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AN OUTLINE

from his friend the Author
OF THE

HISTORY OF PHARMACY

IN IRELAND.

BY

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AN OUTLINE

HISTORY OF IRELAND

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DUBLIN :

PRINTED AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS,

BY M. H. GILL.

AN OUTLINE,

&c. &c.(a)

CIRCUMSTANCES having a short time since directed my attention to the early history of pharmacy in Ireland, I was fortunate enough to discover some old and apparently forgotten documents which afford so much information on the subject that I am induced to think a brief sketch of the facts deducible from them may not be uninteresting. Before, however, entering on the more immediate subject of this paper, I shall endeavour briefly to collect from various writers a few of the most striking features of the origin and progress of the apothecary profession in other countries, as a means of comparison with that of our own.

It may be considered a universal law, that in countries where civilization is imperfect the practice of medicine is simple: the performance of a few surgical operations, and the exhibition of a few indigenous plants, constitute, in the infancy of nations, the entire practice of the healing art. These plants being easily collected, their preparation requiring little skill, there exists no need of the apothecary(b); the prescriber either prepares and ad-

(a) I am happy to acknowledge my obligation to Dr. Aquilla Smith for much valuable assistance in the compilation of this Paper.

(b) In the English translation of the oldest and most authentic history extant, the word "apothecary" occurs in Exodus, xxx. 25 and 35; it also occurs in Ecclesiastes, x. 1; and in Ecclesiasticus, xxxviii. 8, and xlix. 1. The

ministers his medicines himself, or they are prepared under his superintendence by servants or other uneducated persons. So it was in ancient Greece and Rome. The *ιατρος* of the Greeks corresponded nearly to what we should term the general practitioner. The Roman physicians likewise prepared the medicines prescribed by themselves, but employed others to collect the herbs of which the *materia medica* then almost exclusively consisted. Many of these herb-dealers soon encroached on the business of their employers, by selling compounded medicines; and Pliny even reproaches the physicians of his day for purchasing their medicines from the *Seplasiarii*, without knowing of what they were composed, instead of making them up themselves as formerly. These herb-dealers had, however, but little resemblance to our apothecaries(*a*).

From Pliny's statement it would appear that it was long before regularly educated physicians obtained a footing in Rome(*b*). The practice of medicine was, probably, for 600 years in the hands of quacks and casual practitioners. This was partly owing to the simple and active life led by the Romans. "A science, the offspring of luxury and of depravity, with difficulty found access to a nation, all whose members,

word "physician" occurs four times in the Old Testament. I am indebted to the kindness of a learned friend for the following remarks on this subject:

"The original word, translated 'apothecary,' in the Hebrew passages referred to, is the same in all, and means properly a person who compounds perfumes or ointments, by mixing different kinds of aromatic products, so that the term corresponds more nearly to our perfumer than apothecary.

"The Septuagint render it by *μυρεψός*, which is also the word used in the two passages of Ecclesiasticus.

"The word translated 'physician' denotes, according to its etymology, one who *stitches up a wound*, and therefore approaches nearer to our surgeon than physician."

(*a*) See Beckman's *History of Inventions*, Johnson's translation, vol. ii. p. 122, *et seq.*; Pliny, lib. xxxiv. cap. 11.

(*b*) Pliny, lib. xxix. cap. 1. "*Ceu vero non millia gentium sine medicis degant, nec tamen sine medicinâ, sicut populus Romanus ultra sexcentessimum annum, nec ipse in accipiendis artibus lentus.*"

from the chiefs to the lowest in the state, were warriors, enured to fatigue, or hardy cultivators of the soil.”(a) “But as the relations of the Romans with the Greeks became multiplied, and as luxury progressed among the former, physicians were seen to establish themselves in the capital of the world(b). The Greek physicians who first settled there were, for the most part, proprietors of baths; and many of these adventurers were slaves whom their masters, incapable at first of appreciating the advantages of science, and afterwards enervated by the luxury of the Greeks, sold or set free, after having presented them with considerable gifts in return for benefits received from them. These freedmen established shops, which the Romans called *medicinæ*, in which they sold medicines and profitably exercised their talents. But other physicians, who came to Rome under more favourable circumstances, enjoyed advantages and privileges which an art so noble as medicine is entitled to exact from all civilized nations; and when the Romans expelled the Greeks from Italy, the law which banished them excepted by name those who followed the profession of medicine.”(c)

The establishment of the Alexandrian school, and the cultivation of science at that seat of learning, after some time led to the division of medicine into distinct professions; accordingly we find it described by Celsus, who lived about the time of Augustus or Tiberius, as consisting of the departments of dietetics, pharmacy, and surgery. “These terms did not, however, possess precisely the same signification as in modern times. Dietetics comprehended not the regulation of diet alone, but every circumstance connected with the general health or management of the patient, and corresponded very nearly to the *medicus*, or physician, of later times.”(d) The second included

(a) Sprengel, *Histoire de la Médecine*, traduite de l'Allemand par Jourdan, vol. i. p. 176.

(b) Sprengel, *Op. cit.*, p. 189.

(c) Sprengel, *Op. cit.*, p. 190.

(d) History of Medicine, Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine, p. xv.

with the composition of medicines the performance of many of the operations of surgery; and to the third was allotted the treatment of surgical diseases, many of the operations being committed to the professors of the second branch. This three-fold division seems to have continued, for the most part, until the decline and fall of the Roman empire(*a*).

It is, however, to the Arabs that chemistry and pharmacy were, at a subsequent period, most indebted. The former had been cultivated by the philosophers of Alexandria, solely in reference to the transmutation of the metals. The Arabs had a particular taste for it, and early applied themselves to its study; for their first chemist, commonly known by the name of Geber, lived in the eighth century. In his work on alchemy mention is made of some mercurial preparations, such as corrosive sublimate and red precipitate; and also nitric acid, nitromuriatic acid, nitrate of silver, and many other chemical preparations. Other Arabian philosophers and physicians were also engaged in the study of chemistry, particularly as it relates to pharmacy(*b*).

Mesue, who died in the ninth century was the son of an apothecary, and bred under Gabriel, the son of Backtishua, and by him preferred to the inspection of the hospital(*c*). He was a Nestorian Christian, the best scholar and physician of his age, and in great favour with the several caliphs(*d*).

In fact the Mohammedans cultivated pharmacy with much success, and almost entirely changed its aspect. They invented

(*a*) Good's History of Medicine, so far as it relates to the Profession of the Apothecary, from the earliest Accounts to the present Period. Second Edition. London, 1796. Page 62.

(*b*) Sprengel, *Op. cit.*, vol. ii. p. 263.

