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MEMOIR

OF

JOHN STEARNE, M. & J.U.D., S.F.T.C.D.,

FOUNDER AND FIRST PRESIDENT

OF THE

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS;

INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL CHARTER OF THAT COLLEGE; AND OTHER RECORDS
CONCERNING THE PROFESSION OF PHYSIC IN IRELAND, NEVER
BEFORE PUBLISHED; WITH A REVIEW OF
HIS WRITINGS.

BY

T. W. BELCHER, M.D. DUBLIN;

B.M. AND M.A. OXON. AND DUBLIN; FELLOW OF THE COLLEGE, ETC.

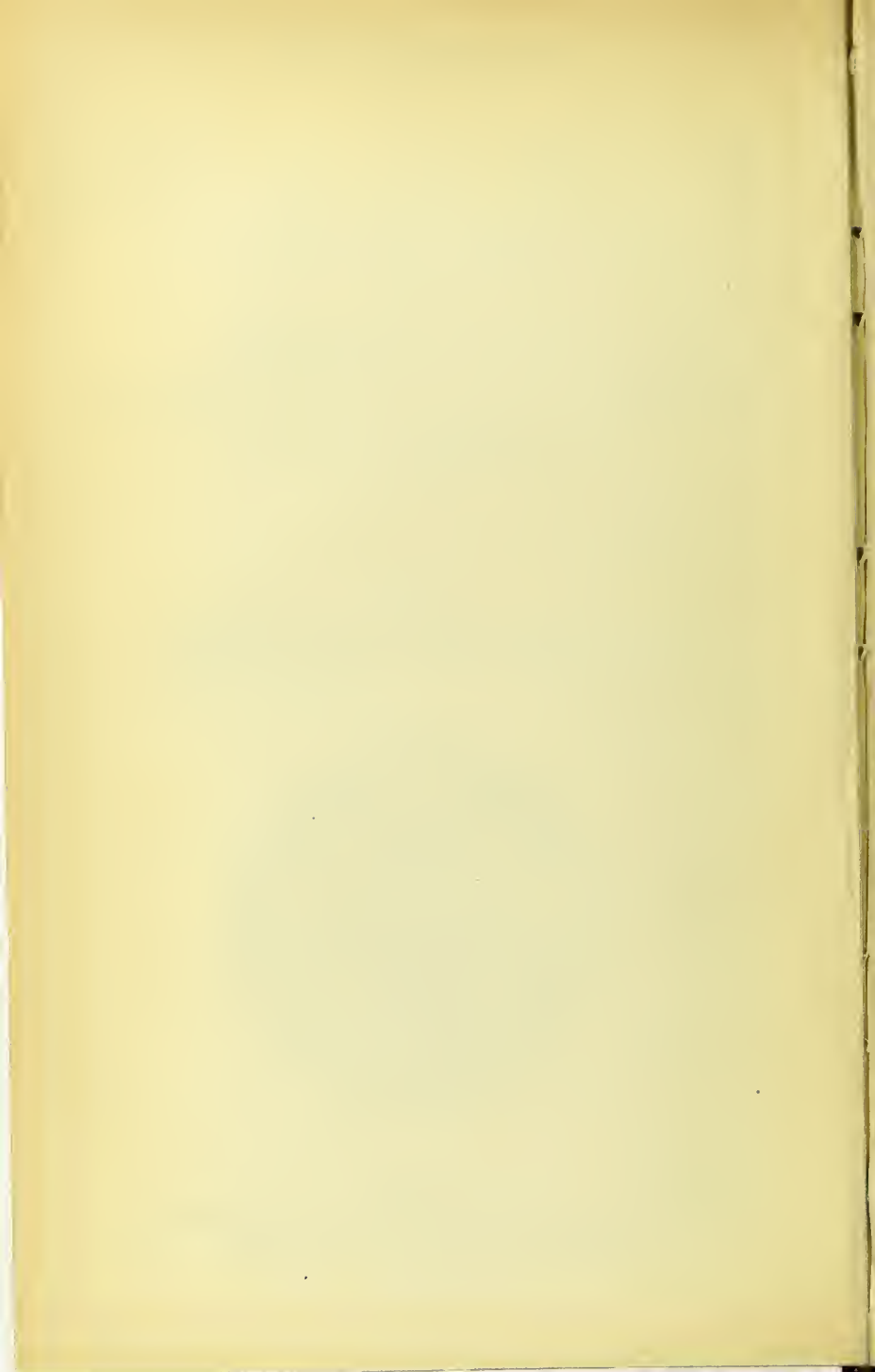


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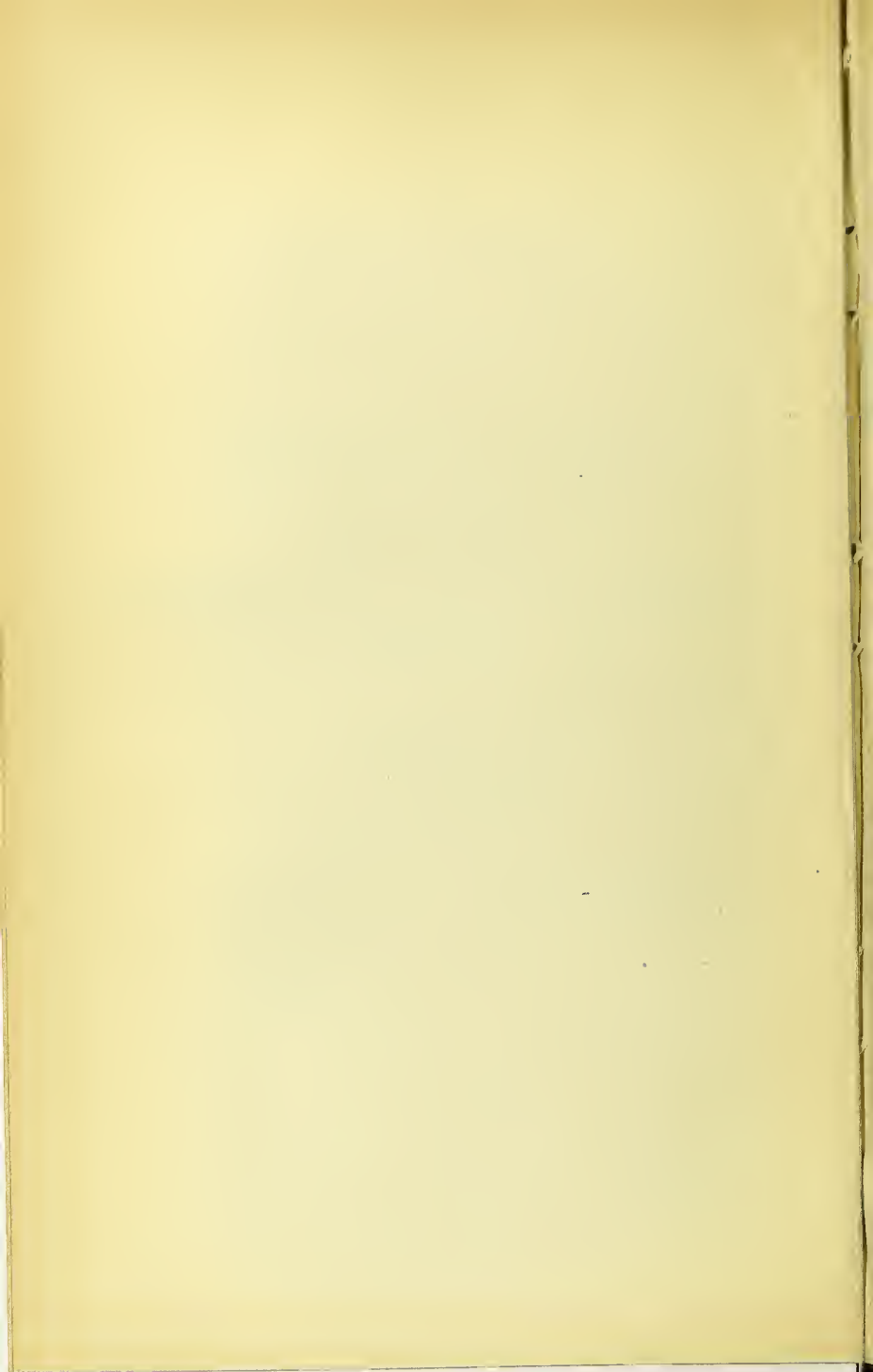


VIRIS CONSULTISSIMIS
PRÆSIDI ET SOCIIS
COLLEGII MEDICORUM REGIS ET REGINÆ
IN HIBERNIÂ.

HOC OPUSCULUM
IN MEMORIAM
FUNDATORIS NOSTRI.

DAT, DEDICAT, CONSECRATQUE.

Auctor.



P R E F A C E.

THE following Memoir was in part read before the Medical Society of the College of Physicians in Ireland, on 25th January last, and it subsequently appeared in full among the Transactions of that Society in the *Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science* for May, 1865. It has now been reprinted in a separate form, in compliance with what the Author feels to be a very complimentary request of the President and Fellows, who, on the 3rd of March last—"Resolved—That Dr. Belcher be requested to allow 250 copies of his life of Dr. Stearne to be struck off for the College, at its expense."

25, HATCH-STREET, DUBLIN,
22nd May, 1865.

