

John Stearne, M. & J. U. D. : an address delivered in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland on the three hundredth anniversary of his birth, November 26, 1924.

Contributors

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41
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BY

T. PERCY C. KIRKPATRICK, M.D., D.LITT.,

Fellow and Registrar, R.C.P.I.

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JOHN STEARNE, M. & J.U.D.

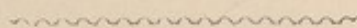
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## JOHN STEARNE, M. & J.U.D.

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YOUR EXCELLENCY, SIR PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is a duty and a privilege to pay a tribute to the memory of those who by their lives and works have shed a lustre on our College, and who have handed down to us a great tradition. To-night, on the three hundredth anniversary of his birth, we meet to do honour to the memory of our illustrious Founder, John Stearne. I could have wished that someone more worthy had been found to speak to you of the merits of this great man, and to describe to you the beginnings of our College; but I trust that the interest of the subject may in some measure blind you to the defects of its exposition.

John Stearne had a distinguished lineage. He came of an English family, one scion of which, Richard Stearne, was in 1664 appointed Archbishop of York. His father, also John Stearne, had come to Ireland in the retinue of Theophilus Buckworth, who was appointed Bishop of Dromore in 1613. This John Stearne had married Mabel Bermingham, whose mother Margaret was a sister of James Ussher, the great Archbishop of Armagh, and granddaughter of James Stanihurst, who had been Speaker of the Irish House of Commons in the reigns of Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth.

Of this stock came John Stearne, who was born on November 26th, 1624, at Ardbracean, in the house of his grand-uncle James Ussher, then Lord Bishop of Meath. Though the residence of the Bishop of Meath is still near Ardbracean, the episcopal palace now in use was not built till the time of Henry Maxwell, who was Bishop of the diocese from 1766 to 1798.

It is probable that Stearne spent little of his youth at Ardbraccan, for on March 23rd of the year following his birth James Ussher was translated from the See of Meath to the Archbishopric of Armagh. In the introduction to his first book, the *Animi Medela*, Stearne tells us that he received a liberal education at a school which it is not necessary for him to name; but in the Entrance Book of Trinity College we are told that his schoolmaster was Mr. Burne, of Greenan, County Down, where Stearne's father lived. He entered Trinity College on May 23rd, 1639, at the early age of fourteen and a half years; but the name of his tutor is not recorded.

When Stearne entered Trinity, the College was a very different place from what it is now. Not one of the present buildings of the College had been then erected; and though it had been in existence for forty-seven years, the College had made little progress as a teaching institution. A fair education in Arts was, no doubt, given, and there was some study of philosophy; but the occupation of most of the undergraduates, and of practically all the Bachelors who remained in residence after graduation, was the study of theology. Indeed, Provost Bedell, writing in April, 1628, says: "I suppose it hath been an error all this while to neglect the Faculties of Law and Physick, and attend only to the ordering of one poor Colledge of divines." The proposals then made to remedy this defect had to wait for nearly thirty years before they fructified.

The students, however, were compelled to work hard. The College day started at six o'clock in the morning with service in the Chapel, and lectures began at seven o'clock. Morning prayers were read at ten o'clock, and on certain days of the week these prayers were followed by declamations in the Hall. The afternoons from two to four o'clock were occupied with disputations. Evening prayers were at four o'clock, and on Sundays and Fridays these prayers were followed by a "commonplace," delivered in the Chapel by one of the resident Masters. All the students dined and supped together

in the Hall, presided over by the Vice-Provost, and during dinner they listened to a passage from Scripture or from the works of one of the Fathers, read aloud by a Scholar. No provision was made for athletic exercises till late in the century. In 1684 a bowling-green was laid out on the site of the present tennis club, and in 1694 a fives court was erected in the Fellows' garden. Some relaxation was allowed to the students at Christmas time, when they were permitted to play cards in the College Hall. The students of Stearne's time were, however, spared from one hardship which presses heavily on those of the present day. The examinations were few and far between, and candidates were permitted to perform Acts for the degrees in Arts on certificates of competency from their teachers. These Acts were the declaiming twice, once in Greek and once in Latin, *in laudem philosophiae*, and the acting as Respondent or Defendant in a logical disputation.

Under such conditions John Stearne worked diligently for two years, and in the Trinity Term of 1641 he was awarded a Scholarship. He did not at once enter on the enjoyment of the privileges attached to that high honour, for by an order of Parliament the Provost was forbidden to hold any election to Fellowship or Scholarships. That Stearne then won his Scholarship is attested by Dr. Barrett, who tells us that he "was afterwards allowed as such."

