

Authentic memoirs of the life of Richard Mead, M.D.

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OF THE

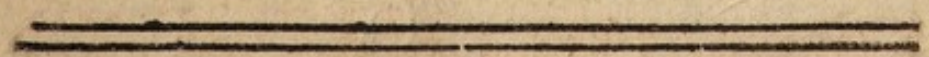
LIFE

OF

RICHARD MEAD, M. D.



Debita laus Medicis, et tu celebrandus in illis:
Debita Patronis laus prope tota tua est.



L O N D O N,

Printed for J. WHISTON, and B. WHITE in
Fleet-street. MDCCLV.



ANALYTIC

MEMOIR

OF THE

J. H. E.

OF

RICHARD MEND, M.D.

Debita hinc Medicis, et in celis hinc hinc
Debita hinc hinc hinc hinc hinc hinc

J. O. W. D. O. M.

Printed for J. Winters, and H. Winters in
New York, M.D.C.C.LXXV.

P R E F A C E.

WHEN Dr. MEAD died, full of years and honours, the Author of the *Britannic Journal* took the first opportunity to speak of him in such terms as were due to his merit; induced to it both by respect to his memory, and by the nature of the work wherein he was engaged, which would ill answer the title of a *Britannic Journal*, if no mention had been made in it, of a man who was one of the ornaments of this Nation. The design of that Journal hath been, to do justice to English writers, who make so considerable a figure in the Republic of letters; to assist in spreading their reputation abroad; and to give a fair account of their works without censoriousness or adulation, two ingredi-


ents which serve for salt and sugar in some compositions, but which he never thought proper to admit into his, tho' he may suffer in the opinion of some Authors for omitting the latter.

His friends, to whom he will always own his obligations, furnished him with some Memoirs and Materials to work upon, and one of them was so good as to undertake the trouble of translating this small Essay, which since hath received considerable additions, and which was begun and ended in the most disinterested manner; since civilities to the dead are seldom received and felt as obligations by the living; and therefore it may reasonably be hoped and expected that they who should not entirely approve the execution, will at least judge favourably of the intention.

AUTHENTIC



AUTHENTIC
MEMOIRS
OF THE
LIFE
OF
RICHARD MEAD, M. D.

 RICHARD MEAD derived his descent from a considerable Family in *Buckinghamshire*; but he was born in *Stepney*, a small village near *London*, on the 11th of *August* 1673.

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His father, *Matthew Mead*, a celebrated Divine among the Non-conformists, had been one of the two ministers of that parish; but was ejected for Non-conformity the 2^d year after the Restoration of *Charles II* (*a*). As he had a handsome fortune, he bestow'd a liberal Education on his thirteen children, of whom *Richard* was the eleventh; he kept a private Tutor (*b*) in his house, who taught them the Latin Language, as well by practice as by the rules of Grammar.

(*a*) This did not prevent him, from continuing (the interval of his absence only excepted) to preach there to a numerous congregation of Dissenters, till the time of his death, which happened the 16th of *October*, 1699.

(*b*) Mr. *John Nesbitt*, afterwards minister of one of the principal congregations of the Independents in *London*.

But the violent measures of those times broke up this little domestic school in 1683. King *Charles*, or rather his Brother, who governed in his name, was determined to be revenged on all those whom he could not gain over, and took advantage of the ill directed zeal of the high Church party to compass his ends. Accordingly our old minister of *Stepney* was accused of being privy to some designs against the Government; as he was an avowed Nonconformist, he could not venture to trust to his innocence, and therefore chose the safer means of flight. He withdrew into *Holland*, after having placed his son, who had already made a great proficiency in the Latin tongue, in a school under the

direction of an excellent master (*c*), who was of the same principles with himself: here in a few years, the youth distinguished himself to such advantage, by the vivacity of his genius, uncommon strength of memory, skill in the Greek, as well as the Latin languages, and ready talents in verse, that at the latter end of the year 1689, at the age of sixteen, he was sent to *Utrecht*, to compleat his Humanities, under the illustrious *Grævius*, to whom his eldest brother, who had likewise been his pupil, recommended him (*d*) as a modest young man, who had

(*c*) Mr. *Thomas Singleton*, who had been second master of *Eton* school which he was obliged to quit in 1662, on account of his non-conformity.

(*d*) *Juvenis frugi et modestus, bonisque literis haud plane ἀμνηστος.*

already

already made a progress in polite literature.

After three years residence in *Utrecht*, Mr. MEAD went to *Leyden*, and being determined to dedicate himself to the study of Physick, he attended *Herman's* Botanical Courses and the Lectures on the theory and practice of Physick by the famous *Pitcairn*. This Professor was seldom very communicative out of College; however, our young student found the art of recommending himself so far to his good graces and confidence, that he drew from him several observations, which he afterwards turned to excellent uses in some of his writings, though never without acknowledging to whom he was indebted for them.