(*c*) Hospitals had been established by ecclesiastics in the sixth century, but in the middle of the eighth the caliphs opened at Bagdad the first hospitals and public pharmacies intended to facilitate the study of medicine. So great was the celebrity of Bagdad at one time that it contained 6000 students.—*Sprengel*.

(*d*) Freind's History of Physic, vol. ii. p. 38.

the names alcohol, "*alkohal*;" julep, "*djousab*," which word in Persian signifies "rose water;" syrup, "*schirab*;" naphtha, "*nefth*;" camphor, "*kafour*;" and many others still in use. They also appear to have introduced the use of formulæ, sanctioned by the government, for the preparation of medicines. In the latter part of the ninth century appeared, under the title of "*Krabadin*," the first dispensatory ever published. That of Abou'l Hassan-Hebatollah-Ebno' Talmid, bishop and physician of the Caliph of Bagdad, enjoyed in the twelfth century a great celebrity, and was observed by the Arabian apothecaries. The latter were under the immediate superintendence of the government, who took especial care that medicines were not adulterated, nor sold at too high a price. The General Afschin visited in person the pharmacies of his armies, to ascertain if they contained all the medicines mentioned in his dispensatories(*a*).

Avenzoar, who flourished in the eleventh century, applied himself to pharmacy, and, as he tells us, "took great delight in studying how to make syrups and electuaries, and had a strong desire to know the operations of medicines by experience, the way of extracting the virtues of them, and the manner of compounding one with another."*(b)* He was not only versed in physic and pharmacy, but in surgery also. From his writings, however, it is plain that these were then separate professions, for he makes excuses for himself that, contrary to the custom of his country and the example of his father, he had applied himself to the study of the two latter, which, about the ninth century, had begun to rank much below physic, and were, in his time, so little esteemed by the physicians (the *Medici Honorati et Nobiles*) that they thought it below their character to understand them; and they, therefore, left all manual operations, such as bleeding, couching of cataracts, ap-

(*a*) Sprengel, *Op. cit.*, vol. ii. p. 264.

(*b*) Freind, vol. ii. p. 101.

plication of caustics, &c., as well as the composition of medicines, to their servants, the *servitores* and *ministri*(a).

In addition to the chemical preparations we have alluded to, the Arabians added to the list of remedies many vegetable products of the southern and eastern countries of Asia; for example, rhubarb, tamarinds, cassia, manna, senna, camphor, various gums and resins, and a number of aromatics, which were brought from Persia, India, and the Oriental Isles(b). They also first introduced the use of gold and silver leaf in medicine, and were the first to prepare syrups with sugar instead of honey, as used by the Greeks. They had also many forms for pills and electuaries(c).

By the settling of the Moors in Spain, and the intercourse which they and other Arabians had with Italy, Arabian medicine as well as other branches of learning were introduced into Europe; and it is probable that so early as the middle of the seventh century there were Hebrew, Arabic, and Latin professors of physic settled at Salernum, which place soon grew into that credit that Charles the Great thought fit to found a college there in the year 802, probably at that time the only one of the kind in Europe(d).

About the close of the tenth century, Jews, from their knowledge of the Arabic language, were the chief physicians in Europe; and although, by the canon law(e), no Jew might be a physician or give physic to a Christian, there was scarcely a Christian Court where physicians of this nation were not entertained, and even some Popes retained them in their service(f).

(a) Freind, vol. ii. p. 111.

(b) History of Medicine, Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine, p. xxxiv.

(c) Freind, vol. ii. p. 206.

(d) Freind, vol. ii. p. 218.

(e) This law was established at the instigation of the clergy, who were now endeavouring to rival the Jews as practitioners of physic, and through its operation they eventually succeeded in superseding them.

(f) Page 227.

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other clergy, who were generally very ignorant, and practised physic, in all its branches,—combining the operative parts of surgery with the prescribing and administering of medicine. Their books were bad Latin translations of the Arabic, itself, in many instances, a bad translation of the Greek. The eighth Canon of the Council of Tours (A. D. 1163) declared that none of the regular clergy should devote their attention to physical compositions (*confectiones physicales ponderandas*); and other decrees were issued, prohibiting the higher clergy from practising any branch of physic, and forbidding the lower orders to perform any surgical operation, especially any involving the use of fire or cutting instruments. From this time the monks confined themselves to the prescribing of medicines, to be compounded and administered by others, and wholly abstained from the manual operations of surgery; in consequence of which this deserted profession fell into the hands of the barbers and smiths, the former of whom had usually been employed by the monks to assist at the baths, in the application of ointments, and in various surgical operations, and soon became the chief practitioners of surgery(*a*).

In England these barber practitioners kept little shops for cutting hair, shaving, bathing, and curing the wounded, particularly about the royal palaces and houses of the great, exhibiting the bandaged pole as a symbol, “that all might know where to apply in time of need.”(*b*)

That the apothecaries, as “compounders of medicine after the orders of the physician,” first existed among the Arabians, there can, I think, from what has been stated, be little doubt; and it is probable that the practice of pharmacy, as it had existed in Africa, was introduced into Spain and Italy by the Arabian physicians who accompanied the Caliphs, or Arabian

(*a*) See Willcock's *Laws of the Medical Profession*, p. 8; Fleury's *Hist. Eccl.*, tom. xv. p. 134; Sprengel, vol. ii. pp. 350, 351; and Penny *Cyclopædia*, art. “Surgeons, College of.”

(*b*) Willcock, p. 16.

princes. They appear, in process of time, to have thence extended northwards, and to have supplied the continent of Europe. It will be seen hereafter that the apothecaries of Great Britain and Ireland, for the most part, originated in a different manner; and to this difference may, perhaps, be due the fact that, while they, at an early period, became practitioners in physic, their continental brethren have always confined themselves to pharmacy and the strictly collateral sciences, chemistry and botany(*a*). Dr. Mohsen(*b*) states, that the first apothecaries in Germany came from Italy, and Sprengel(*c*) informs us, that in the fifteenth century the custom of the Arabs was adopted in France, and that the apothecaries were subjected to the superintendence of the Faculties, and of physicians salaried by the State(*d*). At this epoch the apothecaries of Germany were only druggists; they prepared no medicaments, but brought them from Italy to sell. In the majority of towns they followed at the same time the business of confectioners; and the magistrates always specified in their licenses, that they should send each year a certain quantity of good sugar confections to the Council House(*e*).

In Halle the first apothecary's shop was opened in 1493, before which period medicines were sold only by grocers and barbers. In Stutgard a shop was opened early in the fifteenth century by a person named Glatz; at Augsburgh one was kept by a female apothecary in 1445; in Frankfort-on-the-Maine shops existed before 1472; at Berlin one was established in 1488. In 1409, when the University of Prague was moved

(*a*) In the eleventh volume of the First Series of the Dublin Medical Journal, p. 358, there is an interesting paper, by Doctor, now Sir Robert Kane, on the State of Pharmacy in Germany.