The times were out of joint. The Fellows of the College were plunged into discord by the introduction in 1637, under Provost Cappell, of the Caroline Charter and Statutes; and this discord had persisted under the rule of his successor, Richard Washington, who had been appointed Provost on July 28th, 1640. What might have been the outcome of these dissensions it is now impossible to say, for they were suddenly extinguished by the outbreak, in October, 1641, of the Irish Rebellion, and on October 29th of that year the Provost fled to England, accompanied or followed by some at least of his students, among whom was John Stearne.

When Stearne left Dublin he probably went to his grand-uncle, Archbishop Ussher, then Chancellor of the University,

who was at the time residing in England. From Ussher he obtained an introduction to Samuel Ward, the Master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. Ward received him kindly, and on July 8th, 1642, he matriculated as a Pensioner at Sidney Sussex College, and almost immediately afterwards graduated Bachelor in Arts in the University of Cambridge. Though he graduated in Arts so soon after his arrival in Cambridge, this did not mean that his academical studies were completed; indeed, they were probably only beginning in earnest. Life in a Cambridge College at the time was very similar to that in Trinity College, and the majority of the students and practically all of those who were preparing for Holy Orders continued their studies till they obtained their Master's degree. A regular curriculum was laid down for resident Bachelors, and this Stearne must have followed, for in 1646 he graduated Master in Arts of Cambridge. Unfortunately, we have not any definite information of the studies which Stearne engaged in; but he must have read deeply in the classics and in the philosophical works of the ancient Fathers of the Church. Although he does not tell us anything of his medical studies, almost certainly he must have studied medicine while he was at Cambridge; and Sidney Sussex College, where he lived, had, like Gonville and Caius College, some reputation as a resort of medical students.

It must not be thought that the curriculum for a medical student in the early part of the seventeenth century at all resembled that of the present day. We all know the story of the modern youth who said that he had started preparing for the medical profession, and, when asked what he was studying, stated that he had given up Greek. At the time Stearne was at Cambridge practically all the medical textbooks were written either in Greek or Latin. A knowledge of the works of Hippocrates and Galen, of the *De Medicina* of Celsus, with some practical knowledge of medical botany, and a theoretical rather than a practical acquaintance with anatomy, were what was expected of one who sought a degree in medicine.

It is doubtful if there was any systematic teaching of medicine in Cambridge when Stearne was there. Francis Glisson, who was Regius Professor of Physic from 1637 to 1677, never seems to have lectured at Cambridge, and indeed for a large part of the time he was not even in residence there. We know that anatomical dissections on the bodies of executed prisoners were conducted at intervals at Caius College; but probably there was not an average of one body dissected each year. There were, however, several men associated with the University who subsequently became distinguished in medicine, such as Helkiah Crooke, of St. John's; Winston and Jolyffe, of Clare; Drake and Thomas Wharton, of Pembroke; and George Ent, of Sidney Sussex College. Wharton, who probably was at Cambridge with Stearne, published in 1656 his *Adenographia*, in which he described for the first time the ducts of the submaxillary glands. Most of these men, though they studied medicine at Cambridge, and took degrees there, completed their medical education abroad; but we have no grounds for thinking that Stearne ever did this. It is difficult to understand how such men, without foreign study, learned to apply the theoretical knowledge they had gained at the University to the diagnosis of disease and the treatment of the sick, as there was no clinical teaching; but they did learn to do so, and many of them became successful practitioners. We have no evidence that Stearne was fired with zeal by the new knowledge of medicine which was springing up about him. He never seems to refer to Vessalius, the father of modern anatomy, though his *De humani Corporis Fabrica* had been published for one hundred years; nor does he speak of that epoch-making work, the *De Motu Cordis*, which William Harvey, an alumnus of Caius College, had published in 1628. This, perhaps, is the more remarkable as a nephew of the great Harvey was in residence at Caius College at the time Stearne was at Sidney Sussex.

The early part of Stearne's life at Cambridge, where he was well supplied with books, seems to have been spent in peaceful

and very assiduous study. It was, he tells us, the happiest time of his life; and he would not have cared to change his lot for all the riches of the King of the Persians. This peaceful life, however, was not destined to last. In 1643 the Parliamentary Commissioners visited Sidney Sussex College, and imprisoned its Master, Samuel Ward, who died on September 7th of that year, shortly after his liberation. In the following year Stearne's kinsman Richard, afterwards Archbishop of York, was ejected from the Mastership of Jesus College. Stearne remained at Sidney College under Ward's successor; but the trouble, or, as he calls it, *nova et insperata tempestas*, increased, and at last he was forced to leave. The exact date at which he left Cambridge is not certain; but probably it was in 1649, when he accompanied Seth Ward to Oxford. This Seth Ward, a kinsman of the former Master, was a Fellow at Sidney Sussex College during Stearne's residence, and on October 23rd, 1649, he was incorporated M.A. at Wadham College, Oxford, and appointed Savilian Professor of Astronomy in the University.

