meetings before they pass.

“The rules are much the same as those of the Royal Society, and we have entrance money, and a weekly contribution, but what it will yet come to, God knows.”

On the 10th of May, William Molyneaux wrote to his brother, then at Leyden, the following notice of the young Society:—“Our society goes on, we have a fair room in Crow’s Nest” (off Dame-street), “which now belongs to one Wetherel, an apothecary, where we have a fair garden for plants,” where they first met in April of that year. And again, upon the 14th of June we read: “Our society has built a laboratory by Dr. Mullen’s directions, in the same house where we have taken a large room for our meeting, and a small repository.”

Subsequent to the general meeting in November, 1684, a list of the members of the Philosophical Society was forwarded to Mr. Aston, to which we have added the names of some seven or eight others who, either prior or subsequent to the publication of this list, were, we have positive assurance, connected with this society, prior to 1688.

President, Sir William Petty, Knt., M.D.

Director, Charles Willoughby, M. D.

Treasurer, William Pleydall, Esq.

Secretary, William Molyneaux, Esq.

MEMBERS.

Narcissus Marsh, Bishop of	Henry Fenerly, Esq.
Leighlin and Ferns.	J. Finglass, M. A.

William Lord Viscount Mountjoy.	Samuel Foley, F. T. C. D., afterwards Bishop of Down and Connor.
Robert Huntingdon, D.D., Provost T. C. D.	Daniel Houlaghan, M.D.
John Worth, D. D., Dean of St. Patrick's.	John Keogh, M.A.
John Baynard, A. M., Archdeacon of Connor.	Dudley Loftus, afterwards Judge of the Prerogative Court.
Sir Robert Redding, Bart.	George Tollet, Professor of Mathematics.
Sir Cyril Wyche, Knt., P. R. S.	—— Patterson, Surgeon.
Richard Bulkeley, F. T. C. D., afterwards Knt. and Bart.	John Maden, M. D.(<i>m</i>)
Patk. Dun, M.D., afterwards Knt.	Allen Mullen, M. D.
William King, F. T. C. D., afterwards Archbishop of Dublin.	William Palliser, F. T. C. D., Professor of Divinity, and afterwards Archbishop of Cashel.
Richard Acton, B. D., F. T. C. D.	Edward Smith, F. T. C. D., Professor of Mathematics, and afterwards Bishop of Down and Connor.
St. George Ashe, F. T. C. D., afterwards Bishop of Cloyne.	John Stanley, M. A.
Mark Baggot, Esq.	Jacobus Sylvius, M. D.
John Bulkeley, Esq.	—— Walkington, Esq.(<i>n</i>)
Paul Chamberlain, M. D.	Sir Paul Ricaut, ——
Robert Clements, Esq.	
Francis Cuff, Esq.	
Christopher Dominick, M.D.	

Corresponding Member.—Doctor, afterwards Sir Thomas Molyneaux, Bart.

(*m*) The name of Madden (or Maden, as it is written in the Minutes of the Philosophical Society) is intimately connected with the rise of science, literature, and medicine, in this country. The John Maden, M. D., here alluded to, was son of Thomas, of Maddenton, and died in 1703. His family were connected with, and he himself was the intimate friend of the Molyneauxs. His son, the Rev. Samuel Madden, commonly called "Premium Madden," was the founder of the Royal Dublin Society in 1731. See "The Tribes and Customs of Hy-Many," by John O'Donovan, printed for the Irish Archaeological Society.

(*n*) I have not been able to discover the Christian name of this gentleman, as the name was common in the University at that period. It was probably Samuel Walkington, who was a Scholar in 1680, for Edward Walkington who was a Fellow in 1676, Archdeacon of Ossory in 1683, and afterwards

These men formed the *stellæ majores* of Irish literature and science at this period; and nearly every one of those of whom we have any subsequent account attained to considerable eminence either here or in England. At this time Sir W. Petty designed to remodel the society, and drew up a code of laws for its future regulation and government, which were deemed worthy of being referred to the council of the Royal Society, to see how far they might be useful to that body. We here find from authentic documents that some of the principal men of learning and science at that time in Great Britain, and even on the Continent, looked with a favourable eye on our Philosophical Society, and addressed to it, through its Secretary, several letters and papers upon scientific subjects, some of which are still preserved in the original Minute Book in the British Museum, and abstracts of which are to be found in the records of the Royal Society. At the end of the first year we find its progress thus recorded by William Molyneaux. "Our society has been complimented in the philosophical acts, as you will find by the paper Mr. Ashe will send you, wherein for curious subjects (invented by our learned and ingenious Provost) I think we may vie with any Oxford ever had, and truly most of the poems and speeches thereon were excellent. Thus, Tom., you see that learning begins to peep out amongst us. The tidings, that our name is in the journals of Amsterdam, was very pleasing to me, and really, without vanity, I think our city and nation may be herein something beholding to us, for I believe the name Dublin has hardly ever before been printed or heard of amongst foreigners on a learned account." The Minutes of the Oxford Society were likewise regularly transmitted and read at the meetings of the Philosophical Society of Dublin.

On the 11th of May, 1685, "Mr. Molyneaux going for England, Mr. Ashe was chosen Secretary; and Mr. Tollet

Bishop of Down and Connor, in 1695: was elected into the Philosophical Society on its revival in 1693.

was then nominated Treasurer in Mr. Pleydall's place." These gentlemen were continued in office at the November meeting of that year, and Lord Mountjoy was elected President. In June, 1686, Mr. Edw. Smith(o) was chosen Secretary, and the other officers of the society were re-elected at the general meeting, together with the following council:—Sir R. Redding, Sir Paul Ricaut, the Provost, Dr. Willoughby and Mr. W. Molyneaux. They then adjourned to the 5th November. The last notice of the society at this period which we have been able to discover, is in the Minute Book of the Royal Society, in which, according to Birch, we read, that on the 13th of July, 1687, "the minutes of the Dublin Society for several months past, were read," but there is no detail of their proceedings given. When the society actually ceased to exist at that period is not precisely known, but Dr. Hutton and other authorities are of opinion that it was not till 1688(p). The Minute Book in the British Museum has no entry after the 6th November, 1686. For some time, both previous and subsequent to the last note in the Minute Book, it would appear from the letters and other communications made by several of its members directly to the Royal Society, that its meetings were few and irregular: even so early as the 10th of August, 1685, we read thus in the Secretary's letter to the Royal Society, enclosing the Minutes,—“our company of late has been very thin, and people's heads so much dulled with politics, that next meeting, I believe, we shall adjourn till the term.”

The unsettled state of this country in 1687 and 1688, caused a complete rupture of all society, both public as well as private, and several of the principal members of the Philosophical Society removed from Dublin.

(o) In the minutes for 21st July, 1684, we read as follows:—“Ordered, That the thanks of this society be returned to Mr. Smith, for the honour he did us in the public act in the College on this *lemma paradoxon vetus Ægyptiacum, quod sol nonnunquam oritur in occidente. Demonstratur se Societate ad promovendam scientiam naturalem Dublinii nuper instituta.*”—Birch's *History of the Royal Society*, vol. iv., p. 324.

(p) Hutton's *Mathematical Dictionary*, vol. ii. p. 61.

The subjects entertained by this society during the first four years after its establishment may be considered under the following heads: Mathematics and Physics; Polite Literature; History and Antiquities; and, Medical Science, including Anatomy, Zoology, Physiology, and Chemistry; and with some pains we have arranged under their respective denominations the following list of the *principal* subjects, together with the names of their authors, as recorded by the Dublin Philosophical Society during the early years of its existence:—

MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS.

Mr. W. MOLYNEAUX.—De apparente Magnitudine Solis.—Explanation of the Volution of Concentric Circles.—On Telescopic Sights.—On the viewing of Pictures in Miniature with the Telescope.—Calculations on the Solar Eclipse.—An Essay on Crystallography.—Experiments on Hydrostatics.—On the Hydroscope, and the Variations of the Barometer.

Dr. T. MOLYNEAUX.—Account of the Astronomer Huygens.

Dr. MULLEN.—Magnetical Experiments (several papers).

Lord MOUNTJOY.—On the Air Gun.

Sir W. PETTY.—Magnetical Observations.—On Weather Registries.—Ship-Building.—On the Construction of Carriages.—On Concentric Circles.

Mr. St. G. ASHE.—Review of De Chasles' Book on Motion.—On the Evidence of mathematical Demonstration.—On the Solar Eclipse.—On the Weather Registry, T. C. D.—Experiments on Freezing.