(*b*) *Geschichte der Wissenschaften in der Mark Brandenburg, besonders der Arzneywissenschaft.* Berlin, 1781. 4to.

(*c*) Vol. ii. p. 484.

(*d*) In France the apothecaries received their Statutes in the year 1484, from Charles VIII.

(*e*) Sprengel, vol. ii. p. 484.

to Leipsic, an apothecary's shop was opened there, and called, as that at Prague had been, by the name of the Golden Lion(*a*). In 1507 an order was passed that the apothecaries' shops should be from time to time inspected; in 1512 a price was set upon their medicines, and all others were forbidden to deal in them.

In many places, and particularly in opulent cities, the first apothecaries' shops were established at the public expense, and belonged to the magistrates; a particular garden was also often appropriated to the apothecary, in order that he might rear in it the necessary plants. Apothecaries' shops for the use of courts were frequently established and directed by the consorts of princes; one of this kind was founded at the court of Dresden by the Electress Anne, a Danish princess, in the year 1581(*b*).

In Hanover the first apothecary's shop was established by the Council of State in 1565.

Gustavus Erickson, King of Sweden, was the first person in that country who attempted to establish an apothecary's shop. On the 20th of March, 1547, he requested Dr. John Audelius, of Lubec, to send him an experienced physician and a good apothecary(*c*). On the 5th of May, 1550, his body

(*a*) Beckmann's *History of Inventions*, translated by Johnston, vol. ii. p. 140.

(*b*) Beckmann, *Op. cit.*, p. 141.

(*c*) The following is Frederic Hoffmann's description of a good apothecary, &c. :

“*Pharmacopœus debet esse in arte preparandi instructus, circumspectus, Latina lingua gnarus, materiam medicam tam simplicium quam compositorum accuratissime dignoscens, indigenarum et exoticarum notitiam habens, dilecta emat, eademque visu, gustu, olfactu, tactu, et aliis examinatis modis, vasculis idoneis reponat, singulis mensibus singula perlustrat et dilectum instituat. Fabam suam non mittat in mossam (?) medicam et Praxin non exerceat, nil sine medici præsitu in componendo immutet, ne quid pro quo substituet, nec ullius quam medicinæ doctoris formulas vel receptas recipiat, purgantia, opiata, vel deleteria, nemini de plebe vendat, nec doctorum arcana alio faciat communia.*”

physician, Henry Von Diest, received orders to bring a skilful apothecary into the kingdom. When the king died in 1560, he had no other physicians with him than his barber, Master Jacob, an apothecary, Master Lucas, and his confessor, Magister Johannes, who, according to the fashion of the day, practised physic and prescribed for His Majesty. Master Lucas, it appears, was the first apothecary at Stockholm(*a*).

The first apothecary mentioned in the *Fœdera* is Coursus de Gangeland, an apothecary of London, to whom Edward III., in the year 1345, granted a pension of *6d. per diem*, for taking care of and attending His Majesty during his illness in Scotland(*b*). In the same reign Pierre de Montpellier appears, from the wardrobe account, to have been apothecary to Prince Edward in 1360; and J. Falcand de Luca sold medicine in England in 1357.

But this importation of foreigners did not long continue. The attendants of Henry VI., three physicians and two surgeons, who were appointed by his Council to administer medicines and advice, are obviously English names,—Arundel, Saceby, Hatcliffe, Warren, and Marshall.

“In the reign of James I. the apothecaries were incorporated with the grocers, and continued so until the thirteenth year of his reign, when they were formed into a distinct corporation. Their union, probably, arose originally from the grocers having added to their stock some ointments and medical herbs; on the introduction of chemical medicines, however, when too great a variety in the mixtures of the physicians had rendered the medical department of their trade unintelligible to the ordinary grocer, the pharmacopolites appeared as

(*a*) Beckmann.

(*b*) “De pensione apothecario solvenda. Rex thesaurario et Camerariis suis salutem cum nos curam sollicitam quam dilectus nobis Coursus de Gangeland, apothecarius Londoniæ, circa nos, nuper in partibus Scotiæ, dum gravi detinebamur ægritudine apposuit,” &c.—*Rym. Fœd. An.* 19 Edw. III. A. D. 1345.

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ters of the guild; to have a master and two wardens for its rule and governance; and to have a common seal, and power to possess lands and tenements, &c. A copy of this charter was in the possession of the Master of the Corporation of Barbers in the year 1747, but appears to have been since lost. No notice of it appears in the Rolls of the Court of Chancery, which are deficient for a few years before and after the date of the grant; nor could any trace of it be found among the records in Birmingham Tower, the Index to which Sir William Betham, with great kindness and courtesy, carefully searched. The foregoing particulars are, however, recited in a charter subsequently granted to the corporation, in the nineteenth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, 1576, to which I shall presently more fully allude, and which I was fortunate enough, after considerable search, to find in the possession of Michael Farrell, Esq., of Harcourt-road, the last Master, and one of the last representatives of the Guild in the Common Council of the Corporation of Dublin, whose kindness in allowing me at all times free access to this and other most interesting documents, I am happy to have this opportunity of acknowledging.

It is remarkable that in England the barber surgeons did not receive their incorporation until the first year of the reign of Edward IV., (1461) (a). The charter granted to them states that there was a mystery of barbers practising surgery; and recites the mischiefs which arise from ignorance of surgery, and the necessity of superintendence which existed; it incorporates the mystery aforesaid; appoints masters or governors; grants a common seal, the power of acquiring lands to the annual value of five marks, and the superintendence of all surgeons in London and the suburbs, with power of punishing them; and it exempts the members from attendance on juries, and gives them the power to admit, "*in dicta Misteria Sirurgica—personas habiles et sufficienter eruditas.*"

(a) In Scotland the barber surgeons were incorporated in 1505. London Medical and Physical Journal, vol. xxvii. p. 116.

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mitted by the master and wardens, and major part of the brethren of the said guild, under a penalty of five pounds for every month of trespass.