Though Stearne went to Oxford, and was received by Seth Ward, he was not incorporated in the University, and he does not seem to have held any official position in Wadham College. Indeed, he tells us that his friends there could offer him a hostel, but no domicile; and he found himself without prospects, without means, and a burden to his protectors. The outlook was dark; as he says, England a furnace, Ireland in ashes, and Scotland bursting into flame. It was then, he tells us, when all external sources of happiness appeared to be at an end, that he turned to the resources of his soul, and found peace and contentment in the Stoic philosophy. With this newly-found peace he retired to Bedfordshire. How he occupied himself in his retirement we do not know. Possibly he was engaged in medical practice, or, as Dr. Mahaffy suggested, he may have spent his time, like St. Paul in the wilderness, in contemplation preparatory to his future life-work. Whatever his occupation may have been, his retirement was short-lived, as is shown by

the following Order in Council, dated "Dub. 22 Oct. 1651":—  
"Ordered that Mr. John Stearne be admitted into Trinity Colledge neere Dublin as One of the Fellowes there for six monthes from the date hereof, in wch time the said Mr. Stearne is to produce Testimonialls of his former carriage and good affection to the Parliamt from godly and honest persons in England, either att Cambridge or in Bedfordshire where the said Mr. Stearne's last abode was."

What influence Stearne was able to exert to have this order made we do not know; but his former friends in Cambridge may have interested themselves on his behalf. Anthony Martin, Provost of Trinity College, had died of the plague in the College in July, 1650, and in June, 1652, Samuel Winter, a Cambridge man, had been formally appointed his successor by Oliver Cromwell. This Samuel Winter, known afterwards as the "pretented Provost," was at the Restoration deprived of his position for refusing to take the Provost's oath. He was, however, an enlightened man, most anxious for the welfare of the College; and Stearne may have been recommended by him, not only as a scholar, but as one who from his medical knowledge would be particularly useful in the plague-stricken city. At all events, Stearne's probation proved satisfactory, for on September 3rd, 1652, we find him signing the Register as "Registrarius"; and thus he was a Senior Fellow of Trinity College at the age of twenty-eight years.

Immediately on returning to Dublin, Stearne seems to have started on medical practice in the city, where, indeed, there was plenty of work for him to do; and in the College Register, under the date of May 22nd, 1655, there is the following order, signed by the Provost, the Vice-Provost, and three of the Senior Fellows:—"We ye Provost & Senior ffellows of Trinity Colledge neere Dublin at ye request of John Stearne, senior ffellow of ye sd Colledge, doe for, and in consideration of the sd John Stearne his practice in physicke hereby give and grante vnto the sd John Stearne full liberty to lye in the Cyty of Dublin or els where, when so ever

in his discretion his physicall employments shall require his absence any night from the Colledge."

When Stearne became a Fellow of the College, he appears also to have been appointed Medicus, or medical Fellow, and Professor of Medicine, though the actual date of his appointment to these offices is not recorded. On November 24th, 1656, he was in addition appointed Professor of Hebrew, at the not very princely salary of £45 a year, which salary and the duties of the Professorship were to begin in the following November. There was some difficulty about the ratification of this election, and, as in consequence Stearne did not deliver any Hebrew lectures, the Board refused to pay him the salary. On June 29th, 1659, Henry Cromwell wrote a very civil letter to the Board, suggesting that under the circumstances of the case it was "very reasonable and fitting the commencement of the payment of his salary be from November 20, 1657." To this the Board would not agree, voting him instead £20; and at the next meeting, on November 17th, 1659, Stearne resigned his Fellowship. At first sight it might seem that this serious step was taken by Stearne in consequence of his disagreement with the Board over his salary; but this, we think, is improbable. Such an action would be quite contrary to all we know of Stearne's character. He was essentially a Stoic, and as such he was prepared to make the best of things as he found them, rather than to seek to redress them by an active opposition. There are two other reasons which probably had more weight with him. Just about this time he married Dorothy, daughter of Charles Ryves, Esq., an Examiner in Chancery; and as the holding of a Fellowship by a married man was then contrary to the Statutes, he may have felt it his duty to resign. He could, however, almost certainly have then got a dispensation from the Statute, as he did, in fact, later on. Probably the reason which carried most weight with him was that he foresaw the imminent downfall of the Commonwealth and the return in the near future of the King. In that event he would feel safer were he not holding a position under the authority of the Protector. His maxim

of being all things to all men would influence him in such a decision. In accordance with this view is the fact that he had dedicated his first book to the Puritan Committee that was in control of the College, his second to Henry Cromwell, who had assumed the office of Chancellor of the University, and his third, after the Restoration, to the Duke of Ormond, who had resumed the dignity that had been usurped by Henry Cromwell.