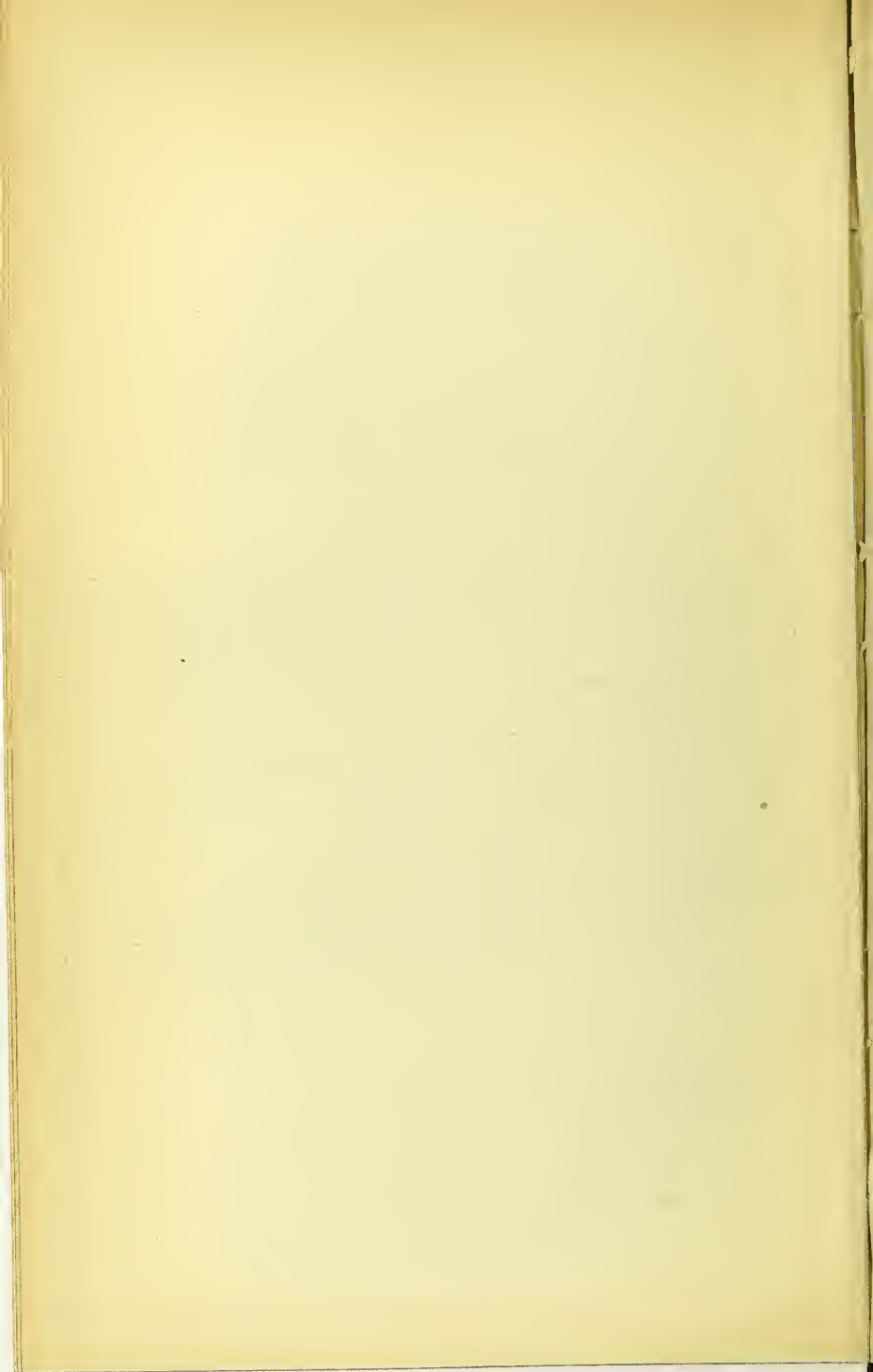


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MEMOIR

OF

JOHN STEARNE, M. & J.U.D., S.F.T.C.D., ETC.

IN the charter of King Charles the II., by which the Irish College of Physicians was incorporated, we find fourteen Fellows appointed. The first name in this roll is "Johannes Stearne;" he was the Founder of the College; and, as such, his memory deserves special notice and respect. Excepting a short and meagre account of him, in Sir James Ware's *Writers of Ireland* (Harris's edition, p. 159), his existence seems to have been all but forgotten until Dr. Aquilla Smith, sometime Vice-President of the College, and now King's Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy, rescued it from oblivion. This he did in an essay published in *The Dublin Journal of Medical Science* (Vol. XIX., p. 81), entitled "Some Account of the Origin and Early History of the College of Physicians in Ireland." The chief sources from which I have derived the information contained in this memoir are the essay of Professor Aquilla Smith already noted, the published writings of Dr. Stearne himself, and a book which I shall quote as *Barrett's MSS.*

This last consists of extracts from the Archives of Trinity College, Dublin, with Historical Comments on the same, by the late eccentric Vice-Provost Barrett.^a That learned Irish divine and scholar the Rev. Dr. Todd kindly gave me the use of a copy of Dr. Barrett's work, transcribed by himself; and to him, and to Dr. A. Smith, I am also indebted for verbal information and other assistance in compiling this memoir. I am also indebted for much valuable and accurate information to Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms, and the reader will perceive that I have consulted the records of the College of Physicians.

^a His biography has yet to be written. See a memoir of him in *The Dublin University Magazine* for 1841; and a psychological notice of him in a paper of mine entitled, *A Short Biographical Notice of a Remarkable Case of Insanity.*—*Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science*, February, 1864.

DR. STEARNE'S BIRTH, FAMILY, AND EARLY LIFE.