It would appear that this corporation for some time used the same coat of arms as the Corporation of Barber-Surgeons of London, "with some small difference, being a note of diminution or subordination." But it being necessary that corporations of different and independent cities, though of like profession, should have some difference in their arms, this corporation, "having no dependence on any other city," received from "William Roberts, Doctor of the Civil Lawe, Vluester Kinge of Armes of the whole Kingdome of Ireland," &c. &c., by virtue of the power committed to him, and in consideration of services rendered by the corporation to the Crown, the following independent coat of arms, viz.: "Parted by a crosse of England, charged with a lion passant gardant, argent, crowned or; these two coates armour quartered, viz. *the first* argent, a cheveron gules betwixt three cinquefoyles azure; *the second coate armour* azure, a harpe crowned or; the third as the second; the fourth as the first; *the creast*, on a helme and wreath argent and gules, St. Mary Magdalene, &c. *Mantled* gules; double argent supported by a leopard proper and an Irish greyhound argent, each gorged with a ducal coronet, and standing on a scrowle, with their motto, viz., '✠ Christi, Salus Nostra.'"(a)

Mr. Farrell has likewise in his possession a charter granted by James II. to the same corporation; it is dated 10th February, 1687, in the third year of his reign. It commences by reciting the seizing of the franchises, liberties, and privileges of the city of Dublin, by a judgment of the Court of Exchequer, by which the body corporate, as well as "the minor guilds composing the great body corporate were dissolved,"(b)

(a) See Grant of Arms, in the possession of Michael Farrell, Esq.

(b) "In 1686 the Earl of Tyrconnel, then Lord Deputy, had endeavoured to persuade the city to admit Roman Catholics to freedoms and offices in it,

and mentions the new creation of the corporation by letters patent, dated 3 James II., Oct. 27, and then goes on to state that, "We, nevertheless, being willing, in order to the promoting of trade and traffick in our new city of Dublin, to renew the guild or corporation of Barbers, of which the barbers, chirurgeons, apothecaries, and periwig-makers of the city of Dublin were members, to the intent that the several arts and mistereyes of barber-chirurgeons, apothecaries, and periwig-makers may be the better exercised," &c., "do constitute one guild or fraternity of the arts," &c., by the name of the Guild or Fraternity of St. Mary Magdalene, to consist of one master, two wardens, and of the brothers of the arts aforesaid, by the name of the Master, Wardens, and Brothers of the arts of Barber-Chirurgeons, Apothecaries, and Periwig-makers of the Guild or Fraternity of St. Mary Magdalene. William, Earl of Limerick, John Barnwell, Knt., Robert Barnwell, Esq., Richard Archbold, &c., physicians and readers of anatomy, Charles Thompson, Henry Walker, and others, to be the first brothers of the guild. The corporation had power to punish every falsity, fraud, deceit, oppression, extortion, and every other crime committed by barbers, chirurgeons, apothecaries, or periwig-makers in Dublin, or within six miles of it. They were empowered to inquire into the character of apprentices previously to their being bound: the term of apprenticeship was fixed at seven years. Apprentices were required to enrol themselves

contrary to the established laws, that by their means he might obtain a surrender of the charter, and so settle the corporation in the hands of the Roman Catholics. But the Lord Mayor and aldermen having frustrated this design the Earl brought a *quo warranto* against the charter. The Lord Chief Baron Rice would not allow the city so much time to put in their plea as was sufficient to transcribe it with care. In the hurry a mistake was made in the date of one of the charters, which the city discovering prayed leave to amend, but this was denied, and judgment given against the charter upon this defect of pleading, the merits of the case never coming in question. The same way were most other corporations of the kingdom dealth with."—*Whitelaw and Walsh's History of Dublin*, p. 219.

within two months after being bound; the indenture of any apprentice otherwise taken to be void: the person taking the apprentice, under such circumstances, was to pay half a mark for the use of the guild. The guild had power to arrest run-away apprentices. They might admit women as members. Some of the members were obliged to take yearly two of the poor boys from the Hospital at Oxmantown (Blue-coat or King's Hospital) for seven years.

Thus while no mention is made of the apothecary in the charter of Elizabeth, that of James states that the apothecaries of Dublin were before this time an integral part of the corporation of barber-surgeons, and they were subsequently treated as such; for after they had been, in the reign of George II., constituted a distinct corporation, two of the four representatives in Common Council, previously belonging to the barber-surgeons, were taken from them, and given to the new corporation of apothecaries,—a measure at the time vehemently opposed by the barbers, and the repeal of which they afterwards sought in vain.

Keogh, in the Preface to his *Botanologia Universalis Hibernica* (published in 1735), urging the advantages of using indigenous, instead of exotic plants, in medicine, says:

“In the primitive or ancient times there were here no druggists' or apothecaries' shops, no foreign drugs brought hither; but the natives made use of the medicinal preparations of their own country, by which means they prolonged their lives to the very extremity of old age, and dropped, like ripe fruit, with a gentle decay. We did not hear of druggists or apothecaries before the flood (the antediluvians were unacquainted with them), nor yet after the flood for a considerable time,—*nay, in this very kingdom there were scarcely two in a province a hundred years ago(a)*, yet the people then lived to very advanced years.”

(a) Evidence of the existence of apothecaries in different parts of Ireland, at a period a little subsequent to the time alluded to by Keogh, is afforded

From these premises, I think, it is evident that the apothecary profession sprang up in Ireland during the interval which elapsed between the granting of the charter by Elizabeth in 1576 and that of James in 1687, and that it and the profession of surgery have, in this country, had a common origin; and it will appear that their interests were for many years subsequent to the latter date identical,—their governing body the same. In Scotland they originated in the same manner, and have never been disunited; the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons is a license to practice pharmacy as well as surgery; and there is no Apothecaries' Company in Edinburgh(*a*).

The Charter granted by William and Mary, in the fourth year of their reign(*b*), to the King's and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, empowered the College to examine all persons intending to become apprentices to apothecaries; these apprentices were required to be well skilled in the Latin tongue; and apothecaries taking them without this previous examination were liable to a penalty of £20. By the same charter none were to be allowed to practise physic in Dublin, or

by penny-tokens issued by the following apothecaries in the seventeenth century :

1. Gerrard Colley, at Red Cross, in High-street, Dublin, Apothecary.
2. Henry Bollardt, Apoticary, in Dublin, 1654.
3. Henry Bollardt, Apoticary, in Dublin, 1663.
4. Henry Rugge, Apothecary, in Castle-street, Dub.
5. Marke Quine, Apothycary, in Dublin, 1654.
6. Ro. Nellson, of Dunganon, Apothecary.
7. Richard Pearce, of Limrick, Apothecar, 1668.

All the above tokens are in Dr. Aquilla Smith's cabinet, with the exception of the Dunganon token, which is in the Royal Irish Academy collection.

(*a*) "The surgeons of the Edinburgh College are, in fact, qualified as general practitioners, and from this body are the general practitioners of Scotland exclusively derived."—*Ed. Med. Surg. Journal*, vol. xiv. p. 11.