Whatever may have been his reason, his action was justified, for by a King's Letter, dated December 29th, 1660, he was reappointed as Senior Fellow of the College, and he was given a dispensation as a married man. On June 3rd, 1662, he was re-elected Regius Professor of Medicine—a post which he continued to hold till his death.

In order to understand clearly the great work which Stearne accomplished for medicine in Ireland during his short lifetime, we must go back for a few moments to the early history of Trinity College. In 1604 the Corporation of Dublin had erected a building in Hoggen Green, on the site of the present Trinity Street, for use as a Bridewell, or "place of punishment for offenders and for putting idle persons to work." This building was never used for its intended purposes, and some years later the builder and the Corporation had a difference of opinion as to the payment for the work done. By direction of the Privy Council, the matter was submitted to arbitration, and eventually it was agreed that Breddan, the builder, was to be paid £32 for all his claims if he handed over the building in proper order. The Corporation was not anxious to fulfil this agreement; and through the instrumentality of the Lord Deputy the house was offered to Trinity College, on the express undertaking that it should be used as a School House, and if not so used, or used for any other purpose without the consent of the city authorities, it was to revert to the possession of the city. This Bridewell was then named Trinity Hall, and it was fitted up by the College as a Residence House for students. The plan did not prove to be a great success. There were difficulties in

the management of the house and in the control of the students in it, while later on lack of students and lack of funds compelled the College practically to abandon it. The house became "in a maner ruinated the sd College not being in a condition to looke after itt or wholley neglecting itt." When comparative order was established in Dublin under the Commonwealth, the premises again became valuable, and the city proposed to resume possession of the Hall, "because it was not imploy'd to the use intended." The Board of Trinity College was in a difficulty; it could not afford to restore the Hall, and it disliked the prospect of giving it back to the Corporation. As a way out of this difficulty the Board, in 1654, proposed to lease the premises to Colonel Markham and Dr. John Kerdiff, who in turn promised to secure the title of the College and to rebuild the house. This proposition Stearne strenuously opposed, on the grounds that to make such a lease of the premises "would be more directly contrary to the intent of the conveyance of the premises upon the sd College than any former either inability or neglect." As an alternative proposition he suggested to the Senior Fellows "that hee might be by them constituted President of the sd Hall during his naturall life, and accommodated with certain lodging therein, upon several conditions, whereof three were to keep out the Citty, and to repair the sd Hall, without charge to the College [which our College at that time was not able to defray] and to convert the remainder to what should be unto him allotted for his own accommodation, into the sole and proper uses of Physicians." The Board at once agreed to these proposals, and thus was started the first College of Physicians of Ireland, with John Stearne as its President. The repair of the Hall was at once put in hands, and for this Stearne himself contributed £100, and he collected other sums from his friends. Round him he gathered a number of medical men, who were known as Fellows of the Fraternity of Physicians, and who with him were to form the nucleus of a School of Medicine. That Stearne was in actual occupation of the Hall, and that he remained so after the resignation

of his Fellowship, is shown by the fact that he dedicated from it his book *De Concursu Examen* on the Ides of September, 1660—"Ex Aula Trinitatis. Id. Septemb. An. Dom. 1660."

At the Restoration Stearne was re-elected a Senior Fellow of Trinity College, and as such took the oath on January 22nd, 1660/61. Seven days later he was appointed Registrar. On February 18th following he submitted new proposals to the Board for the reconstitution of the Fraternity of Physicians in Trinity Hall, and these were at once adopted. To show how much in sympathy the Board was with these proposals, we may quote a minute from the Register of March 19th, wherein it is recorded that "the sd John Stearne shall not be penally obliged to be present at College-Prayers unless he be thereunto specially required, and that he receive his commons in money." Stearne's proposals for the College of Physicians are thus recorded in the Register of the Board:—

"1. That Trinity Hall with the land thereunto belonging may be set apart in perpetuum for the advancement of ye study of Physick in Ireland.

"2. That in pursuance of ye sayd designe John Stearne bee constituted President of the sd Hall for and during his naturall life.

"3. That the nomination of a President of ye sayd Hall upon vacancies bee always in the Provost & Senr. Fellows aforesd & their successours.