To his academical studies succeeded his travels, in company with his eldest brother, *David Pollbill* Esq. and Dr. *Thomas Pellet*, afterwards President of the College of Physicians at *London*. In *Italy* he met with every thing that could gratify his exact and refined taste for all that is great and beautiful. At *Florence* he had the curiosity to enquire for the *Tabula Isiaca*; but not being able to get any information about it, he desired leave to search for it in a lumber room over the gallery. There he found this valuable piece of Antiquity, buried in dust and rubbish, where it had been carelessly thrown, and during many years given over for lost. At *Padua* he took his degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Physic, the

16th of *August* 1695, and spent some time afterwards at *Naples* and *Rome*. On his return home, about the middle of the year 1696, he settled in the place, and the very house in which he was born, where he practised Physic for some years with a success, and superiority of skill, that established his reputation, and laid the foundation of his future greatness.

In 1702 he published his *Mechanical account of Poisons*, which he had begun many years before. It required no small degree of courage to try experiments upon such noxious substances, then the more dangerous, as their properties were less known; however, Mr. MEAD ventured to handle vipers, to provoke them, and make them lay hold with
their

their teeth, on hard bodies, and by that means collected their venom in all its strength. This high pitch of heroism, to which he had wrought himself, is finely represented by an antique statue, in his collection, engraved on a copper plate at the end of his Book; the figure is a Child in a bold and graceful attitude, holding out by the neck an enraged serpent, with this device, *Labor est Angues superare*. When he had collected this poison, he examined it through a microscope, and discovered in it those hard and crystalline points whence probably it derives all its force. He then conveyed at the point of a little steel needle, some of the venom into the veins of several living creatures, whose death decided the famous

controversy

controversy between *Redi* and *Charas* (*e*) to the advantage of the former; he also mixed some of it with human blood, which suffered no visible alteration either in colour or consistence; and relying on the word of the Poet (*f*), he ventured even to taste it, in order to establish the usefulness of the method of the *Psylli*, who were wont to suck the wounds made by the bite of Serpents. Though it may seem needless to enter into the particulars of several curious observations that occur in these *Essays*, yet I cannot help

(*e*) The former affirmed that the venom of the viper lay in the yellow liquor of the gums; the latter placed it altogether in the enraged spirits of the animal.

(*f*) *Noxia serpentum est admisto sanguine pestis:
Morsu virus habent, et fatum dente minantur:
Pocula morte carent.* Lucan Pharf. ix. 614.

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taking notice of the third, which relates to the effects of the bite of a mad dog. In the history of this terrible disorder, no author, not even *Boerhaave* himself, hath so accurately described the universal tension and sensibility of the membranes, the almost general perceptibility of pain, the uncommon strength of the muscles, &c. Whether our Author was as happy in curing as in describing this disease, which hath been long given up by the rest of the Faculty, as beyond the reach of their art, may be questioned: yet certainly his desire to discover a Specific for it, and his generosity in communicating freely to the public the result of a long experience of its effects, deserve the highest commendations. Neither ought we to

pass

pass over in silence his great regard for the peace of society, in stifling his discoveries of several chemical productions which might have tended to the improvement of the art; but to the destruction of mankind. These *Essays*, however justly they might be esteemed by the learned on their first appearance, yet did the author still more honour in the Edition he published of them about forty years afterwards. Here he hath set a noble example to scholars, in retracting some of his former opinions, in owning himself mistaken concerning some facts, and too hasty in some of his conclusions.

In his younger days he imagined he was able to account mechanically

cally for the effects of several poisons, by their mixture with the blood; but when he was improved by age and experience, he was fully convinced that there is, in all living creatures, a vehicle infinitely more subtil, an ethereal and invifible liquor, over which poisons have a real tho' inexplicable power. Such is the progress of science; at every step we ascend, the horizon widens but grows less distinct. We begin by thinking every thing easy to be explained, we end by finding that in reality nothing is so.

This observation was never better illustrated than by the system which Dr. MEAD attempted to establish in his second work. *The influence of the Sun and Moon upon human*

human bodies, which had been admitted by all antiquity, and established on incontestable phænomena, appeared to him to be deducible from the principles of planetary Attraction, lately discovered by Sir *Is. Newton*. In 1704 it was thought a very considerable thing to understand the system of that Philosopher, and they who did so were willing the world should know it. It was the genius and universal fashion of the Physicians at that time to introduce Attraction into their art, as the modern ones have adopted Electricity for the same purposes; though I apprehend the success hath not quite answered the endeavours of *Cheyne*, *Keil*, *Freind*, and *Mead*. To instance only in the alteration produced by
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the heavenly bodies on animal substances, it doth not appear that the doctrine of Gravity is sufficient to account for it (g). However, as it

(g) It is a vain attempt to derive all the periodical returns, either of the actions or the disorders in the animal œconomy, from the celestial bodies at their meridian. If, according to the opinion of *Aristotle*, men died only at the time of the sea's reflux; if the septenary crisis of fevers fell regularly on the quarter days; if the new and full Moons had a sensible influence on births and deaths; if, lastly, the same days of the month were equally troublesome to women; we might perhaps be inclined to account for these phænomena on the same principles with the tides. I say only perhaps; for after all, what connexion is there between the two things? Does the human body bear a less or a greater weight when the sea is low or high? Or rather is it not evident by the Barometrical observations, that there is no difference? how indeed should there be any? It is true, that a cubic foot of air or water weighs less at the flood, than at the ebb; but then the column of the fluid is higher ac-

is not to be doubted that many phænomena in the animal œconomy have the same periods with the course of the planets, we ought to think our selves obliged to Dr. MEAD for his observations on them. *The particular merit of this work, say the Journalists of Paris, at the end of their Extract (b), is, that independently of the system, we find it filled with a number of observations of great importance in the practice of Physic.*

according to the same proportion. The bottom of the sea with all its contents at all times equally pressed in all its parts, unless the equilibrium be destroyed by irregular winds; and what is true with regard to the sea, must be so too with regard to the atmosphere.