Mr. BULKELEY.—On Wind Guages.—A new Pump for Ships.—The Mechanism of Carriages.

Dr. SMITH.—De Angulo Contactus.

Mr. STANLEY.—Discourse on the Motion of Water.

Mr. TOLLET.—On the Longitude.—On Gunnery.

Mr. WALKINGTON.—Observations on Archimedes.—Ditto on Algebra.

Dr. FOLEY.—Objections against Algebraic Calculations.—Computatio Universalis.

Mr. KING.—On the Difference in Size between the horizontal and meridional Sun.—On the Acceleration of descending Weights,

and the Force of Percussion.—On Hydraulics.—On the Trisection of an Angle.

Dr. NARCISSUS MARSH.—On the Radiis Reflectis et Refractis.—Magnetical Observations.

Dr. WILLOUGHBY.—On the Mirage seen at Rhegium in Italy: and on Winds.—On the Lines of Longitude and Latitude.

POLITE LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND ANTIQUITIES.

Archdeacon BAYNARD.—Concerning the Instruction of Youth for the Universities.

Dr. LOFTUS.—Concerning Pere Simon's *Histoire Critique*.

Dr. HUNTINGDON.—On the Obelisks and Pillars of Egypt.

Dr. FOLEY.—On the contagious Communication of a strong Imagination.

Mr. KING.—On the Bogs and Loughs of Ireland.

Dr. MULLEN.—On 15 cinerary Urns, and Bones found together at Dontrilegue, County Cork, 3 Feet deep, each covered with a small Stone, and varying in Size from a Pottle to a Pint.

Dr. SMITH.—On cinerary Urns, found in the Caves at Warrington, and at Loughbrickland, in the County of Down.

MEDICAL SCIENCE,—INCLUDING ANATOMY, ZOOLOGY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND CHEMISTRY, ETC.

Dr. ALLEN MULLEN, or MOULIN.—On the human and comparative Anatomy, and the Structure of the Ear (several papers).—Experiments, consisting of injecting Fluids into the Thorax of Animals,—Experiments on the Blood.—On Digestion.—On the Mineral Waters of Chapelizod.—On Poisons.—On Runnet and Coagulum.—On the Organs of Respiration and Circulation, by removing a portion of a Dog's Lung, &c.—Dissections of a monstrous Kitten; and a Chicken with two Bills.—Dissection of a Man who died of Consumption.—Observations on the Serum.—On the Peculiarities of the Pulse.—Dissection of Hydatids attached to the Diaphragm.—De Alkali et Acido.—On Ligature of the Jugular Vein in a Dog.—On various Chemical Phenomena.—On Ovarian Disease.—On Ague.—Observations on Scurvy Grass(o).

(o) Mr. Dalrymple, in his admirable "Anatomy of the Human Eye," in writing of the vascularity of the lens and its capsule, says, that "Haller, in his Description of the Eye, quotes an *Englishman* of the name of Allen

Mr. W. MOLYNEAUX.—On the Phenomenon of double Vision.—On the petrefying Qualities of Lough Neagh.—Report on the Sirones or Acari.—The Dissection and microscopic Investigation of a Water Newt.—On the Circulation.—On the Pulvis Fulminans.—On the Connaught Worm.

Dr. T. MOLYNEAUX.—On the Anatomy of the Bat.

Lord MOUNTJOY.—On the Mode of Bleaching in Holland.

Sir W. PETTY.—Observations on Consumption.—On the Mode of examining Mineral Waters.

Mr. St. GEORGE ASHE.—On the Fossils and Petrefactions of Londonderry.—On a remarkable Case of Hæmorrhage(*p*).—On Hermaphrodism.—Account of a Man in Galway who suckled his Child, and had Pendulous Mammæ.

Mr. R. BULKELEY.—Experiments on venous and arterial Blood.—Discourse on Mr. Boyle's Book on Human Blood.—On Divers Alkalies and Acids.—On the Dissection of a Bat.

Mr. PATTERSON.—Various Dissections of the Human Subject (*q*).—On Stone in the Bladder.—On Menstrua for dissolving the human Calculus.—On Cohesion between the Liver and Diaphragm.

Sir R. REDDING.—On the Lampreys of the River Barrow.

Dr. SMITH.—On the Waters of Lough Neagh.

Dr. WILLOUGHBY.—On Hermaphrodism.

Dr. FOLEY.—Explanation of the Theory of Vision.—Experiments on Vegetation.—On Fossils.

Dr. HOULAGHAN.—On the Mode of discovering the Acidity of Liquors.—Description of a Human Kidney weighing 42 Ounces.—On the Tests for Acids.—On the Dissection of a monstrous Child with two Heads and three Arms.

Mr. KING.—On the Mineral Waters of Clontarf and Edenderry.

Dr. DUN.—On the Analysis of Mineral Waters.

Moulin, as the first observer, and in fact the discoverer of these long denied vessels." Mullen, or Moulin, was, however, an Irishman, and the diseases referred to are those mentioned at page v. of this preface.

(*p*) We are not quite certain with regard to the author of this paper. Birch merely says, "Mr. Ashe." The minutes of the British Museum, however, state that this paper was contributed by Thomas Ashe, Esq. We know not who this gentleman was—if a member of the Philosophical Society he would increase the number to 40.

(*q*) Human dissections were very rare in Dublin at that period. Mr. Pat-

Dr. NARCISSUS MARSH.—On Sounds and Hearing.—On the History and Classification of Insects.

Dr. SILVIUS.—De Acido et Urinoso.

Mr. ACTON.—On the Scoter Duck found at Ireland's Eye.

During the remaining years of the seventeenth century, the unsettled state of Ireland precluded the possibility of literary enterprise or scientific investigation. From the following paragraph in the Diary of Archbishop Marsh, it would appear that an attempt was made to revive the Society in 1693. On the 26th of April, in which year he writes, "This evening, at six of the clock, we met at the Provost's lodgings in Trinity College, Dublin, in order to the renewal of our philosophical meeting, where Sir Richard Cox (one of the Justices of the King's Bench), read a geographical description of the *City and County of Derry*, and of the County of *Antrim*, being part of an entire *geographical description* of the whole *kingdom of Ireland*, that is designed to be perfected by him; wherein also will be contained a *natural history* of Ireland, containing the most remarkable things therein to be found, that are the products of nature. Upon his reading this essay he was admitted a fellow of this Society, together with Dr. John Vesey, Lord Archbishop of Tuam; Francis Roberts, Esq., younger son to the Earl of Radnor, some time Lord Lieutenant of Ireland: O Lord, grant that in studying thy works, we may also study to promote thy glory (which is the true end of all our studies), and prosper, O Lord, our undertaking, for thy name's sake"(r). The manuscript volume in the British Museum re-

terson's communications to the Philosophical Society were founded upon the examination of the body of a malefactor procured by Dr., afterwards Sir P. Dun, to make a skeleton of. Mr. W. Moyneaux says he "was constant at the dissection, and nothing curious was done, but only the chirurgeons and physicians that were present spoke at random as the parts presented themselves." This is the first notice of a dissection in Ireland that we have seen recorded. See *University Magazine*, vol. xviii. p. 479.

(r) The Diary of Archbishop Marsh, already cited—*British Magazine*, for August, 1845.

commences at this date, and informs us that the members of the old Society who met on this evening, or, as they are styled, "the members before the warre," were the Archbishop of Cashel, the Provost, Dr. Willoughby, and Sir Cyril Wyche. At the meeting of the 3rd of May, Mr. Cuff and the Bishop of Cork rejoined the body, and papers were read by Sir R. Cox, describing Judland, and Sir Cyril Wyche, on Varo's Book, "*De Lingua Latina*."—Dr. Thomas Molyneaux, Mr. Edward Walkington, and Mr. Bartholomew Van Humrigh, were proposed at this meeting, and admitted on that of the 10th, when Sir R. Cox finished his History of Judland; read some papers on Ireland, and on the bringing of the Society into its ancient model, &c. On this evening the Hon. Francis Roberts was elected President; Dr. Charles Willoughby, Secretary, and Francis Cuff, Esq., Treasurer.

"Bound up with this minute book," writes my informant, Mrs. Lee, "are several copies of a letter, which I judge to be of the same date, and of which the following is a copy :

"SIR,—The Dublin Society is again revived, and they have ordered me to give you notice of it, and desire me to renew their correspondence with you. We are as yett but very young, and therefor cannot hope to make any suitable returne, but must have a little time to settle, after the disorder the warr has put every thing into here. Mr. Roberts is chosen President, and our Society increases by new elections, so that we may expect it may be considerable, and then there may be something fit to be communicated from,

"Sir, your most humble Servant,

"OWEN LLOYD,'—F.T.C.D.