"4. That the sd John Stearne may accomodate himselfe with gardening upon the ground belonging to the sd Hall & with chambers out of the present building, or out of such as shall hereafter be raised upon the ground unto ye sd Hall appertaining.

"5. That the President of ye sd Hall shall call into a fraternity able Physitians who together with him are desired to endeavour to advance moneys for additional buildings to ye sd Hall, & to procure a Charter for to be a body Corporate with privileges.

"6. That all the students of Physicke in ye sd Hall shall until ye Presidente of the sd Hall, & the fraternity thereof

bee made a body corporate by chart. bee bound to come to prayers in Trinity Colledge aforesd & to perform exercises there according to their severall capacityes.

"7. That the President & Fraternity of ye sd Hall shall if demanded meet & consult upon the best means for the recovery of ye Provost & Senior Fellows aforesd & their Successours, whensoever any of them shall happen to be Sicke.

"8. That no students be admitted into ye sd Hall, but such as are first admitted or incorporated into ye Trinity Colledge aforesd : John Stearn.

"These proposals were approved by ye Provost & Senr. Fellows of Trinity Colledge aforesd and it is by them ordered that according to ye Tenor of ye sayd proposalls an Instrument be drawne up in due forme of law."

Such an instrument was drawn up, and it is copied in full into the Register of the Board.

As soon as Stearne had established the College of Physicians in Trinity Hall, he set himself to get for it a Royal Charter; but this he did not accomplish till 1667.

On the 8th day of August in the nineteenth year of his reign, counting from the execution of his father, King Charles II granted his Royal Charter incorporating the College "Per Nomen Presidentis et Sociorum Collegii Medicorum in Dublin." In this Charter John Stearne was nominated President for life, and with him were associated as Fellows thirteen doctors of medicine. Sir William Petty, Edward Dynham, Abraham Yarner, Joseph Waterhouse, William Currer, Robert Waller, Thomas Margetson, Nathaniel Henshaw, Samuel Scielamore, Jeremiah Hall, Charles Willoughby, John Unmusique, and John Cusacke. Unfortunately all the early records of the College have disappeared, so that it is impossible to say how many of these men had worked with Stearne in the early days of Trinity Hall. Almost certainly Petty and Yarner had done so, and probably with them was Gerald Fennell, who had died in 1665, and to whom Stearne refers as "*Hiberniae nostrae Hippocrates.*"

On November 18th, 1669, just two years and three months after the Charter was granted to the College, Stearne died, and he was buried under the old Chapel in Trinity College. On the north side of the great altar of that chapel there was erected to him a monument with an inscription written by his former friend and pupil, Henry Dodwell. This stone was in 1912 removed to the west side of the doorway of the present Chapel. His portrait, in his doctor's robes, by an unknown artist, hangs in the Provost's House, and a copy of it is preserved in our College. He was survived by his widow, one son, and three daughters. His son, John, afterwards became Bishop of Clogher and Chancellor of the University. One of his daughters became the wife of John Rotton, and their daughter subsequently married Richard Helsham, Swift's physician.

Stearne's work may be viewed in two aspects—the learned philosopher, and the busy medical practitioner. Unfortunately of the latter aspect, which interests us most, we have least information. During the short period of seventeen years after he returned to Dublin he achieved much. He discharged with punctuality the duties of a Senior Fellow of Trinity College; he lectured on Hebrew, on Medicine, and perhaps also on Law; he wrote six learned books, all of considerable length, and each packed tightly with erudition; he founded and nurtured our College, the first School of Physic in the country, and all the time he was engaged in busy medical practice in a city rife with disease. All this was accomplished in times of stress and trouble, and without any of those mechanical aids which do so much to lessen labour in the present day. Surely this is a fine record.

Of his powers as a teacher we know little. We do know, however, that one of his pupils, Henry Dodwell, afterwards attained considerable eminence; and Dodwell, who published Stearne's last book, speaks of his master in terms of affection. To have trained such a scholar as Henry Dodwell is no mean tribute to a teacher.