(b) *Journ. des Sçav. Dec. 1705.*

Dr.

Dr. MEAD now began to find his growing labors rewarded with successive honors. The *Analysis* which he presented to the *Royal Society*, of Dr *Bonomo's* (i) discoveries with relation to the cutaneous worms that generate the itch, together with his account of poisons, deservedly obtained him a place in a body where *Newton* presided. Two years after he was chosen one of the Council, into which he was again elected in 1707, where he continued till the time of his death. On *Dec. 17, 1717*, he was appointed by Sir *Isaac*

(i) This is inserted in the *Philosophical Transactions* of the first months of the year 1703, *Art. 2*. The original Letter of *Bonomo* to *Redi* was published in *Italian*, in the year 1687. Dr. MEAD met with it in his 'Travels thro' *Italy*.

one of the Vice Presidents. On *May 5th*, 1703, he was chosen Physician to *St. Thomas's Hospital*; upon which he took a house in *Crutched Friars*, where he resided till he removed, about 1711, to one in *Austin Friars*, which had been inhabited by *Dr. Howe*, then deceased: And about the same time was appointed by the Company of Surgeons to read the Anatomical Lectures in their Hall; which he continued to do six or seven years with great applause. In 1707 he was honoured by the University of *Oxford*, with the degree of Doctor of Physic, by a Diploma, dated 4th *December*; and on the 9th of *April* 1716 he was admitted Fellow of the College of Physicians; where he executed the office of Censor in the years

1716, 1719, and 1724, but declined the Presidentship which was offered him the 1st of *October* 1744. He was likewise elected on the 6th of *October*, in the year following, Honorary member of the Royal College of Physicians at *Edinburgh*. His present Majesty, who had employed him in his Family while he was Prince of *Wales*, on his Accession to the Throne in 1727, appointed him his own Physician; in which eminent station he had the satisfaction afterwards to have his two Sons-in-law for his Associates.

Whatever merit a young Physician may have in his profession, he seldom gets into any vogue, unless his own personal qualifications and the friendly protection of some eminent brother of the faculty, assist

assist him to force his way through the croud. Mr. MEAD was happy in both those advantages : his manners were naturally gentle ; his heart good, his soul noble, adorned, and susceptible of the best impressions. Dr. *Ratcliffe*, the most celebrated Physician of his time, took a particular pleasure in patronizing a young man of such amiable endowments, who, on his part, was not wanting in acknowledgments to his old protector. In 1714 *Ratcliffe* died ; and Dr. MEAD took the house (a) of that sagacious practitioner.

(a) The distance of this new house in *Bloomsbury Square* from *St. Thomas's Hospital*, induced him to resign his place in it the 5th *January*, 1714-15; upon which occasion he received the unanimous Thanks of the grand Committee for his services, and was presented with a Governor's staff.

As his reputation was now sufficiently established, he was called in consultation to Queen *Anne*, two days before her death. They who are acquainted with Courts, will easily conceive the situation of Physicians in the Antichamber, or near the bed of a dying Sovereign: their hands hold the page of fate; from their words advantages are drawn, intrigues are formed, and by their very looks men and parties foretel their own rise or fall. The wise, therefore, are the most reserved; for fear of endangering their fortune or their art, they observe the mysterious ambiguity of ancient oracles, and refer the inquisitive croud to nature, and to time. This was the conduct of her Majesty's Physicians; Dr. MEAD, either more clear sighted,

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or more bold, no sooner saw the Queen than he declared she could not hold it out long ; but finding it difficult to obtain credit, he added, out of Humanity or Prudence, that it would be sufficient to send to *Hanover* an account of the present symptoms, by which the Physicians of that Court would immediately see, that before the account came to them the Queen would be no more.

As he was intimately connected with all those of his own Profession, who resembled him most in the qualifications of the head and heart, he confined not his regard to any sect or party ; *Garth* and *Arbutnot* were both his friends ; and though he was himself zealously attached

tached to the Government by principle as well as gratitude, yet he lived in the strictest intimacy with the famous Dr. *Freind*; and when the latter, on a suspicion of his having been engaged in the same designs with Bishop *Atterbury*, was sent to the Tower, Dr. MEAD constantly visited him, and was one of those who bailed him at the time of his enlargement. It was during his confinement that *Freind* addressed to his generous benefactor his letter on some singular species of the small-pox; and likewise his History of Physic from the time of *Galen*.