John Stearne was born on the 26th of November, 1624, at Ardraccan, in the County of Meath, in the house of the then bishop of that diocese, who was his grand-uncle, and whose name has descended to posterity as "Archbishop Ussher." His family, he himself tells us, was of English origin; and amongst eminent members of the same stock I may mention Richard Sterne, Archbishop of York, who died in 1683, aged 87 years; and Laurence Stearne, better known to fame as the author of *Tristram Shandy*, *The Sentimental Journey*, and other works. It is stated that although Archbishop Sterne was born in Nottinghamshire, yet he was descended from a Suffolk family;^a and from this same family, members of which were now settled in various English counties, John Stearne was likewise descended.^b According to Mr. Percy Fitzgerald (*Life of Laurence Sterne*) his father was John Stearne, of Stapleford, County Cambridge; and he came to Ireland as "officer" to Theophilus Buckworth, Bishop of Dromore, who died in 1652. This John Stearne became John Stearne, Esq., of Greenane, County Down, and married Mabel Bermingham, of Ballogh, Co. Dublin, granddaughter of Arnold (or Arland) Ussher, one of the six clerks in Chancery, father to the celebrated primate.^c Thus, the subject of this memoir was grand-nephew to Primate James Ussher, and great grand-nephew to Primate Henry Ussher, the first Fellow of T.C.D., nominated in the charter of Queen Elizabeth. He was also great grand grandson to James Stanihurst, who was Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, in the reigns of Queens Mary and Elizabeth, in

^a See Sterne Richard, in Chalmers' Biographical Dictionary. Lond., 1812-17.

^b Information from Rev. Dr. Todd. See also the *Life of Laurence Sterne*, by Percy Fitzgerald, M.A., M.R.I.A. Two vols. London. 1864.

^c For some of this information I am indebted to my learned friend Richard Caulfield, Esq., B.A., F.S.A., Librarian to the Royal Cork Institution. The pedigree of the Stearnes, of which more hereafter (p. 448), he obtained for me from Thomas Tuckey, Esq., of Cork, a collateral descendant through Timothy Tuckey, M.D., whose weather tables are given in Smith's *History of Cork* (1750), Vol. ii. p. 398. Dr. Tuckey was nephew to Major-Gen. Stearne, who was son to Capt. Stearne, John's eldest brother.

The following is part of Archbishop Ussher's genealogy, drawn up by Sir William Betham, and inserted in *Elrington's Life and Works of Ussher* :—

Arnold (or Arland) Ussher — Margt., dau. of Jas. Stanihurst.

John Ussher, ob. s. p.	James Ussher, Archbip. of Armagh	Phœbe, dau. of Luke Challoner, D.D.	Margt., Wife of Robert Berming- ham.	Mable, Wife of Dr. Lewis Jones, Bishop of Kildare	Anne, Wife of William Hilton.	Sarah, Wife of Theophil. Buck- worth, Bishop of Dromore.	Ellinor, Wife of Robert Lill, of Trim, Esq.	Thoma- sine.	Eliza- beth.
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— only child,
Wife of Sir Timothy
Tyrrell, Bart.

which latter reign he made the first motion for founding a college and university in Dublin.^a

Having been liberally brought up and educated, he was sent to T.C.D.;^b and, in the *Barrett MSS.*, among "Remarkable Admissions," from 1638 to 1644, I find the following entry:—

"22nd May, 1639, Johs., do. [son] of John Stearne, Co. Meath, [aged] 15."

Having entered college at this early age, the next circumstance I find recorded respecting him is his election to a scholarship, which should have occurred on Trinity Monday, 1641 (*Barrett—infra*). At that time, by order of Parliament, the provost was prohibited from holding any elections to fellowships or scholarships; yet, it seems that Stearne was subsequently acknowledged to have obtained a scholarship in 1641, for Dr. Barrett states (p. 282), that he "was afterwards allowed as such."

HIS RESIDENCE IN ENGLAND, RETURN THEREFROM, POLITICAL POSITION, ETC.

Not long after the breaking out of the Irish rebellion, his studies in T.C.D. were disturbed; they soon came to an abrupt termination, and, to save his life, he fled to England. From his grand-uncle, Archbishop Ussher, he received a commendation to Samuel Ward, D.D., then master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, with whom the Archbishop had long maintained an epistolary correspondence. Proceeding to that university he became an alumnus of Dr. Ward's College, then a place of resort for students in medicine,^c as Gonville and Caius College is at the present day; and, while there, he appears to have devoted himself specially to the study of medicine. During his residence in Cambridge, which, probably, commenced in 1643, he collected materials for his *Animi Medela*; and he describes his abode there as, at first, one of peculiar felicity and quiet. Acknowledging his obligations to the patronage of Dr. Ward, and of his successor, Richard Minshull, D.D., as also to the kindness of the fellows, he avows his unwillingness to change his lot for the riches of the King of the Persians. This state of things did not last; for, after lamentably comparing his short-lived felicity to the evanescence of Jonah's gourd, he observes (address "ad Lectorem," before noted), "quietémque illam, quam ego cum Regis Persarum divitiis permutatam aliquandò nolebam; nova et insperata cepit tempestas." This "nova et insperata tempestas," was evidently

^a Bernard's Life of Archbishop James Ussher. London. 1656.

^b Vix dum ex ephebis egressum Collegium Sanctæ et Indiv. Trinitatis quod est propter Dublinium, sola illa et celeberrima Hiberniæ Academia alumnum Suscepit.—(Address "ad Lectorem" above noted.)

^c Information from Rev. Dr. Todd.

the visitation of the university, in 1643, by the Parliamentary Commissioners, who, coming down on Sidney Sussex College, imprisoned Dr. Ward, and treated him so rigorously that he contracted some disease, of which he died, in great want, September 7th, 1643, six weeks after his enlargement. During the mastership of Dr. Minshall, who immediately succeeded Ward, Stearne remained for a considerable time at his college, notwithstanding the chronic state of the "tempestas." "Quacûmque (as he quaintly remarks) diu multûmque conflictatus."