"A considerable hiatus occurs after this entry, but it appears that in the year 1707, an attempt was made to re-establish the Society, but its success was not of any long duration, and this MS. contains a register of the philosophical papers read before the Society, from August 5th, 1707, to March 11th, 1708. The Earl of Pembroke, then Lord

Lieutenant of Ireland, presided over the Society at this revival(s)." Addit. MSS. 4812.

The Minutes do not inform us who the members were that attended this reunion, but the following is a list of the papers read during that period.

THE BISHOP OF CLOGHER.—A Letter from, to Dr. Molyneaux, concerning an odd Hare's Tooth; afterwards accounted for by Dr. Molyneaux.

MR. DENHAM.—On the Spots on the Sun.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN.—A Discourse on measuring Land.—A Letter on a fiery eruption from the Bowels of a dead Cow.—Thoughts for improving the Harbour of Dublin(*t*).—Scenography of an Engine to force Water out of a Quarry, &c.

DR. THOMAS MOLYNEAUX.—On Mines and Minerals within the Kingdom of Ireland.—Account of a petrefied Honey-Comb, and an Essay on Antiquities.

MR. W. MOLYNEAUX.—On Mercurial Phosphorus.

DR. ROBINSON.—Concerning the Density of the Atmosphere.

MR. WARING.—Account of the Occurrences of a Storm.—Letter to Dr. Molyneaux concerning the Cross-Bills.

MR. E. CROW.—Account of Lightning near Tuam.

MR. (afterwards Bishop) BERKELEY.—A Discourse on Infinities.—An Inquiry whether the Figure of the Earth be spheroid.

MR. NORMAN.—A letter on Barnacles.

These Minutes appear to have been in the possession of Sir H. Sloane, and were by him presented to the British Museum.

Subsequently the Philosophical Transactions continued to be the medium of communication between the medical profession in Ireland and the public; thus

In 1696 Mr. Robert Vans, of Kilkenny, published, in the Philosophical Transactions, an account of an extraordinary dew.

In 1699 Dr. Nathaniel Wood, of the same city, wrote an

(*s*) Collection of Notes on the early History of Science in Ireland, by James Orchard Halliwell, F.R.S.—Proceedings of Royal Irish Academy, 1841, p. 66.

(*t*) This subject subsequently engaged the attention of the Physico-Historical Society of Dublin, about which Mr. Gabriel Stokes made a communication in 1744.

Essay on the poisonous Effects of Hemlock, and Dr. T. Vaughan followed on the same subject, shortly after.

During our own time, the members of the medical profession have advanced science and literature, and perhaps we might also add art, more than those of either of the other two learned professions; but at the precise period to which we refer (the seventeenth and first few years of the eighteenth century), the most generally learned Irishman, and the person who did most to advance the literary interests of this kingdom, was Sir Thomas Molyneux, professor of the practice of physic to the University of Dublin, and the first medical baronet ever created in Ireland^(u). From 1683 (during which, and the three following years, he was the foreign correspondent of the Royal Society of London, and the Philosophical Society of Dublin), till about 1728, when he retired from practice with a splendid fortune created by his talent and professional industry, he was allowed to be one of the most distinguished philosophers in Europe. There was scarcely a department of letters with which he was not well acquainted and to which he did not contribute; his anatomical and physiological writings, and his various and extensive medical contributions, prove him to have been entitled to the encomium passed upon him by Archbishop King, of being "the most eminent physician in this kingdom, yet not more remarkable for his skill in his art, than for his piety and virtue." His researches into the early history of this country, in his *Essays on the Round Towers—Danish Forts—Sepulchral Monuments,—Cinerary Urns, and other antiquities*, are already well known to the learned. He was not only a man of profound scientific and great professional acquirements, but also a classic scholar of ability. In general the taste for classic lore is left at the portal

(u) The next medical baronets created in Ireland, were Sir Philip Crampton and Sir Henry Marsh, the latter of whom is the lineal descendant of Molyneux: the interval between the two creations being 109 years. Our distinguished countryman, Sir Hans Sloane, was the first physician ever created a baronet (1716), but he was an English baronet.

of the University, more especially by those who enter immediately on the duties of active professional life. In his instance, however, this does not seem to be the case, and his "Thoughts concerning the ancient Greek and Roman Lyre," and his explanation of an obscure Passage in one of Horace's Odes, published by the Royal Society, and so highly complimented in the *Nouvelles de la Republique des Lettres*, attest the depth of his classic taste and reading.

The high eminence to which he attained in science and literature, and the esteem which he earned for the medical profession in this city, as well as the love of country which characterized all his pursuits, and gave a tone of patriotic enthusiasm to all his writings, justly entitle him to the appellation of the Father of Irish medicine.

Independent of his earlier zoological and mathematical communications to the Royal Society, and those Essays upon Polite Literature, &c., published in the Philosophical Transactions, the following may be enumerated as his chief medical and physiological publications, which appeared in the periodic literature of that time.

An Essay concerning Giants.—Essays on Stone in the Bladder.—On the Influenza.—On the Short Fever of 1688.—Anatomical Description of the Aphrodite "*Scolopendria Marina e Mare Hibernico.*"—On the Vesiculæ Seminales.—Description of the Museum Zeylonicum.—Essay on the Irish Elk (*Cervus Megacerus*).—On the Connaught Locust (*Melanolontha Vulgaris*).—On the Irish Greyhound, (*Canis graius Hibernicus*)(*v*).—On Elephant's Teeth.—And also several Botanical Essays, &c.

Cotemporaneously with Molyneaux, we have but little to record of the periodic writings of other Irish medical men, except Mr. Thomas Proby(*w*), the principal surgeon in Dublin at

(*v*) See the animal remains in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy, collected by Messrs. Petrie and Wilde, at Dunshaughlin—also Proceedings R. I. A., vol. i. p. 420.

(*w*) Mr. Proby was the ancestor of the present Carysford family. He was

that time, who extracted a bodkin from the female bladder ; but even that case was brought before the notice of the Royal Society by Molyneaux.

In 1720, Dr. John Rutty published an Account of a Case of Spina Bifida in the Philosophical Transactions.

In 1722, Mr. Peter Derante, chirurgion, of Waterford, gave an account of the amputation of the shoulder joint, by the sloughing of a portion of the scapula and head of the humerus, from mortification.

In 1731 Dr. Thos. Madden described a case of poisoning of two females from simple laurel water, with experiments ; and in 1736 he detailed the dissection of a person who died from having taken two ounces of crude mercury, &c.(*x*)

In 1734 Mr. John Ferguson, of Strabane, published an account of the extirpation of a portion of the human spleen.

In 1739 Dr. John Rutty wrote a Dissertation on Laurel Water.

We have no account of either Keogh, O'Connell, Rogers, Robinson, or Hussey, who flourished and wrote about this period, having published anything in the Transactions of learned Societies.

The Royal Dublin Society was founded in 1731, and incorporated in 1749. Its aim was, however, chiefly of an agricultural, industrial, and artistic nature, yet its noble garden at Glasnevin, should be enumerated among the medical institutions of this country. It is much to be regretted that the veterinary school and museum, the latter collected by Mr. Percival of London, has lately been allowed to fall to the ground, and its professorship to remain unoccupied since the death of Mr. Peel.

"Chirurgion-General," and occupied a house in the Phoenix Park, on the ground belonging to which the Royal Infirmary now stands. It was for depriving him of this that Swift made so fierce an attack on Lord Wharton—See Swift's "Short Character of His Excellency, Thomas Earl of Wharton," 1710; Roscoe's Works of Swift. London, 1841, vol. i. p. 352.

(*x*) Dr. Thomas Madden, was elected Fellow of the College of Physicians,

On the 14th of April, 1744, a number of noblemen and gentlemen established themselves as a society for promoting an inquiry into the present and ancient state of the several counties of Ireland, which, on the 15th of the May following, was, at a general meeting of the members, given the title of the *PHYSICO-HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND*. This body included all the men of science and literature in Dublin at that period: their first President was Lord Southwick; Vice-President, Edward Barry, M.D.; the secretaries were appointed for each province, but James Ware was at that time the working man of the society. Among its original members we find the names of Harris, Rutty, Ledwich, and other distinguished antiquaries of that period; yet while the main objects of the Society were of an historical and antiquarian character, with a view to a general survey of this country, as originally proposed by Petty (a project attempted to be put in execution at various periods from his day till concluded in our own under the able superintendence of Capt. Larcom) (*a*),

in 1728 in the room of Dr. Molyneux, and President in 1731. In the Manuscript collection of Trinity College, we find an interesting Latin letter of his on the operation for cataract.—MSS. I. 4, 22.