But what contributed most of all to cement the union of these two great men, was a common quarrel that

that happened some years before. Dr. MEAD, in the course of his practice, having had frequent opportunities to experience the efficacy of purgatives to prevent, or at least to lessen the secondary fever, which so often proves fatal in the confluent small-pox, communicated his discovery to several of his Brethren, who had the greatest share of his confidence, and in particular to *Ratcliffe* and *Freind*; the latter adopted it, and, in his Commentary on the first and third Books of *Hippocrates's Epidemics*, which he published in 1717, he inserted the letter which MEAD had written to him seven years before on that subject. These two Gentlemen being now considered as associated in the same cause, a party was immediately formed, both a-

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gainst the new practice and the favourers of it. In consequence of this, the publick was presented with a Book, entitled, though very improperly, *The state of physic and diseases, with an enquiry into the causes of the late increase of them, but more particularly of the small-pox.* This was the work of a celebrated Naturalist, (a) but a man better qualified to discover what passed in the bowels of the earth than in those of the human body. This work ought either to have been slighted by these two great Physicians, as unworthy their regard, or have been opposed by reason and argument; but the desire of defending themselves carried them too great lengths against their adversary; and,

(a) Dr. WOODWARD.

not to mention some circumstances and some printed tracts that followed this famous controversy, it were to be wished that resentment of former injuries had not had so great a share in drawing that Picture, which Dr. MEAD was pleased to give us of his Antagonist twenty years after his death, in the Preface to his *Treatise on the small-pox and measles*.

This work, which I place here, as rather following the order of the subjects, than of the dates, had been mentioned before by Dr. *Freind*, in the Letter which he published in 1719, *upon the use of Purgatives in the confluent small-pox*: but the treatise itself did not appear till 1747, our learned Physician having em-
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ployed

ployed the leisure hours of this long interval in polishing and perfecting the Work, in which the experience he had acquired by a long and successful practice was of infinite service to him. This is one of his Latin compositions, and is as much admired by scholars for the purity and elegance of the style, as it is by the faculty for its simplicity, fidelity, and precision, as an elementary Treatise: His design in annexing the translation of *Rhazes*, was to shew the conformity of the practice of the *Arabs* with that which had been so well explained and illustrated by *Sydenham*, *Freind*, and *Boerhaave*. It was the last of these three great men, who, at MEAD'S request, sent him a
copy

copy of the only remaining *Arabic* MS. of *Rhazes's* Treatise, which is preserved at *Leyden*. It was translated by three of the greatest Masters in that Language, *Negri*, *Gagnier*, and *Hunt*.

A constant correspondence had long subsisted between Dr. MEAD and *Boerhaave*, who had been Fellow Students at *Leyden*. They communicated to each other their observations (*m*) and projects, and mutually gave and received pre-

(*m*) In the treatise on *poisons*, we meet with a case of hydrophobia communicated by Dr. *Boerhaave*, and it was on the observations of his friend that the Professor of *Leyden* declared in favour of Inoculation.

sents (*n*), and, what is never to be found but among truly great men, they were friends, tho' rivals, and never loved each other the less for differing in some particulars. The *English* Physician did not approve of the *Leyden* Professor's notion of the possibility of curing the Small-pox without suppuration; and the latter as little relished what to him appeared the premature use of Purgatives in the same distemper. One treated as chimerical the notion of admitting antimony and mercury as specifics against the Small-pox; the other looked on the

(*n*) At the time Dr. *Boerhaave* was preparing his Edition of *Aretæus*, he received, as a present from his friend, *Wigan's* splendid Edition of this Author.

earthy

earthy ash-coloured mofs (o) as too much cried up in the cure of the *Hydrophobia*. Dr. MEAD differed likewise in opinion from the famous *Astruc*, concerning the use of Mercurial Unctions: he thought the safest way of raising a Salivation, was by internal medicines, and that external applications were attended with much greater inconveniencies.

(o) *Lichen cinereus terrestris*. This mofs, which was an ingredient in a family receipt of *Dampier*, the Traveller, against the disease occasioned by the bite of the mad dog, was admitted into the *London Pharmacopœia* in 1720, at the sollicitation of Sir *Hans Sloane*, and in 1735 Dr. MEAD published a paper, in which he recommended a mixture of this mofs with pepper, under the name of *Pulvis antilyssus*, as an infallible specific against that disease.

He did not however convince the learned *Frenchman*; and without taking any notice of his arguments he retained the highest esteem for him, and at the same time the strongest attachment to his own opinion.

Before we leave the Treatise on the Small-pox, it will be proper to take some notice of the chapter upon *Inoculation*; and the rather, as it brings us back to that period of time which we had almost lost sight of. In the year 1721, his present Majesty, then Prince of *Wales*, ordered Dr. MEAD to assist at the *Inoculation* of some condemned criminals, intending afterwards to recommend the practice of it to the people by the illustrious

illustrious example of his own Royal Family; our ingenious Physician, not content with examining attentively all the effects of the *Circassian* operation upon six of the prisoners, caused the *Chinese* method likewise to be tried on the seventh. The success of these experiments is universally known; and it is a pleasure to see, that the same man who had so great a hand in introducing *Inoculation* into this kingdom, and who afterwards so frequently assisted at it, should, after thirty years experience, find new arguments to confirm him in the high idea he had at first of its usefulness.