None of Stearne's works deals primarily with medicine. They are all philosophico-theological treatises dealing with such subjects as the healing of the Soul, Death, a criticism of the philosophy of Adrian Heereboord of Leyden, Aphorisms on Happiness, Election and Reprobation, the Introduction to a moral Life, and Steadfastness, in which he recommends the moral doctrines of the Stoics as taught by Seneca, Epictetus, and Antoninus. This last work was published after the death of the author by Henry Dodwell, who defends the orthodoxy of his teacher. All these works are crowded with citations from ancient and modern authors; and for practically every quotation Stearne gives an exact reference. The mere compilation of these references must have been a vast labour. Yet we must admit that, in spite of his great erudition, Stearne has added little to the sum of our knowledge. He was always more anxious to prove his learning, and to support it with authority, than to show his originality. In explanation of this we must remember that in the seventeenth century it was still a dangerous thing for a man to put forth novel views in matters connected with religion or philosophy. Even in medicine it was far from safe to counter the multitude, which Stearne describes as "*Bellua multorum capitum*." The great William Harvey is said to have lost much of his practice in consequence of the publication of his book the *De Motu Cordis*.

Of Stearne's work as founder of our College I have spoken already; but in connexion with that it must be remembered that he had no precedent in the country to guide him. In the first half of the seventeenth century there was in Ireland no systematized teaching of medicine; nor indeed was there any at Cambridge, where Stearne had studied. His wise foundation must have been in a large measure the product of his own intellect; and from that foundation the whole teaching of medicine in Ireland has sprung.

It not infrequently happens that a great physician leaves after him little permanent record by which his skill as a

practitioner can be judged. Not a few physicians and surgeons who have enjoyed and deserved large practices have written little about medicine. The tradition of their skill may last for a generation; but it is soon lost, and later historians find nothing on which they can form a judgment of their work. We may feel confident that Stearne enjoyed a considerable practice as a physician in Dublin. His skill in the treatment of the sick must have been considerable, or he would not have attained to that position in the profession which we know that he held. It is only from a few casual references in his works that we can form a judgment of his views on medicine. No doubt, he was greatly influenced by ancient authorities, and especially by the authority of the wise Father of Medicine Hippocrates, and by that wonderful master Galen. Like Hippocrates, Stearne appears to have relied not so much on medicine for the cure of disease as on hygiene for its prevention. He was a much more ardent supporter of what would now be called physical therapeutics than he was of the Galenical formulae. He extols the use of cold water both for drinking and for bathing in. He approves the use of tobacco, chiefly by chewing, and of opium; and generally the drugs he recommends are tonics and sedatives rather than specific remedies. He seems not to have had any use for the disgusting mixtures of animal excrement which were then so commonly in use. He recommends the mid-day sleep, especially in the sitting posture—a practice which many will approve. He supports the ancient view that the smell of freshly dug earth, *odor terrae purae recens effossae*, is beneficial—a maxim which will commend itself to the devotees of agriculture and of horticulture, and which may also explain the benefit which some golfers believe that they obtain from the pursuit of the game.

We may fairly conclude that in his practice he was careful, kindly, observant, and that his treatment of the sick was guided by those wise and rational principles which governed his life. He may well have been a good practitioner without

being a great physician in the sense that Harvey and Sydenham were great.

In this College we revere him as our founder, we honour him for his learning, but perhaps we most often think of him as the beloved physician who has handed down to us a great tradition of kindness and tolerance—

Philosophus Medicus summusque Theologus idem,  
Johannes Stearne, Medicinae et Juris Utriusque Doctor.

## APPENDIX.

### STEARNE'S WORKS.

Animi Medela; Seu de Beatitudine & Miseria, illius essentia, origine, et ad ipsam methodo: hujus natura, causis & remediis Tractatus. Dublinii Typis Gulielmi Bladin Anno Dom. MDCLVIII. 4to. 11.12, pp. 516, 11.16 (index).

Θανατολογία Seu de Morte Dissertatio. Dublinii, Typis Gulielmi Bladen. MDCLIX. 8vo. 11.8, pp. 288, 11.4 (index).

Clarissimi Viri Adriani Heereboordi Philosophiae Professoris Ordinarii Disputationum de Concursu Examen. Dublini: Gulielmi Bladen. MDCLX. 8vo. Title and pp. 204.

De Electione & Reprobatione Dissertatio. Ejusdem Manuductio ad Vitam Probam. Dublini: Johannis Crook. MDCLXII. 4to. 11.12, pp. 158.

Aphorismi de Felicitate. Dublini: Typis Johannis Crook. MDCLXIV. 8vo. 11.11, pp. 206.

De Obstatione. Opus Postumum Pietatem Christiano-Stoicam, Scholastico More, Suadens. Praefixa sunt Prolegomena Apologetica De usu dogmatum Philosophicorum praecipue Stoicorum in Theologia . . . Dublini: Benjamin Tooke. MDCLXXII. 8vo. 11.8, pp. 282, 1.1 (errata); 11.6, pp. 399, 11.4 (index).