He probably remained at least seven years in Cambridge, which, he informs us, he left for Oxford, where it seems many learned strangers were then residing. Here he was most kindly received by Seth Ward, Fellow of Wadham College, who was made Savilian Professor of Astronomy in 1649, and who was incorporated at the same time. Seth Ward had been a Fellow of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, which he had to leave on the death of his namesake, and had known Stearne there. He had now, however, found friends among the ruling powers; and Stearne, though he remained but a short time at Oxford, doubtless profited by his acquaintance with his friend the Savilian Professor. Before he went to Cambridge^a he evidently had been elected a Fellow of T.C.D.; for Dr. Barrett states he was ejected from his fellowship by the Rump party; but, in October 1651, on his return from Bedfordshire, he was restored by order of Henry Cromwell, "to whose party he adhered."^b This statement of Dr. Barrett may be accepted as correct, notwithstanding the absence of any record of an election to a fellowship about that time. I have already noticed the prohibition of college elections in 1641, and this is noted in the *Commons' Journal* (Vol. I., p. 415). On the authority of Carte's Ormond (Vol. I., p. 147-8) the editor of the *Dublin University Calendar* (see list of fellows, 1641) observes:—"The reason of this is said to have been, that certain members of the college refused to give evidence or information of alleged mal-practices in the college during Lord Strafford's administration, conceiving themselves prohibited by Cap. XI. of the statutes." From the published roll of fellows it would appear that the Parliamentary prohibition continued until 1644, when the next elections took place. At this time Stearne was in Cambridge, reaping the fruit of

^a The following dedication (dated 1657) is prefixed to his *Animi Medela*:—"Almæ Matri Cantabrigiæ Academiarum longè celeberrimæ, hanc suam qualis qualis est Animi Medelam. In Summæ gratitudinis testimonium, maximæquæ observantiæ monumentum, ob factum, quum in Angliam quasi extorris appulisset, humanissimèque exceptus esset, literarum otium, offert, ejusdemq, censuræ irrefragibili submittit Johannes Stearne nuper Collegii Sidneiani in eâdem Academiâ alumnus."

^b See note of Barrett's conversation with Monck Mason (*History of S. Patrick's Cathedral*, p. 220). Sir James Ware also says he became a fellow, and was ejected by the usurpers.

his acquaintance with the two Wards;^a so, assuming the correctness of Dr. Barrett's statement, I conclude that about 1643 he was appointed, but not legally elected, a fellow; and, as in the scholarship case, "afterwards allowed as such." His continued absence would account for his not having been legally inducted in 1644.^b That he should have left Ireland, and remained away, at this juncture can scarcely be wondered at, if we place any confidence in his account of the then existing state of things. Speaking of the sad events of 1641, he remarks:—"Supervenit Conjuratio Hibernorum Aboriginum, post homines natos atrocissima: et quá adèò sævitum est, ut nulla regionis sylva, nullus saltus, non aut sanguine stagnabat aut scatebat ossibus."—(Address "ad Lectorem" in *Animi Medela*.)

Stearne was evidently not a strong party politician, while he was sufficient of a philosopher to try and make the best of everything. When things were at the worst with him they began to mend; until, as Dr. Barrett states, we find him re-instated in T.C.D., in 1651. His name appears signed as Registrar on September 3rd, 1652; he was Senior Proctor in 1654; while Dr. Barrett has this extract from the admissions in the Senior Lecturer's book:—

"Dr. Stearne, 20 June, 1652; May 20, 1658; final, April 23, 1669."

On November 24th 1656, Stearne was elected Hebrew Lecturer, a post for which it appears he was peculiarly well fitted. In the instrument confirming this election,^c the senior fellows assign to the lecturer a certain stipend, which it seems they were shabby enough to dispute about afterwards. Stearne, feeling dissatisfied, probably complained to Henry Cromwell, then Chancellor of the University, who addressed the following letter in his favour (*Barrett's MSS.*, p. 286):—

HENRY CROMWELL TO THE BOARD OF T.C.D.

"To the worshipfull the Provost and Senior Fellows of Trin. Coll., near Dublin.

"Gentlemen—After a perusal of an Instrument whereby you have elected Dr. John Stearne to be Hebrew Lecturer, and endowed the Lecture, I have ratified and confirmed the same, both approving of your care for the preservation of the Hebrew Language, and likewise commending your

^a Samuel Ward was an eminent divine, and was, with Bishops Hall and Carleton, sent to the Synod of Dort by King James I. Seth Ward, a pupil but no relative of the former, was afterwards Bishop of Salisbury. See their lives in Chalmers' Biographical Dictionary.

^b "At this period (1600) it appears to have been the practice to appoint masters of arts lecturers, who assumed by degrees the name and privilege of fellows." Vol. i. Ussher's Life, by Elrington. See also Rev. Dr. Todd's Introduction to Dublin University Calendar, 1833.

^c Barrett's MSS., p. 284.

choice of a Lecturer. And whereas by the tenor of the said Instrument Dr. Stearne is to be paid from the 20th November, 1657, I do desire that he receive his salary for the said office from the said time. For although he hath not as yet executed the said place because the election and endowment was not ratified yet considering how Small the Salary is,^a and the Charges that Dr. Stearne must be at to furnish himself with Books for the due execution of the said place, during his natural life, I judge it very reasonable and fitting the commencement of the payment of his salary be from the 20th Nov., 1657, as you have by your instrument ordered. I rest your loving friend, Henry Cromwell. Dated 20th June, 1659.”