For the union of Chirurgery and Pharmacy which existed in Edinburgh, about 1700, see *Ed. Med. Surg. Journal*, vol. iii. p. 379.

(*b*) 12 Oct. 1692.

within seven miles thereof, without the license of the College, under a penalty of £10 per month. The College had also the power of entering apothecaries' shops, examining the drugs, and of burning and destroying such as they found unfit for use; they could also examine the apothecaries themselves upon oath, if they thought necessary.

This charter appears to have been ineffective, for we find the College, on the 20th of November, 1695, applying to the House of Commons(*a*) for its confirmation by Act of Parliament; and their petition was referred to a committee appointed to prepare the heads of a bill for the purpose, who were also instructed to report what fees ought to be allowed the physicians. On the 23rd November a counter-petition was presented from the corporation of barber-chirurgeons and apothecaries, stating that Henry VI. had, by royal charter, granted to them, and persons approved by them, the exclusive right of practising chirurgery in Dublin, which privilege had been confirmed by Queen Elizabeth. They then allude to the penal clauses in the physicians' charter, which restrict the practice of physic and preparation of medicines to the licentiates of the College(*b*), and impose fines upon any "who shall presume, contrary to said charter, to practise physic, or administer or prepare any internal medicine;" and represent that surgical cures cannot be completed without the use of internal medicines; and that the poorest people, who are unable to fee physicians, are the most liable to accidents requiring the assistance of the surgeon; they state that many surgeons prepare their own medicines, both as a matter of con-

(*a*) Journals of the Irish House of Commons, vol. ii. p. 117.

(*b*) The words of the petition are "That the Physicians of this City have obtained a charter from His Majesty, thereby prohibiting and disabling all persons whatsoever, unless such as are approved and *licensed* by them from practising physic or administering any internal medicine, or *preparing any medicinal compositions*," &c. It does not appear from the charter that the College were authorized to give a license for the latter purpose, but they had power to "supervise, examine, survey, correct, and punish all apothecaries, druggists," &c.

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From these extracts it would appear that at the close of the seventeenth century both surgeons and apothecaries were general practitioners, the former practising physic and surgery, and compounding for their own patients, while the latter, in addition to practising physic, kept open shop. Both seem to have received a low rate of remuneration, while the physician, who probably confined himself to the practice of physic, was highly paid.

The former attempts on the part of the College to obtain powers from Parliament had evidently been unsuccessful; for, in 1725(*a*), a petition of the President and Fellows was presented, setting forth that the charter granted to them by William and Mary had been found insufficient "to restrain unskilful, illiterate persons from practising physic; and that the abuses intended to be reformed in the practice of physic and making and selling of drugs had greatly increased." In accordance with the prayer of the petition, a Bill was brought in, petitioned against, as usual, by several apothecaries, and by the corporation, and eventually defeated.

In the year 1735, however, an Act received the sanction of the Legislature, "for preventing frauds and abuses in the making and vending unsound, adulterated, and bad drugs and medicines."*(b)* It provided that four inspectors of apothecaries' shops should be annually appointed by the College of Physicians, to act together with two apothecaries of good repute, or, should the latter refuse, then without them, with power to burn or otherwise destroy any unsound drugs which might occur to them in their inspection: penalty for obstruction, £10. And for the more easy carrying out this search, all apothecaries, chemists, and druggists were to enrol themselves with the Registrar of the College of Physicians before the 1st of September, 1736, and to pay a fee of one shilling for registration,

(*a*) Journals of the House of Commons, vol. iii. p. 429.

(*b*) Irish Statutes, vol. vi. p. 203; 9 Geo. II. c. 10.

otherwise they were to be considered unlawful professors of the art or mystery.

It was also provided that no person who had not before the 1st of May, 1736, exercised the trade or mystery of an apothecary, chemist, or druggist, should, within the city or liberties of Dublin, or within seven miles thereof, follow any branch of said art, mystery, trade, or occupation, until he had served an apprenticeship of five years at the least, and lodged with the Registrar of the College of Physicians a certificate from his master, or, in case of his master's death or refusal, from two others of the same trade, of his having served five years, and of his being fit and able to exercise his trade and mystery: penalty, £5 per month.

Every physician, surgeon, or other person taking on himself to prescribe medicines, was to sign the prescription or recipe with his name or initials; and to express the quantity of all drugs in words at length and not by marks, under a penalty of 40s. for every omission.

The penalties under this Act were recoverable in a summary way before the Lord Mayor and Recorder of the City of Dublin.

Any apothecary altering a prescription without stating on the label that he could not procure the medicine changed, and also what he had substituted for it, was liable to a penalty of 40s.

This Act was originally intended to remain in force for three years, but it was several times renewed, and lastly, on the 1st of May, 1749, it was renewed for seven years, "and to the end of the then next session of Parliament."

By 19 Geo. II. c. 15, power was given to the inspectors under this Act to examine upon oath the journeymen, servants, and apprentices of apothecaries as to the quantities and qualities of drugs on the premises; but this power was repealed by 21 Geo. II. c. 7.

The corporation of apothecaries, or guild of Saint Luke,

received its charter from George the Second, on the 18th September, 1745, in compliance with the prayer of a petition presented by Aldermen William Walker, Robert King, and Thomas Baker, Henry O'Hara, and others, apothecaries, in which they represented the frequent frauds and abuses imposed on the King's lieges, in different parts of Ireland, through the ignorance and unskilfulness of pretenders to the art of the apothecary, for the preventing and correcting of which no sufficient rules had yet been laid down.

This petition was referred to the College of Physicians for their opinion, who reported that the incorporation of the apothecaries might be useful, provided no power were given them to make by-laws respecting the composition of medicines without the previous approval of the College, and that the powers vested in the College by the Act of 1735 should remain undisturbed.

The charter was accordingly granted, in consideration of the number of apothecaries in the city and suburbs being so great as to require the enactment of "reasonable and convenient orders for their rule and government."

A master, two wardens, and thirteen assistants, were to be elected yearly on the 18th of October, and were to have the power of making by-laws for the governance of the members and other apothecaries in Dublin. They had power to impose penalties on offenders, and the officers of the corporation were exempted from serving on juries, and from filling parish offices.

The meetings, with the exception of the first (which took place at the Mayoralty House, on the 25th of April, 1747), were held in the hall of the corporation, Back-lane, until 1765, after which they were held at the house of the master for the time being, until the opening of the Apothecaries' Hall, in 1791. Since its establishment the corporation has always met at the Hall.

The committees of the corporation usually, as was the cus-

tom in those days, met at taverns, and, consequently, the names of many of these are preserved in the Transaction Book(a).