Dr. John Madden is named in the charter of the College of Physicians in 1692, along with Drs. Molyneux, Ralph Howard, Willoughby, Dun, and Stevens.

(*a*) While examining the Minute Book and the Proceedings of the Physico-Historical Society in the manuscript collection of the Royal Irish Academy, for the purpose of this inquiry, we were struck with the zeal and enterprise toward the publication of county histories, which seemed to actuate the men of learning in Dublin at that period. Under its auspices were produced Smith's *Histories of the Counties of Cork, Waterford, and Kerry*, as well as Wright's *Louthiana*;—the *History of the County of Down*, by Harris, and Rutty's *History of the County of Dublin*, were undertaken at the suggestion of this body. The *Histories of Fermanagh, Monaghan, and the City of Dublin*, were likewise begun, under its auspices, by Dr. Jenkins, the Rev. Dr. S. Madden, and Messrs. Skelton and Lodge: and the latter completed by Harris: Simon's *Essay on Irish Coins* was also published by this Society. When will the noble intentions of this body be fulfilled? We had hoped, when we saw the splendid *Memoir on Templemore* produced by the Ordnance Survey under the general direction

still the interests of the medical and chemical sciences were not neglected, and Drs. Barry, Ruttý, Lionel Jenkins, John Farrell, Rellan, Roberts, and Mr. Joseph Butler, surgeon, played a very conspicuous part in the proceedings of this body; and with their labours, we have here more particularly to deal. At this period, there was a great desire among the learned to investigate the mineral springs of this country, and the medical men connected with the society under consideration, produced several memoirs on that subject, the final result of which was Ruttý's book on the mineral waters of Ireland.

In the spring of 1744, Dr. Jenkins read a treatise "On Birds and Beasts which were once common in this Kingdom, and particularly in the County of Dublin, some of which are now quite lost, and others rare to be met with," and also a short paper on the extinct animals of Ireland generally: neither of which have come down to our time. Mr. Isaac Butler, surgeon, botanist, astrologer, and almanack maker, appears to have been employed by the Society, and received grants of money at various times for making inquiries "after rare plants, &c.," and travelling "in search of sim-

of Captain Larcom—and the antiquarian department by Mr. Petrie, ably assisted by Messrs. O'Donovan, Downes, Curry, and other distinguished Irish scholars and men of science, that a better day was brightening upon us—but, owing to the overstrained economy exhibited toward this country, we fear the Derry Memoir and Captain Portlock's *Geology of the County of Londonderry, and Part of Tyrone, and Fermanagh*, must remain specimens in our libraries and museums, along with those fragments of county histories produced by the Physico-Historical Society, to be examined by the curious in another age, when it is probable that the magnificent collection of materials, procured with such industry and at such great expense, which now remains at Mountjoy Barracks, will be published by the Archæological Society of the twentieth century, as that of the nineteenth is about to do with some of those collected in the days of Petty. We cannot conclude this note without adverting to the fact of the geological portion of the Irish Survey being now placed under the direction of our esteemed friends Sir Henry De La Beche, and Professor Forbes. It could not be in abler hands, but if the Trigonometrical and Boundary Survey of this portion of the United Kingdom was considered necessary to be undertaken and completed distinct from that of Great Britain, we cannot

ples, fossils, and such other curiosities as are mentioned in the Society's proposals." Butler likewise made a catalogue of plants and minerals found in various parts of this kingdom, which was recorded by the Society, who also appear to have had a Museum where objects in natural history, cinerary urns, fossils, minerals, manuscripts, and an *Hortus Siccus* of Irish Plants, were preserved: which collection, probably, merged into that of the University, or perhaps the Dublin Society.

Dr. Rutty produced at the Society's meetings samples and analyses of the Waters of Scarborough, Kilbrew, in the county of Meath, a chalybeate found near Athlone, and the various mineral springs in the county of Dublin; and Mr. Thomas Hoare, an apothecary in this city at that time, was paid for their analyses. Catalogues of the Fauna of the county of Dublin were likewise made, as also specimens of these presented to the Society, and preserved in their collection.

The Physico-Historical Society does not appear to have existed longer than three years. The last entry in the Minute Book, preserved in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, bears date the 17th of September, 1747.

The medical members appear to have been the most industrious, as well as to have remained longest attached to this body, and medical papers were, for the last year, the most numerous. Several efforts were made to revive this body, the last of which ended with the death of Rutty, in 1775. We have reason to believe that abstracts of some of its papers were published in Faulkner's Newspapers(*b*), and also the Rev. Mr. Droz's Journal, the first *literary* periodical that ever appeared in this country, and which was started the same year as the Physico-Historical Society.

understand why its geological features should not be likewise considered separately, except that by including them under one general head a plausible excuse is offered for thus quashing the memoir of the Irish Survey altogether.

(*b*) The Dublin Journal, 1744,—and also The Monitor or British Freeholder, 1757,—Dublin, printed by George Faulkner, in Essex-street.

About 1750 there existed a Botanical Society in Dublin, which collected and arranged a catalogue of Irish plants. This catalogue was afterwards produced at the first meeting of the Medico-Philosophical Society, by Dr. Rutty(c).

In 1756, several of the medical profession in Dublin formed themselves into a society for the pursuit of medical, zoological, and philosophical inquiries, under the name of the MEDICO-PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY. The original members were Drs. Rutty and Smith, the Rev. Mr. Caldwell, and Messrs. Dowling and Johnston, Surgeons; and shortly afterwards Dr. Knox and Surgeon T. Wetherel were added, the number being at that time limited to seven. It does not appear that there were any Presidents, but from its commencement to 1784, Messrs. Downing and Caldwell, and Drs. Smith, M'Bride, Harvey, Saunders, and Moody, filled the office of Secretaries. Three volumes of the Minutes of this body have come down to our time, the first is in the Royal Irish Academy, and a copy of it, along with the two others, at present belong to the library of the Association of the College of Physicians. From these and other sources our learned friend, Dr. Aquilla Smith, has afforded us much interesting information relating to this body(d), but of which we avail ourselves only so far as it bears on periodic medical literature. On the 7th of April, 1757, John Smith, a Quaker, by trade a weaver, and successor to Isaac

(c) The writers on the Irish Flora appear to have been very deficient in their knowledge of the labours of their ancestors, prior to the middle of the last century, except those of Threlkeld and Keogh.

(d) The readers of the Dublin Journal of Medical Science, and the profession generally in this country, are already well acquainted with Dr. Aquilla Smith's contributions to the History of Irish Medicine (See vol. xix. p. 210, and vol. xix. p. 81.) We know no gentleman so highly informed on these subjects as Dr. Smith; we wish we could induce him to resume his pen, and afford his friends and the profession the benefit of his extensive researches. We have assured ourselves, from a careful perusal of the minute book in the Royal Irish Academy, that a most interesting and valuable series of communications could be compiled from the records of the Medico-Philosophical Society.

Butler, astrologer, almanack maker, and botanist, of whom we have already spoken at p. xxiv, was appointed Satellite (so he is designated) to the Society, for the purpose of producing such plants for the future, as happen to be in flower in the vicinity of Dublin, at the times of the meetings of this Society.

At first this Society appears to have partaken somewhat of a social character, the members dining at each other's houses on the days of meeting, and in several of the correspondences it is denominated "The Club." In 1757 it was resolved that a book called "the Repository" should be provided for the purpose of preserving the original communications, to save the trouble of transcribing them. This most interesting and valuable record still exists in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, and it is to us a matter of both surprise and regret that some industrious member of that body has not long ere this investigated and described the contents of this folio book, which consists of 230 articles, the great majority of which are original communications, by the most distinguished physicians and surgeons in this kingdom of that day, among which we may mention those written by Rutty, M'Bride, Clegghorn, Smith, Wetherel, Egan, Clossey, Archibald Hamilton, Patrick Bride, Spar, Archer, Silvester O'Halloran, Pringle, Doyle, Purcell, Mossom Wye, Hanly, Shears, and Rainey(*e*).