Notwithstanding this very civil letter, Provost Winter and the senior fellows passed a resolution refusing Stearne's demand, which was for £45, and voting him £20 instead. This did not please him, so the next entry is—“Memorandum, that Dr. John Stearne, M.D., resigned his fellowship. Nov. 17, 1659.”^b

It must not be thought that Stearne resigned his fellowship simply because of a quarrel about £25. His far-seeing prudence did not desert him at this juncture; he saw that the fortune of Cromwell's family was now reversed; for Richard, having dissolved his Parliament by the advice of the officers of his army, these very men re-instated the Rump Parliament, whose first act was to cashier Richard and recall Henry from Ireland. When he saw the republicans disunited he could not fail to look forward, as many others did, to the all but certainty of the restoration of the monarchy; and (as Dr. Barrett remarks) “reflecting that in such case his appointment to a fellowship, being unstatutable as made by usurpers, would be deemed illegal, and probably incensed at the conduct of Winter and the Fellows, did prudently resign his fellowship.”

DR. STEARNE'S DEGREES, HIS MEDICAL PRACTICE, ETC.

The periods at which he obtained his various degrees are involved in obscurity. The earliest record of any degree of his is in the MS. roll of Dublin Graduates, commenced some years ago by the Rev. Dr. Todd. In this roll he is simply called M.D., 1658; meaning, as I apprehend, that in 1658 he was M.D., but not that he obtained the degree in that year. I think this because, as will presently appear, in 1655 he practised physic in Dublin; and in 1654 was President of the Fraternity of Physicians in Trinity Hall, of which more hereafter.

In his various works he styles himself M. & J.U.D. (*Medicinæ, et Juris Utriusque, Doctor*), and occasionally M.D. only; and as the published

^a The stipend in question was £30 per annum.

^b Monck Mason (*Hist. of St. Patrick's Cathedral*, p. 220) says “he married and resigned his fellowship.”

roll, *Graduati Cantabrigienses*, only begins in 1660, nothing can be found of him in it. I suppose that he was incorporated B.A. at Sydney College, Cambridge; proceeded M.A., M.B., and M.D., at that university; was admitted *ad eundem* in Dublin, where he commenced practice on his return from Cambridge; and took the Bachelor's and Doctor's degrees in Laws on his appointment to the Public Professorship of that faculty in 1660.

In order to understand the various titles by which he is designated in his published works, it may be well to make a few explanatory remarks.

He is styled "Medicinæ Doctor et Publicus Professor;" "M. & J.U.D.:" "Medicinæ et Philosophiæ Professor Doctissimus;" "M. & J.U. Professor." At that time the term Professor was understood in two senses:—as synonymous with Doctor, of which it is still the proper academic Latin equivalent (*e.g.* S.T.P., *Anglicè* D.D.); and as designating a man who was qualified by competent authority to teach any particular branch of knowledge. The Public Professor was the university officer in the modern English sense of the term, and corresponded with the "Professor Ordinarius" of the foreign universities.^a The "Professor Extraordinarius" of these universities was the same as the Private Professor, or licensed teacher, and was somewhat like our resident masters or superior grinders—*Anglicè* "coaches." Thus a man like Stearne, having a forensic taste, would have been made Public Professor of Laws, and afterwards he might change it for aⁿ Public Professorship of Medicine.

He was Public Professor of Medicine anterior to his appointment to the Hebrew Lectureship; for, in the instrument announcing his election to Henry Cromwell, he is styled "Medicinæ Doctorem et Professorem Publicum." There were then but two lay Fellows in T.C.D. One, the Civilian or Jurista, in right of his office was Public Professor of Laws, and the other, Medicus, was Public Professor of Medicine in like manner. In *Bedell's Statutes* (Cap. XVII.) these fellows are styled "Professores⁴ Jurisprudentiæ et Medicinæ;" but in the latter case, with two exceptions, the offices of Medicus and Public Professor of Medicine have not been held by the same individual since 1660.^b

During this time Stearne enjoyed extensive practice, which he seems to have obtained easily enough; for in three years and a-half from his return to Dublin he had sufficient influence with Provost Winter and the Board to obtain the following favour:—

"We, the Provost and Senior Fellows of T.C., near Dublin, at the request of John Stearne, Senr. Fellow of the said College, do, for and in

^a One of Stearne's works (*Manuductio*) refers to the opinions of Adrian Heereboord, of Leyden, "*Philosophiæ Professoris Ordinarii.*"

^b These two exceptions were Stearne himself, and Richard Helsham, M.D., appointed Professor of Physic in 1733. The Professorship was founded in 1637.

consideration of the said John Stearne's practice in Physic, hereby give and grant unto the said John Stearne full liberty to lye in the City of Dublin, or elsewhere, whensoever, in his discretion, his Physical employments shall require his absence any night from the College. In witness whereof we have subscribed our names, this 22 May, 1655. Sam. Winter, Præp. Joseph Travers, V.P. Nath. Hoyle. C. Williamson. Adam Cusacke."—(*Barrett MSS.*, p. 288.)