## STEARNE'S EPITAPH.

TRANSLATION OF THE INSCRIPTION ON THE MEMORIAL STONE IN TRINITY  
COLLEGE TO THE MEMORY OF JOHN STEARNE.

[The inscription was written in Latin by Stearne's former pupil and friend, Henry Dodwell.]

Shield Party per pale. On dexter  
side three cross crosslets 2 and 1.  
On sinister, a bend with three  
lozenges.

P. M. S.

It is an accursed thing not to die.

Epictetus spake: to him hearkened

## JOHN STEARNE

M. & J. U. D. of the College of the Holy and Undivided  
Trinity at Dublin, Senior Fellow of the College  
of Physicians in the same place, First President, who  
was born at Ardracean November 26, 1624  
died at Dublin November 18, 1669: Whose  
mortal trappings, hereafter to be put on again, are  
here laid by.

Philosopher, Physician, and consummate Theologian in one,  
Stearne, now nought, is resting in the ground.

No doubt unfriendly Death, to prove his authority, has  
divided into two parts what Nature brought forth as one.  
But though thus now divided, Stearne will become one again  
and after the last day will pass in unity to immortality.

## TRANSLATION OF THE CHARTER OF CHARLES II, 1667.

CHARLES THE SECOND, by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, To all unto whom Our present letters shall come, Greeting. Whereas We consider it a duty of Our Kingly Office by every means to consult the welfare of those under Our Sovereignty: And whereas to this end it is specially necessary that Professors untrained in the Art of Medicine should be suppressed, and that those skilled in this Art should be favoured and encouraged: And whereas further it is Our Will that a perpetual College of grave and learned men be established, to make a public practice of Medicine in Our City of Dublin in Our said Kingdom of Ireland and within the space of seven miles from the said City in all directions.

Know, therefore, that We, of Our special Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, by and with the advice and consent of Our right-trusty and Our right-well-beloved Cousin and Councillor James, Duke of Ormond, Our Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Our said Kingdom of Ireland, and according to the tenor and effect of certain letters of Ours signed with Our Own Hand and under Our Own Seal, bearing date at Our Court of Whitehall, the twenty-eighth day of June, in the seventeenth year of Our Reign, and now inrolled in the Rolls of Our Court of Chancery of Our said Kingdom of Ireland.

We do grant, concede, establish and ordain that John Stearne, Doctor of Medicine, William Petty, Knight, Edward Dynham, Abraham Yarner, Joseph Waterhouse, William Currer, Robert Waller, Thomas Margetson, Nathaniel Henshaw, Samuel Seiclamore, Jeremiah Hall, Charles Willoughby, John Unmusique, and John Cusacke, all Doctors of Medicine, henceforth may be, and by virtue of these presents shall be, in deed fact and name, one Body Corporate and Politic and a perpetual Community or perpetual College by the name of the President and Fellows of the College of Physicians in Dublin, and them by the name of the President and Fellows of the College of Physicians in Dublin We raise, make, and ordain, and by these Presents We create into one Body corporate and politic in deed fact and name, actually and to the full, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors: And that under this name they may have a perpetual succession and that they may and shall be, for all future time, persons with full legal powers, apart from any licence to be obtained in this respect from Us Our Heirs and Successors, to have acquire receive and hold Lands Tenements and Hereditaments of what kind soever not exceeding the annual value of one hundred pounds sterling per annum.

And further, of Our special Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, by and with the advice and consent aforesaid, We do make, appoint, and ordain the aforesaid John Stearne first and present President of the aforesaid College or Community for the duty of overseeing examining and governing the College or Community aforesaid, and all those of the same faculty who are members of the aforesaid College, and their affairs. We ordain that he remain in that office for the duration of his natural life: Further We ordain and declare that after the death of the aforesaid John Stearne the Provost, Fellows, and Scholars of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity near Dublin for the time