He had been applied to before, in an affair of still greater consequence.

quence. The Plague, which in 1719 was so fatal at *Marseilles*, gave the alarm to all other Cities that were exposed to the same infection, and in particular to *London*, where the dreadful year 1665, which in ten months time swept away an hundred thousand inhabitants, was still fresh in many men's memory. The consternation of the people was increased by their ignorance of the true causes of the evil. Was it to be imputed to the effects of a contagion communicated from abroad? This the greater number of the *French* Physicians denied; and indeed the interest of commerce seemed to be on the side of the negative. On the other hand, it would have been still more dangerous

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rous to give way to panic fear, and neglect all precaution on the principle then prevailing among the *English*, tho' of *Turkish* original, that the plague is a periodical disease, generated in the place where it breaks out, and not to be prevented, allayed, or cured, till it has taken its course. In this extremity therefore the Lords of the Regency directed Mr. *Craggs*, then Secretary of State, to apply to Dr. MEAD, as the man the best qualified, by his great skill in ancient and modern Physics, to find out the most effectual methods to prevent, or, in case of necessity, to stop the plague. After a careful and diligent enquiry, he declared it as his opinion, agreeably indeed to his system

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of Poisons and the Small-pox, that the plague is a contagious distemper. This opinion was approved; quarantine was accordingly ordered to be performed: these orders were, however, recalled, not in compliance with the clamors of an opposite faction, or the chicanery of a weak antagonist, but on the cessation of the plague among our neighbours. Had the disease reached the capital, it is to be presumed that the Doctor's advice, with respect to *Lazaretto's*, lines of circumvallation, and purifications of the air, would have exactly been followed, and that he himself, thus honoured with the confidence of the public, would not have violated the glorious obligation, and, like

like *Sydenham*, have fled from danger. How much his scheme was universally approved of is evident from the numerous sale of his *short Discourse, concerning pestilential Contagion, and the Methods to be used to prevent it*, published in 1720, and dedicated to the Secretary of State, of which no less than seven editions were printed in one year. The eighth, which appeared in 1723, was enlarged with many new observations, and a whole chapter on the method of cure; and the last, in 1744, received the further improvement of some new cases, with his animadversions upon them. The first edition was translated into Latin by Mr. *Michael Maittaire*, and

the eighth by the learned Professor
Ward (p).

This celebrated Antiquarian had soon afterwards another opportunity of signalizing his zeal in favour of a man, with whom he was strictly united by a conformity of inclinations and studies. Dr. MEAD's *Oratio Harveiana*, pronounced the 18th October 1723, and published about the beginning of the following year (q), was attacked pretty roughly by

(p) Dr. MEAD used frequently to wish, that this version had been inserted in the *Göttingen* Edition of his works, or at least that the Gentleman who translated them had been better acquainted with the language and meaning of his Author.

(q) *Oratio anniversaria Harveiana in Theatro Regii Medicorum Londinensium Collegii habita,*

Dr. *Middleton*. The subject of this famous controversy was, whether the Physicians of antient *Rome* were not in general vile and despi-

ad diem xviii Octobris 1723. Adjecta est Dissertatio de Nummis quibusdam à Smyrnæis in Medicorum honorem percussis. In 4^{to} Lond. 1724. The system which the learned *Chisbull*, and after him Dr. MEAD, grounded upon some medals found at *Smyrna*, about a College of Physicians settled in that city, from the most ancient times, and distinguished by the privilege of celebrating annual games in honour of *Aesculapius*, and of *Hygea* the Goddess of health, was at least very ingenious; but whether Mr. *Wise* has shewn it to be only ingenious, and has more happily accounted for these Medals, by referring them to *Homer*, whom he thinks a *Smyrnan*, must be left to the decision of the Learned. See his book, entitled, *Nummorum antiquorum scriniis Bodleianis reconditorum Catalogus, cum Commentario, Tabulis æneis, et Appendice.* Oxonii, 1750, in folio p. 145, &c.

cable slaves, or whether there were not some among them at least who enjoyed the privileges of a free condition, and the honours due to their services : 'tis needless to repeat what has been said in another place upon a question of little importance to know, and of much difficulty to decide (r). Dr. MEAD's cause was

(r) See *Journal Britannique*, Tom. ix. p. 15. Notwithstanding the heat with which this controversy was managed, Dr. *Middleton* every where expresses the greatest regard for Dr. MEAD, and many years after, when he had occasion to mention his name in his book of the *Greek and Egyptian Antiquities*, on account of an ancient piece of painting in the Doctor's possession, he draws his Character in such expressions, as I cannot forbear transcribing. MEADIUS noster, artis Medicæ decus, qui vitæ revera nobilis, vel principibus in republica viris, exemplum præbet, pro eo, quo omnibus fere prædefended

defended by the learned *Ward*, whose answer to *Middleton's* reply seems to have disarmed this redoubted enemy of the Physicians. There is reason however to believe the Doctor would either have qualified or confirmed his thesis, had he been able to finish a Latin work which was to have been entitled *Medicina vetus collectitia, ex auctoribus antiquis non Medicis*, for he had a greatness of mind that would not suffer him knowingly to persist in his errors.