COLLEGIATE SYSTEM IN THE UNIVERSITY AT THIS TIME—TRINITY HALL.

The earlier Provosts of T.C.D. were mostly Cambridge men; and, through their influence, various attempts were made to introduce into Dublin the English system of many colleges in one university. On Feb. 19, 1630, two buildings, called in the language of the day "mass houses," in Bridge-street were given by the Lords Justices to T.C.D. for this purpose. Each was constituted a Hall in the university, and had a master and scholars (*Barrett MSS.*, 188); but some time after they were given up as collegiate institutions, for want of funds. In Back-lane was another building of the same kind, of which Borlace, an Irish physician, who practised at Chester, copying from Fuller's *Church History*, thus writes:—"For many years the University was confined to this Colledge [T.C.D.]; since, it hath been enlarged by some adjacent Tenements, whereof (of late) one is converted to a Colledge of Physitians, graced by his Majesty with many Priviledges, and the Mass House in Back-lane, a fair Collegiate building, was disposed of to the University of Dublin, a Rector and Scholers being placed in it in the time of Chancellor Loftus and the Earl of Corkes being Lords Justices; but whether it so continues I am not certain. I hear it is alienated."^a—(P. 164). This hall or college in Back-lane was also given up for want of funds, and the organ in it was transferred to T.C.D., where it still stands in the gallery of the theatre (information from Rev. Dr. Todd). Trinity Hall, mentioned by Borlace, did not so soon sink into oblivion. It stood in the centre of Trinity-place, off Dame-lane, where a quadrangular set of buildings on part of the same site still exists, and was originally built for a bridewell; but the design of its erection falling through, as described by Dr. A. Smith (*Early History of the College of Physicians in Ireland*), it came into the possession of T.C.D. in 1616.^b From that time until 1641 it was properly kept up, but in the general

^a This house was afterwards a military hospital, and "Tailor's Hall" now stands on its site.—Census of Ireland for 1851, Report and Status of Disease, p. 91.

^b A copy of the lease or assignment of Trin. Hall to T.C.D., is on p. 236, of the oldest book now among the Coll. Records. This book is bound in vellum, and marked on the cover "11 Very Old Accounts." Inside is written "Thomas D'Olin, Generosus Dono dedit hunc librum in usum fraternitatis Anlæ Trinitatis, die 14^{to} Julii, 1664." It contains the Coll. accounts to 1705, besides records of elections to offices and fellowships.

confusion of the civil war was much neglected; and, having been forsaken by the students, "was by poor people occupied, and in a manner ruined,"^a About the year 1654 the corporation threatened to resume possession of the hall, which they had power to do in case it should cease to be used for college purposes, but Dr. Stearne, who was evidently a public man of note at this time, proposed to the Provost and Fellows that he should be constituted President of Trinity Hall for life, and be allowed to lodge there on condition (*inter alia*) of repairing it at his own cost, and converting all of it, save his own lodgings, to the use of physicians. By this arrangement T.C.D. had the appointment of the President of Trinity Hall, and the persons accommodated there were styled "The President and Fraternity of Physicians."

During the ensuing six years Trinity Hall remained in *statu quo*, nor do I find that any steps were taken during this interval to accomplish the avowed object of Dr. Stearne and his fraternity, viz., the incorporation of a College of Physicians in the University of Dublin.^b—(See *Barrett's MSS.*, p. 65).

This idea had existed before Stearne's time, and the usefulness of the project was occasionally discussed, not only as a professional matter, but as an educational one which very much concerned the interests of the university.

In 1628 Provost Bedell^c wrote a letter from London to Archbishop Ussher (*Parr's Life of Ussher*, p. 387), in which he observed:—"At my being in Dublin, there came to me one Dr. De Laune, a Physician bred in Emanuel College: Who in speech to me discovered their purpose to procure a patent like to that which the College of Physicians hath in London. I noted the thing, and partly by that occasion, and partly also the desire of the Fellows to extend their time of stay in the College.^d I have drawn a plot of my thoughts in that behalf, which I send your Grace herewith."

In another letter written in 1628 to the same prelate, Provost Bedell says:—"I suppose it hath been an error all this while to neglect the faculties of Law and Physic, and attend only to the ordering of one poor College of Divines; whereas with a little more labour and a few privileges attained, a great many more good wits might have been allured to study."—(*Op. supr. cit.*, p. 391.)

^a Barrett's MSS., p. 65.

^b In Taylor's History of the University of Dublin (Lond., 1845), opposite to the title page is an engraving of the old-fashioned gown of an M.A., or Fellow of T.C.D. It is of the same pattern as that still (Nov. 1864) used by certain office bearers of the College of Physicians.

^c B.D., afterwards Bp. of Kilmore. He first procured the Old Testament to be translated into Irish. See his life by Bp. Burnet.

^d Fellowships were then only tenable for a term of years.

The obvious meaning of these remarks is, that Bedell, seeing that while degrees in all faculties were granted by the university, the education of theological students was only attended to, conceived the idea of separate colleges for the other faculties. In these colleges the students would have tuition in arts, and also professional teaching. On the medical side of this question, Dr. De Laune was evidently a leading man, and from what follows it will appear that the project which Stearne carried out successfully was originated by the other.