Such apothecaries as were not free of the corporation were, on proper application, allowed to follow the profession as quarter brothers, and were obliged to contribute a certain sum quarterly to the funds. This system of quarterage—a tax imposed by the various guilds on those who followed their respective trades—was abolished by Parliament in 1782. Those who presumed to follow a trade without being either freemen or quarter-brothers, were called foreigners, and were fined for “intrusion.” The apothecaries endeavoured to make the distillers pay quarterage for manufacturing “bryony water,”(b) and “hot cinnamon water,”(c) but seem to have failed in the attempt.

In 1751 the apothecaries were required by the College of Physicians to use in future the troy weights. I have not been able to ascertain, either from the books of the College or those of the corporation, what weights had been in use previously to 1751.

The franchises, or triennial perambulations of the city boundaries, were a constant source of dispute between the apothecaries and the civic authorities; the former considering “their necessary attendances in the way of their profession” a

(a) Rose and Bottle, Dame-street, 1760; Rose Tavern, Castle-street; Bull's Head, Fishamble-street, 1754; Flying Horse, Mountrath-street; Elephant, in Essex-street; Phœnix, in Werburgh-street; Three Stags' Head, Eustace-street; Carteret's Head, Castle-street, 1769.

(b) Spirit of wine, distilled from bryony root and several other ingredients. According to Quincy (1729), “a very untoothsome composition, but admirably well suited to the intention of an hysterick.” It appears, however, to have had very Protean properties, for he tells us further, that it “is very forcing upon the uterus, which makes it given to promote delivery,” &c.; and “is likewise good against convulsions in children, and of service in any nervous complaint in either sex.”

(c) Hot it certainly must have been: “Take of cinnamon, lb. i.; French brandy, 1 gallon; distil lb. x.”—(Quincy.)

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gives the College the power to enlarge the number of its Fellows; to appoint four inspectors of apothecaries' shops in Dublin and within ten miles of it; and to require the corporation of apothecaries to elect two assistants, whose co-operation is not, however, absolutely necessary, as, in case of non-compliance, the college inspectors may proceed without them. Unsound drugs may be destroyed by the inspector, but the owner has the power of appealing to the College at large; if, however, the judgment of the inspectors be confirmed on the appeal, the unsound drugs and containing vessels are to be destroyed before the owner's door. Penalty for obstruction, £20. By the eleventh section the college is empowered to frame a pharmacopœia, which all apothecaries are, by the twelfth, compelled to observe, under a penalty of £10 for every offence. Wrong weights and measures are to be destroyed. Penalties are enacted against the substitution by apothecaries of one medicine for another, and also for disguising pills, &c., with copper, brass, Dutch gold, Dutch metal, &c.

Every physician or surgeon prescribing medicine, is to sign the prescription with his name or initials, and with those of his profession, and, if a physician, with the name or initial of the university of which he is a graduate, unless he be a member of the Royal College of Physicians, in which case the initials of his name to be sufficient.

By an Act passed(a) in 1763, the minister of a gaol is empowered, in case of sickness of any prisoner, to employ a physician, apothecary, or surgeon, and to pay for medicines prescribed by them or either of them.

The proceedings of the corporation at this period are very

to ascertain the different kinds, and he boasted that they actually acknowledged a substance to be good rhubarb, which he afterwards proved to be toast and turmeric.—*Whitelaw and Walsh's History of Dublin*, vol. ii. p. 749.

(a) 3 Geo. III. anno 1763, c. 28, s. 5. "An Act for the better preventing the Severities and unjust Exactions practised by Gaolers against their Prisoners," &c.—*Irish Statutes*, vol. ix. p. 148.

devoid of interest. In 1763 they expelled one of their members for endeavouring to procure the transference of their two "numbers"^(a) to the barber-surgeons. In 1765 a committee was appointed to consider a plan for erecting a laboratory; and in 1766 they presented Dr. Lucas with an address, thanking him for his zealous and spirited conduct in Parliament.

In 1767 an Act^(b) was passed for directing the application of £7000 granted to the Dublin Society for the encouragement of such trades and manufactures as should be directed by Parliament; and the Society were, by the third section, empowered to appropriate sums not exceeding £250 towards erecting and establishing a "Pharmacopœia Pauperum, for dispensing medicines to the poor of the city of Dublin according to the plan of John Wade, chemist."

Wade's "Chymical Elaboratory and Dispensary for the Poor" was accordingly established in Capel-street, for supplying the apothecaries with pure, unadulterated medicines, and for relieving the poor on cheap and easy terms, the plan having been previously honoured with the sanction of "our learned College of Physicians;" and that the Institution "might be rendered as beneficial as possible, and the purity of every composition be established on the surest principles, Mr. Wade devoted his whole attention and industry to chemistry, to which science pharmacy is not only indebted but owes its chief support."^(c)

From a return made to the Dublin Society, November 1, 1770, it would appear that from the 2nd June, 1768, to 25th October, 1770, 1570 indigent persons were relieved; and that of this number a great part had been attended at their respective habitations, in the most remote parts of the city and its environs, *gratis*.

(a) The representatives of the corporation in Common Council were called "Numbers."

(b) 7 Geo. III. c. 15.

(c) Pamphlets in the Library of the Royal Dublin Society, s. d. 32, No. 15.

The object of the institution seems to have been the same as that of the dispensaries established by the London College of Physicians towards the end of the seventeenth century(*a*), viz., to supply the poor with advice without charge, and with medicines at their cost price.

The opening of a depot where apothecaries could be supplied with unadulterated medicines was, in those days, a most important object; and the difficulty of obtaining pure drugs in Dublin was one of the principal reasons for establishing the Apothecaries' Hall twenty years later.

(*a*) It was at first intended that medicine as well as advice should have been given gratis at these establishments, but the College of Physicians found it impossible to carry out this intention. They bound their members to prescribe for the poor gratis; and fifty-three of the fellows subscribed £10 per annum each, and opened three dispensaries, at which the medicine prescribed was sold to the poor at its "intrinsic value." The opposition of the apothecaries to this measure is thus described by Sir S. Garth in his humorous poem, "The Dispensary:"

"The Faculty of Warwick-lane design,
If not to storm, at least to undermine;
Their gates each day ten thousand night-caps crowd,
And mortars utter their attempts aloud.
If they should once unmask our mystery,
Each nurse, e'er long, would be as learned as we,
Our art exposed to every vulgar eye,
And none in complaisance to us would die.
What! if we claim their right t' assassinate,
Must they needs turn apothecaries strait?

* * * * *

Our manufactures now they meanly sell,
And spitefully the intrinsic value tell."