(*e*) Dr. John Rutty appears to have been the mainstay of this body, which he used facetiously to style "the Medico-Politico-Physico-Classico-Ethico-Puffical Society;" his papers, which are mostly on the subjects of mineral waters and animal chemistry, &c., amounted to 99 of the 230 recorded. Dr. David M'Bride was author of "A Methodical Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Physic," 4to. London, 1772, being the substance of a Course of Lectures, delivered in Dublin. He also wrote "Experimental Essays, &c." Cleghorn was Professor of Anatomy to the University.

Thomas Wetherel was a surgeon in Doneraile, and Dr. Egan, a physician in Galway. Samuel Clossey, M.D., was physician to Mercer's Hospital in this city in 1761. The year following he emigrated to America, and was one of the first lecturers on anatomy in New York. (See *Dub. Jour.* vol. xvii. p. 218.)

Silvester O'Halloran was a distinguished surgeon and oculist in Limerick,

What gives increased value to those communications, most of which are in the handwriting of their authors, is, that we read in the Minute Books, "that no communication should be finally entered on the minutes until three meetings passed over, in order that every article worth preservation may be approved of by all the members," and, adds Dr. Aquilla Smith, "the papers were expected to be written clearly, candidly, and concisely, and all hypothetical disquisitions, controverted points, and everything that could only contribute to display the erudition of the writer, were to be rejected; neither was the style or language of any contribution to be criticised." We would willingly, did space permit, present our readers with the contents of some of the most valuable of these papers, but we must reserve that for another occasion.

The last meeting of this Society, recorded in the minute book, was held on the 7th of October, 1784, but the last date in the Repository, attached to a paper of Dr. Hanly's, is March 2, 1772.

In the *Anthologia Hibernica* for April, 1793, we read that on the Anniversary Meeting of the Dublin Medical Society, the officers for the ensuing year were elected; this appears to have been a continuation of the Medico-Philosophical Society. In 1802 the members only amounted to fifteen, and in 1809 the books belonging to it were distributed among them. The Society, however, continued on till about twenty-five years ago, and one of the last members of it was the late Dr. John Beatty. During the present century it partook more of the social than the scientific character.

Dr. Patrick Brown(*f*), a distinguished Irish physician and naturalist, whose merits have been too much overlooked

and author of "*A Treatise on the Glaucoma or Cataract*," (Dublin, 1750, &c.), as well as other essays and papers on various scientific subjects. Dr. Purcell was the chief physician in Dublin at the close of the last century.

(*f*) Dr. P. Brown was a native of Crossboyne, county of Mayo, and born about the year 1720; he studied medicine in Paris, and afterwards at Leyden,

by scientific writers, published in Exshaw's Magazine for June, 1774, "Catalogues of the Birds of Ireland, whether Natives, casual Visitors, or Birds of Passage, and of the Fishes observed on our Coasts, and in our Lakes and Rivers."

About the year 1792 there appears to have existed a literary society in Limerick, in which Silvester O'Halloran was the leading member, and read several papers on medical subjects, some of which are published in the *Anthologia Hibernica*. At the same time, and for some years prior to it, a few papers upon medical subjects were published by Irishmen in the *Philosophical Transactions*.

The Society called the Paleosophers, established in the University about the year 1782, chiefly devoted itself to the investigation of ancient learning, and has not left anything that we can discover behind it; but in three years afterwards, Dr. Percival, then the most rising chemist in this country, established the Association of Neosophers, for the investigation of science and modern literature, into which, in a short time, the Paleosophers merged. From these subsequently sprung, in 1782, the ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY, which was chartered

where he graduated, and where he commenced a correspondence with Linnaeus: he practised in London for about two years, after which he removed to the West Indies, and resided for several years at Antigua and Jamaica, of which islands he published the most valuable Civil and Natural History that had then appeared; a work which has scarcely been surpassed even at the present time. He furnished Sir Joseph Banks with most valuable catalogues, and made large collections of the birds, shells, and plants of the West Indies. Moreover, to his exertions are we indebted for having the port and capital of Jamaica changed from Spanishtown to Kingstown. On his return to Europe, he devoted his talents and energy to the elucidation of the natural history of his native country; and besides the periodic writing specified in the text, we are informed by his biographer in the *Anthologia Hibernica* for January, 1793, that in 1788 he prepared for the press a "*Fasciculus Plantarum Hibernicarum*," enumerating chiefly those growing in the Counties of Mayo and Galway, written in Latin, with the English and Irish names of each specimen.—Where is this valuable manuscript?

in 1786, for Science, Polite Literature, and Antiquities. Medical men have ever formed some of the most prominent and industrious of its members, and at one period they almost entirely ruled its councils: and in the twenty volumes of its Transactions will be found Essays and communications, on subjects connected with medicine or its collateral branches, by the most distinguished Irish philosophers during the last seventy years, among whom we may mention the names of Kirwan, Percival, Macartney, Clarke, Dickson, Crumpe, and Wallace, as having passed from amongst us, besides those already enumerated in the foregoing pages; and the writings of Drs. Graves, Apjohn, and Kane, still attest the talent and industry of our living medical authors. We now, however, approach a period when our labour of compilation and research becomes lightened by its approaching our own time, and by the works to which we have occasion to refer being accessible to most of our readers.

The first medical periodical started in Ireland was “*The Dublin Medical and Physical Essays, comprising Dissertations and Details of Medicine and Surgery, with their collateral Branches of Science,*” a quarterly journal of about one hundred pages, octavo, the first number of which appeared in March, 1807. It was edited by Drs. F. Barker, S. B. Labatt, the late Dr. H. Ferguson, and our distinguished countryman, the late Mr. Todd. The plan of this journal was somewhat similar to our own, consisting of original communications, reviews, and, “a retrospective review of the progress of medical and physical science, more concise than usual.” Medical politics were very rarely admitted, although “the projected plan of reform,” was not altogether excluded from its pages. It survived but eighteen months, having only issued six numbers(*g*).

(*g*) The few copies of this rare publication which are now in existence, are generally found bound together, forming a volume and a half, the first consisting of 410, and the latter of 198 pages.—Dublin, Gilbert and Hodges, Dame-street. 1808.

It appears to have been resigned as much from the apathy that then existed on the subject of literature of every description, in Ireland, as from any other cause. Prior to 1800 it is well known that Dublin was, for its size, one of the most publishing capitals, in Europe. Among the many causes which led to the decay of literature in this country, may be mentioned the extension of the English Copyright Act to Ireland, for before the Union, every English publication of merit was reprinted in Dublin, in the same manner as our works have been of late in Paris, and still are in America. Being the property, and consequently published at the risk of the Editors, who do not appear to have understood much of the art of book-making, it was not deemed by them prudent to continue it longer, and the last number was published in June, 1808.

This is now a very rare work, and records many interesting circumstances connected with medical science in Ireland at that period. Among its most remarkable original papers, the first number opens with "An Essay on an improved Method of performing the Operation of Lithotomy," by the present father of the medical profession in this city, Mr. R. M. Peile, at that period one of the most dexterous lithotomists in Great Britain. This short paper, which is characterized by a force and purity of language, and an elegance of diction, not often met with in medical literature of the present day, was intended to explain the use and mode of application of instruments which have since been usually known as "Peile's conductor and lithotome." The original instrument was invented by Mr. Daunt, an eminent surgeon in this city, in 1750, for which, in 1754, he received the thanks of the Royal Academy of Surgery in Paris. Thirty-two years afterwards, William Dease, one of the most distinguished surgeons of this country, published some remarks on the different methods of cutting for the stone, wherein he gives us an account of this instrument, as

modified by himself; and it was finally brought to perfection by Mr. Peile(*f*).

To this publication (*The Medical and Physical Essays*) the late Drs. Whitley Stokes, Percival, Todd, Murray, Pentland, Ferguson, Mills, and Moriarty, contributed, as well as Sir Philip Crampton, and Messrs. Carmichael, Labatt, Douglas, Harty, Duncan, and Breen of this city(*g*).

In the fifth number we find an address delivered to the Medical Society of Trinity College, by its Vice-president, Dr. John Murray, in May, 1803. This Society was discontinued by order of the Board, "to guard against the introduction of any political or metaphysical discussion, that had been found detrimental to another society" (the Historical) "in the same place."

During the present century, the only papers published in the Philosophical Translation were by Messrs. Chenevix, Donovan, Jacob, and Macartney(*h*).