Mr. *Carte*, who under the borrowed name of *Phillips* resided in

stat, artium veterum amore, alias postea quasdam (imagines) et splendidiores, opinor, Romam quoque deportandas curavit.

France,

France, in the year 1722, having collected there materials for an *English* translation of the History of *Thuanus*, our learned Physician quickly perceived that this plan might be enlarged. He looked on his country as too disinterested to desire to possess this foreign treasure alone, and was desirous *England* might do for *Thuanus*, more than *France* itself; by procuring for all *Europe*, the first complete Edition of this immortal History. He therefore satisfied Mr. *Carte* for the pains he had taken, and employed Mr. *Buckley*, as an Editor equal to such a task, whose three letters written in *English* to the Doctor, contain many curious particulars concerning the
 History

History itself, and the plan of this new Edition, to the perfection and beauty of which Dr. MEAD so liberally contributed. These Letters were translated into Latin, by Mr. Professor *Ward*, with an elegance worthy the place they hold in the Front of the Work, which was published in 1733, in 7 Vol. folio.

Without the interposition of Dr. MEAD there is great reason to fear that the invention of Mr. *Sutton*, to draw out all the foul and corrupted air, from ships and other close and confined places, by the means of fire, would have shared the same fate with many other useful discoveries, which ignorance, jealousy, and often private interest, have stifled in their

F birth.

birth. But fortunately our illustrious Patron of Sciences, being at first sight convinced of the advantages of this method, and looking on it as the most useful discovery in mechanics, that this or the last age had produced, was determined to allow time and patience for the perfecting a scheme which he was positive could not but succeed in the end: accordingly he engaged the Lords of the Admiralty to order a trial of the new machine to be made, at which he himself assisted with them, and several Fellows of the Royal Society, whom he had interested in the same cause: he presented a Memorial to that learned body, wherein he has clearly demonstrated, both its simplicity and efficacy, and likewise caused

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a model of it to be made in copper, which he deposited in their Museum. At last, after a ten years tedious sollicitation, he did obtain of the Lords of the Admiralty, an order to Mr. *Sutton* to provide all the ships of his Majesty's navy, with this useful machine.

Several pieces, among which Mr. *Watson's* excellent Memoir deserves particularly to be mentioned, were written on this subject, and afterwards collected into one volume octavo, published in 1749. This book received considerable improvements from Dr. MEAD, not only by his Preface and the Dissertation published in the *Philos. Transactions*, but likewise by an original Discourse on the Scurvy, in

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which he hath drawn his materials from the accurate observations on that terrible disease that occur in Lord *Anson's* voyage ; and his own directions founded on them may serve hereafter to prevent those fatal accidents that have so often obstructed the success of naval expeditions.

Being arrived at that time of life when retirement becomes necessary, Dr. MEAD employed his leisure in revising his former and composing new works. *Medica sacra, sive de morbis insignioribus qui in Bibliis memorantur commentarius*, was the product of those hours, which among wise men constitute the interval between old age and death ; the design of this piece is to reconcile

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cile those persons to the Bible who reject it under colour of its disagreement with our knowledge of nature; the Author pretended that the commentators on the scriptures were not sufficiently skilled in Physic to be able rightly to understand those expressions in the sacred writers, which relate to the œconomy, or the disorders of the human body. And some Divines have in their turn retorted the objection upon the Physician, especially in those parts, where he pretends to decide upon points about which themselves are not agreed, such as the sickness of Job, the description of old age by the Author of Ecclesiastes, and above all the famous question about the Dæmoniacs in the Gospel: On this last subject he looked upon it as an honour

honour to have adopted the opinion of his relation, the famous *Joseph Mead*, which was, that these Dæmoniacks were only lunatic and epileptic.

His last, and perhaps the most useful of all his works, is his *Medical Rules and Admonitions*: herein with a candor and simplicity so characteristical of a great man, he freely communicates all the discoveries, that his long practice and experience had opened to him, with regard to different diseases, and their several cures; he concludes with many salutary precepts for preserving the organs of the body and the faculties of the mind perfect and entire to a good old age; and he who at fourscore teaches
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the art of longævity, gives his lessons with as good a grace, as his scholars may learn them with a great advantage. We see at one view in this last book, how much the art hath gained by such a length of time, and so successful a practice. This is a legacy that our author hath bequeathed to his brethren; valuable, not only for the good it may do, but likewise as it shews the excellent mind of the Testator. To be able to account in such a manner to posterity for the use of his time, to consecrate the last moments of his life to the advancement of science and the good of mankind: how worthy is that man to have lived, who dies thus employed!

After

After the publication of this work he no longer found himself in a condition to finish any thing; he grew weaker every day, and expired on *Saturday* morning the 16th *Feb.* 1754, without any visible signs of pain, after having been confined to his bed from the *Monday* morning. On the 23^d his body was deposited in the *Temple* church, near that of his brother *Samuel*, a very eminent counsellor at law, who died the 20th *March* 1732-3, in the 63^d year of his age; and to whom the Doctor had erected an handsome monument in that Church.