When the College prosecuted Rose for practising physic, he urged that if apothecaries were thus restrained, the necessity of feeing physicians would be a great oppression to the poor. The College, in reply, quoted their regulations as to prescribing gratis, and brought forward the existence of the above dispensaries, where the poor might have their prescriptions compounded, "for a third, or generally less, of what the apothecaries used to exact for it."

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dance gratis "to that most noble charitable institution, the Lying-in Hospital."

His future applications to Parliament appear to have been unsuccessful, for on the 3rd of November, 1783, he presented a petition to Parliament, setting forth that, by his disappointment from the House in 1779, he had been reduced to bankruptcy, but that he since paid 20s. in the pound, and praying relief for his expenses in preparing a Dispensary for the poor.

The Report of the committee to whom the petition was referred was favourable, but no vote appears to have resulted from it, and we hear no more of Mr. Wade except that the name of John Wade and John Clarke, both of Capel-street, "Chymists," are signed to a petition presented to Parliament in 1790, from some physicians, surgeons, chemists, druggists, and apothecaries of Dublin, praying that all might participate in the establishment of the Hall, and that it should not be confined to apothecaries.

I have alluded to the establishment of this institution because it appears to have been the first of its kind in Ireland; secondly, because its founder appears to have been one of those devoted philanthropists whose memory should not be allowed to lapse into oblivion; and thirdly, because, from the reasons given for its establishment, we learn something of the state of the Dublin drug-market at that time, and can the better appreciate the improvements which have since taken place.

In 1768 the Corporation of Apothecaries presented Dr. Lucas with an address of thanks for his diligence and attention in the House of Commons, and for his zeal and spirited conduct, which they considered to have been mainly instrumental in obtaining a law for limiting the duration of Parliament; and, as a testimony of their esteem for his public and professional conduct, they voted him his freedom in a silver box.

Mr. John Giffard obtained his freedom in the October of the same year, and in 1771 he was elected one of the wardens.

We now come to the termination of Dr. Lucas's active

career, for we find the corporation assembled on a special summons, 3rd of February, 1772, to appoint a committee to confer with the other corporations relative to the erection of a suitable statue or monument to his memory. This statue is now in the Royal Exchange.

Dr. Lucas was a member of the corporation of barber-surgeons, and his autograph appears frequently in their Transaction Books.

It seems strange that the House of Commons should have met on Christmas Day, yet, from the Journals of the House, it appears that on the 25th of December, 1773, leave was given to bring in a Bill for the better regulating the profession and practice of chirurgery in Ireland; on the 18th of the following month Surgeon Croker laid the heads of the Bill before the corporation of apothecaries. The Bill was not brought in at that time, but a similar one was introduced in 1775, which, however, was not persevered with.

In June, 1775, Mr. Giffard brought forward a scheme for an application to Parliament for the better regulation of pharmacy in Dublin(*a*).

In the following November a petition was presented to Parliament from John Clarke(*b*), stating that, in consequence of the difficulty in procuring pure chemicals for medical use, he had, at much expense, brought their manufacture to great perfection; that in four years he had made 16,000 lbs. of magnesia alba, in all respects equal to what had been imported at a guinea a pound, and had reduced the price so much that even the consumer did not then pay more than one-third that

(*a*) In this year a poem entitled *The Medical Review* was published by Dr. Gilborne, which throws some light upon the relative positions of the three branches of the medical profession at that time. From it we learn that the physicians of Dublin, seventy years ago, thought that the apothecaries were trenching upon their practice. See p. 62.

(*b*) The late Daniel Moore, whose death was recorded in the February Number of this Journal, was nephew and apprentice of Mr. Clarke.

amount for it; that he had reduced Rochelle salt to one-fourth its former price, and prepared 12,000 lbs. of it; and that, notwithstanding the heavy duty, he had established a considerable export trade to Bristol and London, thus opening a new branch of commerce; and praying the House to assist him in erecting an "apparatus for preparing sal ammoniac and several other articles, for which large sums were annually sent to Italy and Holland."

The committee, to whom the petition had been referred, reported that he had fully proved his allegation, and that he deserved the aid of Parliament.

June 26, 1777. The corporation rescinded an order of March, 1750, by which none but actually practising apothecaries were to be members of the guild; the same day they admitted Dr. Mac Bride as an honorary brother; his freedom was presented to him in a silver box with the following inscription: "To Dr. David Mac Bride, from the corporation of apothecaries, as a mark of their esteem." The Rev. James Hastings was admitted and appointed chaplain^(a). Dr. Frederick Jebb had his honorary freedom presented in a silver box.

A bill was brought into the House of Commons in March, 1778, for the improvement of surgery, by separating the surgeons of this city from the corporation of barber-surgeons, and making them two corporations. The rising reputation of surgery had doubtless rendered this union incongruous. This bill was not persevered with, but on the 11th of February, 1784, the principal surgeons of Dublin were, by royal charter, incorporated as the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, a body which rapidly rose to the high position it at present occupies.

Some Acts of Parliament were passed about this time, which, as they affect the apothecary, should be noticed here.

By 17, 18 Geo. III. c. 28, s. 1^(b), it was enacted that jus-

(a) Rev. Dr. M'Donnell had been appointed chaplain in 1763.

(b) An Act for preserving the Health of Prisoners in Gaol, and preventing the Gaol Distemper.

tices of the peace be empowered to appoint an experienced surgeon or apothecary, at a stated salary, not exceeding £10 per annum, to attend each gaol or prison, who shall be directed to report to the justices by whom he is appointed, at each Quarter Sessions, the state of health of the prisoners under his care.

By 26 Geo. III. c. 14, s. 13, any sum not exceeding £15 is allowed to the apothecary for his attending the prisoners and providing medicines for them.

By 26 Geo. III. c. 27, s. 1, a clergyman, surgeon, physician, or apothecary, may be appointed inspector of a gaol, bridewell, or house of correction.

At a meeting held in March, 1783, a resolution was agreed to and signed by fifty-five(*a*) apothecaries practising in Dublin, whose names are given in the corporation book, not to employ any assistant who had not served five years.

October 2, 1783. A memorial from the Pharmaceutic Society(*b*) to the corporation was presented, relative to the grievances under which the professional business of an apothecary laboured, particularly as to the inadequate remuneration for professional trouble and attendance in country parts.

A committee was appointed to take the memorial into their consideration, and to report on the next quarter-day, when a number of resolutions were passed, and a scale of charges fixed upon.

In compliance with a request conveyed in a letter received from the College of Physicians, the corporation, in December, 1787, selected four of their members to act as assistants to the committee appointed by the College to prepare a *Pharmacopœia Dublinensis*(*c*).

(*a*) There are at present about 120 practising apothecaries in Dublin.

(*b*) I have not been able to discover the Annals of this Society.