(*f*) This tract of Mr. Dease's is bound up with his Observations on Hydrocele, and in the copper-plate in which he figures the instruments of Daunt, are represented two of the largest stones that have ever been recorded as having been removed from the human bladder; one of these weighed six ounces, the other no less than fifteen and a half! It would appear to have completely filled the bladder, and was removed by Mr. Morris, one of the surgeons of Mercer's Hospital, with Mr. Daunt's instrument, in 1773; the patient is said to have perfectly recovered.

(*g*) Owing to a curious mistake Sir Philip Crampton's interesting communication—the Discovery of a New Muscle in the Eyes of Birds, &c.—which was presented to the Royal Society by Sir H. Davy in 1811—was not published by that body. Sir Humphrey's letter, stating that the observations and experiments of the author had been repeated with perfect success by some of the best anatomists in London, now lies before us. Shortly after the paper was read, Mr. Knox, wishing to give it immediate publicity, forwarded an extract of it to one of the scientific journals of the day—this prevented its being published in the Transactions of the Royal Society, as was intended by its author.

(*h*) The Dublin Medical and Physical Essays, besides original articles by several other Irish physicians and surgeons in addition to those already mentioned, likewise contains "A systematic Catalogue of rare Plants found in Ireland" in 1806, by T. J. Mackay, A. L. S., Curator to the Botanic Garden of the University.

A Medico-Chirurgical Society held its meetings in the old College of Surgeons, in Mercer-street, before 1805 ; but we have no record of its proceedings.

The Kirwanian Society, founded in 1812, for the investigating of subjects connected with chemistry, mineralogy, and natural history, and called after our distinguished countryman, Richard Kirwan, appears to have survived but a short period, and has not left any literary remains after it. In 1816 its members numbered 40.

In 1815, an institution called the Medical Society was established in Dublin, consisting of both practitioners and students. The *Newry Magazine* (vol. i. p. 284, and vol. iv. p. 301), informs us that the objects of this Society were twofold — “ first to collect original information in all branches of medical science, with a view to publication ; secondly, to improve the junior members of the Society, by their writing disputations on medical subjects, and their publicly defending them.” At the conclusion of the session a donation

Should we include the *Milesian Magazine* of the eccentric but talented John Brennan, the Wrestling, Turpentine Doctor, or as he subscribed himself, “ Prince of Idonagh, King of all the Wrestlers of all Ireland,” among the periodic literature of Ireland? Brennan has long since gone to his rest, and carried with him much of the classic wit, scorching sarcasm, and apt drollery which characterized many of our distinguished countrymen at that period. Although most of his cotemporaries, and those against whom his swiftest shafts were aimed, have also been gathered to their fathers, it is possible that the *Milesian Magazine*, at present scarcely to be met with, would, if republished, be received at present with nearly as great a gusto as it was in 1812. There are, however, two subjects connected with this strange periodical and its author to which we would here refer our readers, and for which a debt of gratitude is due ;—his introduction of the more general use of turpentine in puerperal and other inflammatory diseases ; and his able letter to Dr. M'Dermott (the Prince of Coolavin) on the subject of the Irish manuscripts (many of which were, we believe, medical) carried out of this country by Dr. Charles O'Connor, and now in the collection of the Duke of Buckingham at Stowe.

The *Milesian Magazine*, or *Irish monthly Gleaner*, Dublin, 8vo., printed and published by W. M'Donald, 1812–1825 ; it appeared at irregular intervals ; there were only sixteen numbers published.

of twenty guineas was presented to the Society, by the professor of Anatomy in the University (Dr. Macartney), for the purpose of rewarding the best essay that should be sent to the Society before the 1st April, 1816, on the following question: "What differences exist between venous and arterial blood, with respect to chemical composition and vital properties:" the answers to the questions were to be supported by new and decisive experiments. What became of this Society or its proceedings we have no means of determining, but the books belonging to it are deposited in trust in the library of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital.

Several other medical societies, chiefly, however, of a social nature, existed in Dublin during the first twenty years of the present century, but as they have not published either their Proceedings or Transactions, they do not come within the legitimate province of this investigation(*i*).

During the entire of the present century communications were occasionally made to the London and Edinburgh periodicals by Irishmen, but having from 1807 a periodic literature of our own, we must confine our observations to those that were published in this country.

In 1815, "some professional gentlemen attached to extensive hospitals in this city, formed the design of publishing annually, medical and surgical reports of the chief diseases falling under their observation, together with such incidental notices of facts and doctrines in relation to pathology, as might tend to the improvement of medical science." Accordingly, in 1817 was published the first volume of "*The Dublin Hospital Reports and Communications in Medicine and Surgery*," and the fifth and last appeared in 1830(*j*).

The first volume was edited by Drs. Cheyne, Edward Percival, and Colles and Todd; but the main projec-

(*i*) To one of the last of these the late Professor Todd was wont to apply the epithet of the Phil-Œsophageals.

(*j*) The Dublin Hospital Reports. Dublin, 8vo. vols. i. ii. iii. and iv. Hodges and M'Arthur, 1817 to 1827; vol. v. Hodges and Smith, 1830.

tor of the undertaking was Cheyne, who to his great sagacity and vast medical acquirements united that activity of mind and untiring energy and perseverance, as well as the art of eliciting the knowledge and bringing forth the powers and acquirements of others, together with a stern honesty of purpose, and a suavity of manner—qualities rare, but very requisite in the editor of a periodical. The second, third, and fourth volumes appeared under the auspices of Messrs. Colles and Cheyne, and the fifth was committed by the latter into the hands of Dr. Graves.

The publication of these valuable volumes, inferior to none that have ever appeared of a like nature, is comparatively of such recent date, and their contents so well known, even to the students of medicine of this country, that we feel it would be a work of supererogation to advance a single sentence in their praise: the names of Crampton, Marsh, Cusack, Graves, Stokes, Wilmot, Carmichael, and Kennedy, together with those of O'Beirne, Beatty, Adams, Johnston, Montgomery, Apjohn, Law, Cuming, Jacob, Porter, and Kirby, as also of our late distinguished countrymen, Cheyne(*k*), Colles, Todd, M'Dowell, and Percival, now no more, were sufficient to stamp its scientific and practical character.

In 1816, several of the Fellows and Licentiates of the College of Physicians formed themselves into an association composed of Dr. W. Brooke, President, Drs. A. Jackson and W. Stoker, Vice-presidents, Dr. R. Reid, Secretary, and twenty-nine members, at the meetings of which communications were made of “medical and philosophical intelligence, hospital reports morbid histories, and other original papers(*l*),” chiefly, however, with the view to the improvement of pathological science.

(*k*) Dr. Cheyne, was, it is true, a Scotchman, but having practised in this country for such a length of time, and become identified with our School of Physic, and naturalized in the land of his adoption, we may fairly include him among our eminent Irish physicians.

(*l*) Transactions of the Association of Fellows and Licentiates of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians. 5 vols. Dublin, 8vo. Cumming, 1817 to 1828.

In the following year, and nearly contemporaneously with the Dublin Hospital Reports, was published the "*Transactions of the Association of the Fellows and Licentiates of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland*," five volumes of which appeared at intervals up to 1828, containing a most valuable collection of original papers and reports by some of the most distinguished physicians in the Irish metropolis at that time, among whom may be mentioned, in addition to those enumerated as contributors to the Dublin Hospital Reports, the late Drs. J. Crampton, Brooke, and Mills.

In 1830 a new series was commenced, of which one part appeared under the title of "*The Dublin Medical Transactions (m)*," containing papers by Drs. Corrigan, Collins, Crampton, Beatty, J. Ferguson, Montgomery, Clinton, Harty, Law, and Osborne, &c.; but by far the most valuable communication consisted in the Report of the Cork-street Fever Hospital, by the late Dr. John O'Brien. This gentleman died while these papers were passing through the Press(n).

Neither the Dublin Hospital Reports nor the Transactions

(m) The Dublin Medical Transactions, a Series of Papers by Members of the Association of Fellows and Licentiates of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland. New series, vol. i. part 1, Dublin, 8vo. J. M. Leckie, 1830. In point of typography, &c. this volume exceeded any of its predecessors or cotemporaries.