Dr. MEAD was twice married; by his first wife, *Ruth*, the daughter of Mr. *John Marsh*, Merchant

of *London*, whom he married in *July 1699*, and who died in *February 1719*, he had eight children; four of whom died in their infancy; and of the rest, the second daughter, now deceased, was married to the late *Charles Bertie*, of *Uffington* in *Lincolnshire* Esq; the eldest to *Dr. Edward Wilmot*, and the youngest to *Dr. Frank Nichols*, both Physicians in Ordinary to his Majesty. His only son *Richard Mead* Esq. is married to *Anne* daughter of *William Gore* Esq. of *Tring* in *Hertfordshire*. The Doctor's second wife (who is still living) was *Anne* daughter of *Sir Rowland Alston*, of *Odell*, in *Bedfordshire* Baronet, whom he married the 14th of *August 1724*, but had no issue by her.

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During

During almost half a century, he was at the head of his business, which brought him in one year seven thousand pounds and upwards, and for several years between five and six thousand pounds (*r*). His generous and benevolent Temper was constantly exercised in acts of charity. Clergymen, and in general all men of learning, were welcome to his advice, and his doors were always open every morning to the most indigent, whom he frequently assisted with his purse; so that notwithstanding his great gains he did not dye very rich, being persuaded, that what he got from the

(*r*) These particulars were communicated to us by Mr. *Hocker*, who was many years Librarian to Dr. MEAD.

public could never be bestowed more honourably, than in the advancement of Science, and the encouragement of the Learned.

His large and spacious house in *Great Ormond Street*, was converted into a Temple of Nature, and a Repository of Time. He built a Gallery for his favourite Furniture, his Pictures, and his Antiquities. His Library, by the Catalogue lately published, consists of 6592 Numbers (*s*), and contains upwards of 10000 Volumes, in which he spared no expence for scarce and ancient editions, for copies well chosen and

(*s*) The first part of this collection, consisting of 3280 articles, produced at the Auction 2475*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*

highly preserved; for the richest and most durable bindings; all the ornaments corresponding with the value of the authors, and the exact and refined taste of the owner. His *Latin, Greek,* and *Oriental* manuscripts made no inconsiderable part of his literary acquisitions: his collection of *Antiques, Medals, Coins, Prints,* and *Drawings* can be equalled by nothing in the kingdom in the hands of a private man. Several pieces of ancient *Painting,* and among others that of the *Court of Augustus,* found at *Rome* in 1737, had cost him vast sums. And as for his collection of *Pictures* by the greatest *Masters,* they had been chosen with so much judgment, that after his death they were sold for 3400 *l.* about 6 or 700 hundred pounds

pounds more than the money he gave for them.

But all this immense treasure will soon be dissipated, and we must never hope to see the several articles of it brought together again, unless it be in a complete catalogue of all his literary acquisitions.

Nor did he make this great collection for his own use alone, but freely opened it to the inspection and use of others. Ingenious men were sure of finding at Dr. MEAD'S the best helps in almost all their undertakings; nothing pleased him more than to be the owner of any thing that could serve to call every hidden talent into light; to give
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encouragement to the greatest projects, and to see them executed under his own eyes. Scarce any thing curious hath appeared in *England*, since the beginning of this century, but under his patronage. He constantly kept in his pay a great number of scholars, and artists of all kinds, who were continually at work for him, or rather for the public. As he was a perfect judge of whatever is excellent, and as he admitted nothing else into his collection; so he always purchased it at its value,—that is at any price. His intimacy with the rich and great gave him frequent opportunities, of making them contribute to what they understand the least, and despise the most. And these Gods of the earth learned for the first time that

that science is worth something, and that wealth is never better employed than in rewarding it.

His reputation not only as a Physician, but as a Scholar was so universally established, that he corresponded with all the principal Literati in *Europe*. Mr. *De Boze*, whose loss the learned world lament no less than the Academy to which he did so much honor (*t*), kept up the strictest correspondence with the Doctor. He frequently received from him some valuable piece for the cabinet of the King of *France*, and never failed of making him a return of the

(*t*) The Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres at *Paris*, of which Mr. *De Boze* was Secretary for 37 years.

same kind. The scarce and perhaps the only copy of *Servetus's* last book, passed from the shelves of our English worthy to those of his friend abroad, in exchange for a thousand presents he had received from him. A glorious emulation that enobles human nature, and extinguisheth, in great and generous minds, those sparks of envy, with which mean and base ones are so apt to confound it.

The King of *Naples* sent to request of Dr. MEAD, a complete collection of all his works ; and in return presented him with the two first Volumes of Sig. *Bajardi*, which may be looked on as an introduction to the collection which we daily expect of the antiquities of *Herculanum*,

neum ; and at the same time this Prince invited him to his own Palace, that he might have an opportunity of shewing him all those valuable Monuments of Antiquity. His years alone, as he owned to several of his friends, prevented his undertaking a journey so suited to his taste and inclination.