being, because they have bound themselves to give establish and dispose a hall of the community, called Trinity Hall, together with the lands contiguous to the same, to the use of the said Community or College of Physicians, they and their successors from time to time, as often as it is necessary, may be able and are empowered each year for ever, after the death of the said John Stearne, to choose from the Community and College of Physicians aforesaid such prudent man and one experienced in the faculty of Medicine as shall be approved by Our Lieutenant-General, or Deputy, or other chief Governor or Governors of Our said Kingdom of Ireland for the time being, to be President of the same College or Community of Physicians aforesaid for the task of overseeing, examining, and governing the College or Community of Physicians aforesaid for one whole year, together with all those of the same faculty being members of the College of Physicians aforesaid and their affairs. And that the President and College or Community of Physicians aforesaid have a common seal to serve the business of the said Community and President for ever. And that they by the name of the President and Fellows of the College of Physicians in Dublin have power to sue and be sued before any Judges whatsoever in all Our Courts and in any Processes whatsoever. And further We do will, and by these presents for Ourselves, Our Heirs and Successors, We grant and concede to the aforesaid President and Fellows of the College of Physicians in Dublin and their successors for ever full power and authority from time to time of choosing such person or persons, professing medicine as they or the majority of them (among whom it is Our Will that the President of the said College of Physicians for the time being be included) with the approval of Our Lieutenant-General, or Deputy or other chief Governor or Governors of Our said Kingdom of Ireland for the time being, shall judge to be fitting, to be Members or Fellows of the said Community or College of Physicians aforesaid. And further, We of Our more abundant special Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, by and with the advice and consent aforesaid, have granted and conceded, and by these presents for Ourselves, Our Heirs and Successors, do grant and concede to the aforesaid President and Fellows of the College of Physicians in Dublin aforesaid, and their successors for ever, that they and their successors may have hold and convoke lawful and honourable assemblies on their own business in the aforesaid Hall, commonly called Trinity Hall, or elsewhere (as often as it is necessary) and make, establish and ordain such Statutes and Ordinances for the wholesome and better governance of the College or Community of Physicians aforesaid as shall have been approved by Our Lieutenant General or Deputy or other chief Governor or Governors and Council of Our said Kingdom of Ireland for the time being. And that in the said City, and within the space of seven miles from the said City on all sides, none may practise the said Faculty of Medicine except he shall have been admitted to do so by the said President and Community of the College of Physicians aforesaid or their successors for the time being, by Letters Testimonial sealed under the common seal of the said President and College of Physicians, under the penalty and forfeit of one hundred shillings sterling for each month in which he, without having been admitted, has practised the same Faculty of Medicine within the aforesaid bounds and districts, one moiety whereof is to be paid to Us

Our Heirs and Successors, and the other moiety to the President of the College of Physicians for the time being. And further, out of Our more abundant special Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, by and with the advice and consent aforesaid, We have granted and conceded, and by these presents for Ourselves, Our Heirs and Successors We do grant and concede to the aforesaid President and Fellows of the College of Physicians in Dublin, and to their Successors for ever, that these Our Letters Patent, and whatsoever article and clause contained in the same, or enrolment of the same there may be, be construed, interpreted and adjudged to the greatest advantage benefit and favour of the aforesaid President and Fellows of the College of Physicians in Dublin aforesaid and their successors against Us Our Heirs and Successors both in all Our Courts within Our Kingdom of Ireland as elsewhere everywhere without the necessity of producing or obtaining any confirmation license or permission henceforth from Ourselves Our Heirs or Successors. Notwithstanding a certain Statute published in Our Kingdom in the seventh year of the Reign of King Edward the First *De Terris in manum mortuam non alienandis* etc. And notwithstanding another Statute published at Westminster in the eighteenth year of the Reign of King Edward the First called the Statute *Quia Emptor Terrarum*. And notwithstanding any other Statute Act Ordinance or Provision or any other thing cause or matter whatsoever to the contrary: Provided always that the President and Fellows of the aforesaid College of Physicians will enrol or cause to be enrolled Our Letters Patent in the Rolls of Our High Court of Chancery in Our said Kingdom of Ireland within the six months next after the date of these Letters Patent; because no express mention has been made in these presents of the true annual value or of the certainty of the premises or any of them, or of other gifts or concessions hitherto made through Us or any of Our Ancestors to the same President and Fellows of the College of Physicians aforesaid; notwithstanding any Statute Act Ordinance or Provision or any other thing cause or matter whatsoever made in contrary premises or in any thing. We Will further, and through these presents for Ourselves Our Heirs and Successors We do grant and concede to the same President and Fellows of the College of Physicians aforesaid that they may and shall have these Our Letters duly made Patent and sealed under Our Great Seal of Ireland free from fine great or small from thence to be delivered paid or made over to Us in Our Hanaper or elsewhere for Our use. In witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent. Witness Our aforesaid Lieutenant-General and Our General Governor aforesaid of Our Kingdom of Ireland. At Dublin, the eighth day of August in the nineteenth year of Our Reign.

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The original Charter, granted to the College by Charles II, was surrendered in 1692, when the present Charter was granted by William and Mary. Before it was surrendered this Charter had been copied into "Dun's Book" in the College, and it is from that copy that the present translation has been made. I am much indebted to Dr. Gilbert Smyly, F.T.C.D., Librarian of Trinity College, for help in deciphering the Charter, and to Mr. William Greer, Sen. Mod., B.A., for the translation.