(*c*) The idea of preparing a Dispensatory for the use of this kingdom was first proposed to the College in 1717-18 by Dr. Cumyng, and several meetings were held on the subject; in 1721 a resolution was passed to recommend

19th October, 1789, John Ussher having been elected master, Messrs. Dalton and Daniel Moore, wardens, a proposal was brought forward to establish a Hall in Dublin, on a plan similar to that instituted by the London apothecaries. In January it was resolved to confer with the College of Physicians as to the utility of the measure; and in the following month leave was given by the House of Commons to introduce a Bill for the purpose. Pending this measure a committee of seven was appointed to examine persons seeking to become assistants or apprentices.

In April, 1790, Dr. Percival, Professor of Chemistry in the University, was admitted an honorary member.

Several physicians, surgeons, apothecaries, chemists, and druggists, had petitioned Parliament to allow all to participate in the formation of the Hall; and a counter-petition was presented by the corporation, praying, for various reasons, that all except apothecaries might be excluded; but in answer to a memorial from the externs, they expressed their willingness to admit as subscribers on equal terms those who were not free of the corporation, provided the privilege should be restricted to apothecaries. The counter-petition of the corporation having been submitted to the committee on the state of pharmacy, they reported that the establishment of a Hall, to consist of practising apothecaries only, would be a measure of great public utility, and that the examination of candidates should be vested in the directors appointed by the proprietors.

the apothecaries of Dublin to use the last London Dispensatory until one for Dublin could be perfected; in 1746, the College published a Dublin edition of the London Dispensatory of 1745; in 1784 a committee was appointed, who, in 1788, took the new London Pharmacopœia as their groundwork; in 1791, some copies of the Pharmacopœia Dublinensis were privately circulated; in 1794, 100 copies of a specimen were distributed among the fellows and licentiates of the College, the heads of the College of Surgeons, the Corporation of Apothecaries, and Apothecaries' Hall; in 1805, copies of another specimen were sent to each member; in 1807, the first Dublin Pharmacopœia appeared; in 1826, a second was published; and a third is now (1848) in preparation.

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ten days, to the general court, i. e. the subscribers at large, of whom fifteen to be a quorum. In like manner persons are to be examined before opening shop or acting as apothecaries, and these have a like power of appeal. If the candidate be rejected three times, he can appeal to the College of Physicians, who are empowered to affirm or reverse the decision of the examiners. Ten shillings to be charged for the certificate to open shop, and five shillings for one to become an assistant or apprentice. No apothecary to take an apprentice for less than seven years, nor to keep arsenic, oils, or colours where medicines are compounded(*a*).

The first general meeting of the subscribers after the passing of the Act of Incorporation, was held at the Surgeons' Theatre in Mercer-street; the oaths directed by the Act having been taken, a vote of thanks was passed to the Royal College of Surgeons for granting the corporation permission to meet at their theatre until a proper Hall should be provided. On the 28th May a committee was appointed to consider the best mode of conducting the examinations of apprentices, assistants, and apothecaries, and to prepare a seal for the company, with the motto, "To preserve health and improve pharmacy."

Having thus endeavoured to sketch the history of pharmacy in Ireland, from its origin as a distinct branch of medicine, to the establishment of the body which now presides over it, I shall close this paper by alluding to a curious coincidence, which looks back, as it were, on the times of which I have been speaking, namely, that the school of the Hall, erected some years since in Cecilia-street, stands upon the ground occupied in 1684 by the Dublin Philosophical Society, when, according to Mr. William Molyneux(*b*), they had "a fair

(*a*) 31 Geo. III. c. 34. "An Act for the more effectually preserving the Health of His Majesty's Subjects, for erecting an Apothecaries' Hall in the City of Dublin, and regulating the Profession of an Apothecary throughout the Kingdom of Ireland."

(*b*) See the Editor's preface to the New Series of this journal, p. xii. I

room in Crow's Nest, off Dame-street, which belongs to one Wetherel, an apothecary, where we have a fair garden for plants," and where the Society, it appears, built a laboratory. Having been subsequently for a time devoted to the dramatic Muse, this locality has, in a measure, returned to its original use,—a laboratory again stands where Thalia reigned, and the site belongs not to one, but to many apothecaries.

While the foregoing was passing through the Press I found in Farr's Medical Annual (1839) some observations which may illustrate the admission of "women as well as men," to the fraternity of barber-surgeons, under the charters of Henry, Elizabeth, and James. In a History of the Medical Profession, published in that work, the writer, having shown from Tacitus(*a*) that among the ancient Germans the women followed the armies to the field, and dressed the wounds of the combatants, "Ad matres, ad conjuges vulnera ferunt; nec illæ numerare aut exigere plagas pavent," remarks that "the ladies sustain the fame of their German mothers, and figure not unfrequently as surgeons in the romances of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, as well as in the poems of Ariosto, Tasso, Spenser, and later bards. The following passage occurs in Ywaine and Gawin, written in the reign of Richard II.:

" ' Twa maydens with him thai laft,
That wele war lered of lechecraft ;
The lordes doghters both thai wore
That war left to kepe hym thore,
Thai heled him everilka wound.' "(*b*)

Again, in the celebrated *Morte d'Arthur*, we read that the knight, Sir Tristram, having been sorely wounded with a poisoned spear, King Marke sent "after alle manere of leches and

would also direct the reader's attention to Dr. Gray's "Report on the Bill for Regulating the Profession of Physic and Surgery, with Observations on Medical Education." Dublin, Browne, 1845.

(*a*) *De Moribus Germaniæ*, c. vii.

(*b*) Ancient English Metrical Romances, edited by J. Ritson, p. 115.

surgens, bothe vnto men and wymmen, and there was none that wold behote hym the lyf." A wise lady at last came, and declared that the knight would never be whole till he visited the country whence the venom came, when he should be healed, or else never^(a). His antagonist having been an Irish knight, he, in pursuance of this advice, repaired to Ireland, where "Kynge Anguysshe for grete fauoure maade Tramtryst to be put in his doughter's ward and kepyng, by cause *she was a noble surgeon*. And whan she had serched hym she fond in the bottome of his wound that therin was poyson, and soo she heled hym within a whyle, and therfore Tramtryst cast grete loue to la beale Isoud, for she was at that tyme the fairest mayde and lady of the worlde."^(b)

"Surgery," adds the same writer "was a part of female education in the days of Queen Elizabeth^(c); and down to a late period the recipes of cookery and physie were consulted by the provident housewife in the same volume."

(a) *Morte d'Arthur*, ed. 1817, by Southey, p. 258.

(b) B. viii. c. ix. p. 259.

(c) Harrison, in the Introduction to Holinshed's Chronicle.