Nothing did more honor to this Patron of Learning than the free and constant access of men of different qualifications to his table, who were each employed the rest of the day, at his particular work or study. There no man's talents were misplaced, none was honoured with an undue preference : the Scholar took his place near the Naturalist, and the Mathematician

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near

near the Antiquarian, or the Painter. Every one found himself surrounded with objects capable of instructing him, or exciting his emulation. Our Mæcenas was frequently the only man in company, who was acquainted with all their different languages, and was able to perform the office of an interpreter to them all: he constantly questioned them in a most obliging manner, about their different occupations, taking great pleasure in commending their several performances and discoveries, and by this means, inspired them all with emulation and a reciprocal esteem for each other.

No foreigner of any learning, taste, or even curiosity, ever came

to *London* without being introduced to Dr. MEAD; it would have been a shame to return home without having seen him. On these occasions, his table was always open, and united the Magnificence of Princes with the Pleasures of Philosophers.

It was principally to him that the several counties of *England*, and our colonies abroad applied for the choice of their Physicians: as he never recommended any but such whose capacity he was well assured of, he never failed to assist them with his advice and information when they had recourse to him in difficult cases, and required nothing of them in return, but an account of their several discoveries and observations, of which they

enjoyed the whole honor. The Philosophical Transactions afford us many examples of this kind of correspondence, so much to the credit of both parties. The Doctor was likewise consulted by foreign Physicians, from *Russia, Prussia, Denmark, &c.*

The good of mankind, and the glory of his country, was his favourite, his prevailing principle. It was this that engaged him to persuade *Guy*, the wealthy citizen, to lay out his immense fortune, in building a new hospital for the reception and maintenance of the wretched and indigent, who are discharged out of all others as incurable. It is a great pity that the intention of the Founder should have

have been so little complied with ; and it was perhaps this consideration alone, that prevented Dr. MEAD'S accepting the Presidentship, which was offered him on the death of him who held it first. He was a Benefactor to all the other Hospitals, and was one of the first Subscribers to the Foundling, that noble institution that will for ever endear the name of Captain *Coram* to this country, and which could never have been attempted without the Doctor's assistance. Foreigners, perhaps, may wonder that an Hospital so long wanted in this city, should be yet but new ; but they will be still more surprized, that a foundation of less than twenty years standing, which owes its being only to the voluntary contributions of private persons, should

should have all the stability of the most ancient.

Being joint executor with Sir *Thomas Reeves*, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, of the will of *Richard Topham Esq.* he concurred in bestowing on *Eton College*, in 1736, that Gentleman's valuable collection of books and drawings (u).

He was the friend of *Pope*, of *Halley*, of *Newton*, and placed their

(u) ANNO DOMINI MDCCXXXVI.
 HOS LIBROS SELECTISSIMOS ELE-
 GANTIORVM VARIIGENERIS SCRIP-
 TORVM OPERA CONTINENTES,
 QVOS VNA CVM AMPLISSIMA VE-
 TERIS AEVI MONVMENTORVM
 COPIA A PERITISSIMIS ROMAE
 PICTORIBVS MAXIMAM PARTEM
 CHARTIS DELINEATORVM, VIR
 NATALIBVS PARITER AC LITERIS
 CLARVS RICHARDVS TOPHAM
 VINDESORANVS, MAGNO SVO SVM-

portraits

portraits in his house near the Busts of their great Masters, the antient Greeks and Romans. He presented to the College of Physicians, a marble Busto of Dr. *Harvey* (*w*) done by an

TV ET STUDIO COMPARAVERAT, MORIENSQVE VIRORVM ILLVSTRIVM THOMAE REEVE, EQVITIS AVRATI, CAPITALIS IVSTICIARII DE BANCO, AC REGIA SECRETIS CONSILIIIS, ET RICHARDI MEAD, ARCHIATRI, FIDEI COMMISERAT VT PVBLICO COMMODO INSERVIRENT, IIDEM VIRI PRAESTANTISSIMI TESTAMENTI ILLIVS CVRATORES HVIC BIBLIOTHECAE ORNAMENTO ESSE VOLVERVNT; EA TAMEN LEGE VT TAM LIBRIS QVAM CHARTIS SEORSVM CONSERVATIS ERVDITIS OMNIBVSET RERVMANTIQVARVM STUDIO SIS LIBER IN PERPETVVM AD LITERARIA HAEC KEIMHAIA PATERET ADITVS.

(*w*) The inscription on this Busto is in the following words :

HANC MAGNI ILLIVS

excellent

excellent hand from an original picture in his possession, to which, it is not to be doubted, but his own will hereafter be added by some worthy successor, animated by the same spirit, with this inscription, which he had chosen for his Motto; **NON SIBI SED TOTI.**

GVLIELMI HARVEII
SENIS OCTOGENARII IMAGINEM,
QVI
SANGVINIS CIRCVMITVM, PRIMVS
MONSTRAVIT,
MEDICINAMQVE RATIONALEM
INSTITVIT,
AD PICTVRAM ARCHETYPAM
QVAM IN SVO SERVAT MVSEO
EFFICTAM
HONORIS CAUSA HIC PONENDAM
CVRAVIT
RICHARDVS MEAD, MEDICVS RE-
GIVS.
A. D. MDCCXXX.

F I N I S.