(n) John O'Brien, M.D., was a Scholar of Trinity College in 1803. He was appointed an assistant surgeon to the artillery on the 27th of May, 1809. In April, 1810, he was induced by his brother, a well-known resident Master in the University, to retire from the service and settle in Dublin, where he was appointed to the Sick Poor Institution in Meath-street: and subsequently he was elected one of the physicians of the Cork-street Fever Hospital, an institution to which he devoted much time and labour, and his reports on which are, we have no hesitation in pronouncing, the very best that have yet appeared, both in matters of arrangement, statistical accuracy, learning, and practical importance. These reports, as well as one previously published of the Sick Poor Institution for 1817, will be found in the Transactions of the Medical Association for the years 1814, 1819, 1826, and 1829, as well as other articles from his pen in the same publication. In 1822 he wrote his "*Observations on the acute and chronic Dysentery of Ireland*," a work exhibiting much shrewdness of observation, as well as vast learning

of the Association have since appeared, their place having been supplied by the Dublin Journal of Medical and Chemical Science, which came out shortly after, and twenty-eight volumes of which have already appeared, with the new series of which we now present our readers.

In 1825, the want of a periodical of a more extended scientific character than either of the two practical publications to which we have just alluded, was very generally felt by the learned of this city, and "*The Dublin Philosophical Journal and Scientific Review*," the first numbers of which gave promise of being beyond all parallel the very best publication of its kind that had appeared at the time in Great Britain, was started(o).

"Should the measures which are adopting for the development of the natural resources of Ireland," say the editors in their advertisement, "meet with ultimate success, as we have every reason to hope, from the vigour and zeal with which they are pursued, a change may be effected in this country, of which no one can now foresee the extent. In the hope, therefore, that any light which can be shed on these subjects, interesting as they are even in a speculative point of view, may derive additional value from the illustration of their practical tendency, the editors of this journal mean to embrace every opportunity of directing the attention of their readers to matters connected with the local interests of Ireland, and should they, by their exertions, be found to have contributed any aid, how-

and research, particularly on the early history of the epidemic in this country. He was a Censor, and afterwards President, of the College of Physicians, subsequently he became Librarian to that body. In 1827 he was a candidate with Dr. Graves for the professorship of the Institutes of Medicine, a subject on which he afterwards delivered lectures in Mr. Wallace's school, in Moore-street: he published an introduction and syllabus to this course. He died in December, 1845, aged 64. He was a highly educated physician, and a classical scholar of no mean attainments; and his manners and habits were remarkably mild and retiring. As a practitioner he was scarcely known in this city.

(o) *The Dublin Philosophical Journal and Scientific Review*, vol. i. Dublin, 8vo. Hodges and M'Arthur, 1825; vol. ii. Wesley and Tyrrell, 1826.

ever feeble, to the great task of awakening her dormant powers, they will deem their labours more than sufficiently repaid." Twenty years have now elapsed, yet this patriotic hope has not given place to fruition; the present day is, however, pregnant with great events, and the industrial resources of our country not only occupy the attention of the learned, but are beginning to employ the capital of the wealthy and commercial, and to give employment and comfort to the labouring poor.

The original idea of this journal arose, we believe, with Dr. Lardner, then a resident master in the University, and the model which he chose was the Journal conducted by Professor Brande, then the most esteemed periodical in Europe. His colleagues in the editorial department were Professor Lloyd, then a Junior Fellow of Trinity College, Mr. Donovan, Professor of Chemistry, and Dr. Arthur Jacob, whose valuable communications on the anatomy of the cetaceous mammalia, from dissections made by himself and the late Mr. Shekleton, of a Diadon which was stranded at Killiney, form the chief medical communications of the work. Drs. Houston, Apjohn, Donovan, and Hart, likewise wrote original medical articles; but the chief bearing of this periodical was of a scientific and antiquarian character; yet, notwithstanding that it was originally supported by such men as Brinkley, the Lloyds, father and son, Knox, Petrie, and Nimmo, it gradually declined in circulation, and expired on the publication of the fifth quarterly number. It deserved a better fate, and its early numbers were pronounced by Sir Humphrey Davy, "the very best scientific journal in Great Britain;" but the last two numbers had certainly degenerated very much, and at all events it does not appear that the country was then in a condition to support such a periodical.

Notwithstanding the failure of the Philosophical Journal, Mr. Donovan's energy and zeal for science, though damped, was not quenched; and in 1829 he projected a new Irish periodical, the "Annals of Pharmacy and Materia Medi-

ca(o);” a monthly journal, published for the purpose of improving the science of Pharmacy, and the condition of the apothecaries of this kingdom ; but the polemics of the latter appear to have outweighed the scientific interest or extent of the former, in which, however, appeared some of Mr. Donovan’s valuable chemical and pharmaceutical discoveries. Some of the philippics launched against the so-called monopoly of the apothecaries’ corporation, are good specimens of that description of literature. The twelfth number terminated its existence ; its editor’s principal object being, that of advocating the rights of the general apothecaries of Ireland, against what he and they conceived to be injustice on the part of the gentlemen of the Apothecaries’ Hall.

On the settlement of Europe subsequent to the peace of 1815, learning, science, and the arts again upreared their heads, and among the various branches of knowledge that then strode forth with giant’s pace, none exceeded that of medicine,—particularly in Germany. Several of our countrymen availed themselves of the advantages which the Continent then afforded, and shortly after returned home laden with the knowledge acquired in the schools of Göttingen, Berlin, Paris, Vienna, Leipsic, Heidelberg, and Bonn, where the true eclectic mode of investigation, and above all, clinical observation and instruction, were first carried out.

Dr. Robert J. Graves was the first to establish this mode of instruction in Ireland in the early years of the third decade of the present century, a task in which he was afterwards so ably assisted by his colleague, Dr. William Stokes : with these gentlemen arose the present modern school of medicine in Dublin. Then, for the first time, through the teaching of Macartney, physiology and comparative anatomy were included in our system of medical instruction.

(o) *Annals of Pharmacy and Materia Medica*, a new monthly Journal, edited by M. Donovan, M. R. I. A., Professor of Chemistry, Materia Medica, and Pharmacy, at Apothecaries’ Hall, Dublin, &c. &c. Dublin, 8vo. printed by R. Graisberry, 1829.

As an effect of the interest in medical and pathological science, as well as the valuable discoveries in practical medicine which arose from this young school of medicine, at a time when there did not exist any medical periodical in Ireland, sprung "*The Dublin Journal of Medical and Chemical Science*," a bi-monthly periodical, the first number of which appeared in March, 1832(*p*). The original projector and first editor of this Journal, from whom, by lineal and uninterrupted descent, we now appear before our readers, though at present one of the most distinguished men of science in Ireland, and enjoying a well-earned European reputation, was then a medical student, though at the same time Professor of Chemistry to the Apothecaries' Hall,—we mean Dr. Robert Kane(*q*).

The original intention of the Journal was of a chemical and pharmaceutical character, merely including medicine and surgery as collateral branches of science. Shortly before the publication of the first number it was, however, deemed advisable to devote a portion of its original communications to practical subjects, and accordingly, we find in it essays upon such by Messrs. Hart, Corrigan, Porter, and Graves, as well as those of Messrs. Kane, Scanlan, and Ferguson. The Scientific Intelligence, to which its editor devoted much care and attention, is still a model for those retrospects which have since appeared both in this country and on the Continent, and was divided into sections embracing chemical and physical science, botany and natural history, anatomy and physiology, pathology and therapeutics, surgery, legal medicine and toxicology, and materia medica and pharmacy. After the appearance of the first two or three numbers,

(*p*) The Dublin Journal of Medical and Chemical Science, exhibiting a comprehensive View of the latest Discoveries in Medicine, Surgery, Chemistry, and the collateral sciences. Dublin, Hodges and Smith, 8vo. eight vols. After which it appeared as—The Dublin Journal of Medical Sciences, &c. to the present date, in all 28 volumes.

(*q*) We have heard it stated, that it was sworn before a committee of the House of Commons, that Dr. Kane never was editor of this periodical; what we assert is, however, the fact.

Dr. Kane had associated with him in his editorial capacity, Drs. Graves and Stokes, and as the *Journal* assumed a more practical character, and Dr. Kane became more engaged in chemical investigations, its management was chiefly conducted by the latter gentlemen, assisted for some time by Professor Porter. On Dr. Kane's obtaining the professorship of Natural Philosophy to the Royal Dublin Society, in 1834, he resigned his connexion with the *Dublin Journal*, in a letter published in the seventh volume, wherein he says, "that having anxiously watched over its infant struggles, and seen it after but a brief adolescence take a place among the medical periodicals of Europe, creditable to our country and highly gratifying to its supporters," * * * he terminates his editorial labours.

Numbers 25 and 26 for 1836 were edited by Dr. Jacob (see Johnson's *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, vol. 25, New Series, page 279). See also *The Dublin Medical Journal*, for March, 1836, vol. 9, page 150.

Drs. Graves and Stokes continued as editors up to the year (1842), when their increasing avocations obliged them to resign it into the hands of Messrs. Hamilton and Mac Donnell, our immediate predecessors, who carried it on to the conclusion of the 27th volume in the past year.

It was the first successful periodical, whether scientific, literary, or medical, that emanated from the Irish Press during the present century(*r*). It has now reached to twenty-eight goodly volumes, in which will be found the best record of the modern school of medicine in Dublin; for, without distinction of persons, we may safely say, that there is no medical man of eminence in this city, or indeed in Ireland, who has not contributed to its pages; and the volumes already published embody one of the largest collections of original facts and communications in medicine, pathology, surgery, and midwifery,

(*r*) The *Christian Examiner*, which is still carried on, had, it is true, an earlier existence, but the *Dublin University Magazine*, the first *successful* literary journal, did not start for a year after.

that can in all probability be found in any journal in Europe(s).

The political reforms, which commenced in 1829, affecting every class of society, and every form of scientific and literary institution, extended in process of time to the medical institutions of this kingdom. Shortly afterwards, inquiries were made into the management of our charities, and the arrangement of our medical corporations; these investigations were followed by the proposal of the poor law system for Ireland, and a reform was also contemplated in the professions of medicine, surgery, and pharmacy in this kingdom. These circumstances appeared to offer a favourable opening for a second medical periodical in Dublin, particularly, as with the exception of some two or three articles on the subject of medical reform, written in a very temperate spirit by the late Professor Lendrick, our own Journal never admitted any subjects extrinsic to matters of practical or scientific import. Accordingly, in January, 1839, appeared "*The Dublin Medical Press*,"—a stamped weekly politico-medical periodical, and now "printed at No. 15, Molesworth-street, Dublin, and published there every Wednesday morning, by Arthur Jacob, M. D., residing at No. 23, Ely-place, and Henry Maunsell, M. D., residing at No. 15, Molesworth-street, in the City of Dublin," Professors to the Royal College of Surgeons. Were we writing as Historians simply, and not in our Editorial capacity, we might offer some remarks on the tone and style of "*The Dublin Medical Press*,"—but, under existing circumstances, we deem it more proper to refrain.

Several medical societies, chiefly established by students,

(s) The great scarcity of some of the early numbers has induced the Publishers to reprint several volumes. From this reprint an opportunity is now afforded, to those who wish it, of completing their sets at a moderate cost. They have also, with considerable labour and at great expense, compiled and arranged a full and complete Index to the twenty-eight volumes, amounting to 126 pages, which was issued with the concluding number of the former series, No. lxxxiii. for Nov. 1845. Vol. 28.

were created during the last fifteen or twenty years ; for instance, the “ Richmond Medical and Physical Society ;” the “ Meath Hospital Medical Society(*t*) ;” the “ Medico-Chirurgical Society ;” and the “ Society of Medical and Surgical Students ;” these, however, have passed away without leaving any thing of literary interest to record.

Of late years scientific papers have been read at the evening soirees of the College of Physicians, and the College of Surgeons, the chief of which have been published in the Dublin Journal.

Our numbers have likewise been enhanced by communications from the three Medical Societies, which at present exist in Dublin, the Pathological, the Surgical, and the Obstetrical. Of these, the Pathological Society merits more than a passing notice, having achieved more for the healing art in this country, than all its predecessors together. It was established in 1838, by Dr. Stokes, and Dr. Robert Smith, two of the most distinguished pathologists in this country ;—for its results, we refer with no small degree of pride to the pages of our own Journal, which, when there was no other medical periodical in Ireland, devoted a large space to the transactions and reports of this body ; and its beneficial effects have extended even beyond our island, this society having since been imitated in nearly every large city in Great Britain. On the present occasion, we are happy to present our readers with the reports from April, 1842, to January, 1845, arranged according to the simplest modern classification, and we will continue to publish the corrected and extended reports of this Society, as furnished to us by the Council.

The members of the Surgical Society, instituted in July, 1831, have, at various times, published their most important papers in our pages, and on the present occasion we are happy

(*t*) This was the first literary or scientific body that conferred an honour on Professor Kane.

to afford our readers a very interesting communication lately read before this learned body.

The Dublin Obstetrical Society, founded in November, 1838, by Dr. Evory Kennedy, has also given rise to many most valuable communications upon a subject in which the school of Dublin has long and justly been acknowledged to excel. Its Proceedings and Transactions have always had a place in our pages.

From these it will appear that during the last twelve years we have contributed our quantum of support toward the cultivation of medical science in this city; a support deserving the greater praise, for, that our editors have heretofore devoted their time, talent, and energy, often without sympathy, and always without remuneration or reward.

During the past year Drs. Corrigan, Ferrall, Evans, and Aldridge, established "*The Dublin Hospital Gazette*," a two-weekly periodical, entirely devoted to matters of practical and scientific import, unconnected with medical politics, and uninfluenced by party feeling, jealousy, or personal hostility. It affords a good medium for lectures, clinical reports, and cases, as well as short retrospects of medicine and its collateral branches. Some of its most valuable articles have been of a chemical nature, from the able pen of its editor, our esteemed friend Dr. Aldridge.

Our task is now completed, very imperfectly we acknowledge, but the labour of compilation and criticism is one by no means grateful to ourselves, and we fear it may not be altogether devoid of tedium to our readers.

The abstract philosopher, or the mere observer and arranger of practical facts, may ask what benefit we confer on literature by the revival and transmission of matters such as we have taken for our text;—for such we have not written this preface; we have, however, in our present number, afforded *them* material such as they desire. To those,—the few who sympathise and feel an interest in every department of

our country's history, we would say, that, to merit their approbation, we have collected the facts put forward in the previous pages. Several of these facts, it may be observed, are derived from works now becoming exceedingly scarce, and traditions fast passing from amongst us. To both we would say, that no matter how the early political history of our native land may be darkened ;—of her literary and scientific history, her monuments and her antiquities, we have all, as Irishmen, a just right to glow with honest pride.

Concerning our future prospects, we must say, we shall endeavour to earn, if we do not merit success,—a success vouched to us by the generous, disinterested assistance of those noble friends who have already come forward to aid us in undertaking the most extensive work of its kind that has yet appeared in this kingdom.

With regard to the mechanism and management of our periodical, we intend retaining the threefold division observed in our former series, of Original Communications,—Reviews and Bibliographical Notices,—and Scientific Intelligence.

The original communications will consist entirely of essays, monographs, and details of hospital practice, in an arranged and digested form. The analytical reviews will have more space, as well as much greater attention devoted to them than heretofore, and will embrace every work of merit that appears either at home or on the Continent. In these we shall, as far as in our power lies, endeavour to be honest to our readers, as well as critically just to the authors ; and, at least, we can promise, for our *corps de revue*, that nothing shall appear in our pages unbecoming the dignity of the profession, nor our own character as gentlemen and scholars. In the third department, that of the Scientific Intelligence, we have made arrangements by which, in order to keep pace with the present condition of periodic literature, we shall at various periods throughout the year present our readers with Reports and Retrospects arranged by gen-

tllemen distinguished in each separate branch of knowledge, and compiled from the latest and best works and periodicals in our own as well as the French, German, and Italian languages, upon

Anatomy and Physiology,	Midwifery, and Diseases of
Pathology,	Women and Children,
Chemistry,	Minor Surgery and Ophthalmology,
Materia Medica and Therapeutics,	Zoology and Botany,
Practical Medicine,	Forensic Medicine, and
Practical Surgery,	Medical Statistics.

These shall also include original notices of rare and interesting cases afforded us by practical physicians and surgeons, of which we present some samples in the present Number. We have also established correspondents in several of the chief cities of the Continent, to supply us with the earliest medical intelligence. The publishers are thus enabled to afford, at a moderate cost, a Journal which shall be not only the mirror of Irish medical science, but one, which, they hope, will be able to cope with the best medical periodicals of the day. It is scarcely necessary to add, that medical polemics in any shape do not come within the province of our Journal.

For ourselves, reader, we have much indulgence to crave at your hands. We know we have to deal with a lenient public, who will now, as they have often before done, overlook our faults, in looking to our intentions. Unaffected by petty jealousy or personal hostility, we trust the same principles which animated our predecessors, may continue to influence us in our present undertaking :

“ Content if hence the unlearned their wants may view ;
 The learned reflect on what before they knew.
 Averse alike to flatter or offend ;
 Not free from faults, nor yet too vain to mend.”