Dr. De Laune was elected a fellow of the London College of Physicians in 1618, one year after its re-incorporation by King James I., and was physician to the Lord Deputy of Ireland at the time of his interview with Bedell. It was evidently by his exertions that King Charles I., on the recommendation of the Lord Deputy, Viscount Falkland, issued a royal letter for the incorporation of a college of physicians. This design was probably frustrated by the return of Dr. De Laune to London, and his permanent abode there for many years after 1642, when he was appointed an "Elect" in the London College.^a The civil war further prevented Stearne or any one else from obtaining the charter.

Stearne doubtless had before him the letter of King Charles I. This document, the earliest I have heard of respecting the College of Physicians, is copied into one of the existing volumes of its records. This volume I shall quote as *Sir Patrick Dunn's Book*; it is described on the cover as "Colledge of Physicians, 1693," and inside is this inscription: "The guift of Dr. Patriek Dunn (First President) to the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland." The royal letter^b runs thus:—

KING CHARLES THE FIRST'S LETTER.

" Charles Rex,

" Right trusty and wel-beloved Cossen and Cuncello^r, Wee greete you well.

"The Zeale which our late deare ffather of blessed memory hath always had to reduce that our kingdom of Ireland to Civility and to an uniforme manner of Governm^t. with this our Realme of England, whereby the same may flourish to the glory of God, our honour, and the benefit and comfort of all our Subjects and Inhabitants is not unknowne nor can be hidden from so many as have observed the Sundry Alterations tending to that perfection to which the same hath attained since the beginning of our said father's Reigne. For the better effecting whereof our Ffather was daily Studious to establish in the said kingdom such laudable and profitable things for civill Adm^{tion} as might not onely conforme the same to the President of this Our Realme of England, but also to propagate and advanee the honor and estimation of that our Kingdom, Wee

^a For a memoir of Paul De Laune, M.D., see Munk's Roll of the Royal College of Physicians of Loudon, Vol. i., p. 160. (Lond., 1861.)

^b This letter is printed in Gilbert's Hist. of Dublin, Vol. iii., p. 9.

therefore in imitation of so Royall an Example have now taken into our consideration that the Establishing and practice of Learning and humane Sciences is not a little available thereunto, and amongst others that laudable and most necessary Art of Physick the Practise whereof, as We are informed, is daily abused in that our Kingdom by wandring Ignorant Mountebanks and Empryicks, who for want of restraint do much abound to the daily impaireing of the healths, and hazarding of the Lives in generall of our good Subjects there, For the Reformation of which abuse, Wee think it fitt upon your recomendation, and hereby doe require and authorize you with the advice of some of our learned Councill there, by Letters Patents to be made and past from us our Heires and Successors under the great Seale of that our Realme, To erect in our citty of Dublin in that our Kingdom a Colledge Society & Corporation of Physicians according to the Rule and forme of the Charter heretofore granted to the Physicians in our Citty of London for the incorporating of them, And also to have all and every such Articles and Priviledges in as ample and beneficiall manner as the Physicians of our Citty of London doe now lawfully enjoy by virtue of any Act of Parliament or Letters Patent And moreover to Erect the said College Society & Corporation of Physicians by such name of Foundation, and to be a body consisting of such and so many persons to be incorporated by such names as to them the said Physitians shall seem meet, to have a ppetuall Continuance and Succession, With license and authority to them and their Successors for the better maintenance of the said Colledge and Society to purchase Manors Lands Tenements and Hereditaments in that our Realme in Mortmaine, not exceeding the yearly value of Forty pounds per ann^m Irish, To be houlden of us our Heirs and Successors as of our Castle of Dublin in ffree and comon Soccage, and not in Capite, nor by Knights Service, and likewise to purchase to them and their Successors Goods and Chatteles Reall and Personal, And our further pleasure is to give power to the said Society & Corporation of Physicián[s] to make such Laws and Ordinances for the Governm^t. and Well ordering of the said Colledge and the persons Members of that Colledge and professing Physick within that Citty and Twenty miles thereof, and of the Revenues and possessions thereof as they from time to time shall think fitt, or as the Colledge of Physicians in England may lawfully doe, and that the said Society & Corporacon may alter or abrogate the said Laws or Ordinances, or any of them, and to make new to the same effect as they shall think good, So as the same be not repugniant to the Laws and Statutes of that our Realme, And these our Letters shall be as well unto you our Deputy and Chancellor there now being, as to any other Deputy Chief Governor or Govern^{rs}. Chancellor or Keeper of the great Seale of that our Kingdom which hereafter for the time shall be and to all other our Officers and Ministers there to whome it shall or may apperteyne, and to every of them sufficient warrant & discharge in that behalf, Given under our Signett at our

Pallace of Westminster the fifth day of August in the Second yeare of our Reigne [1626].

“To our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Cousin and Councillor the Lord Visct. Falkland our Deputy Gen^l. of our Realme of Ireland, and to our Chancellor there now being, and to any other Deputy Chief Govern^r. or Govern^{rs}. Chancellor or Keeper of the Great Seale of that our Kingdom which hereafter for the time shall be, and to all other our Officers and Ministers there to whom it shall or may apperteyne, and to every of them.”

“A true copy.

“R^d. WALLIS,

“Clerke of the Rolls.

“Copia vera.”

DR. STEARNE'S POSITION AT THE RESTORATION.

On the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 none of the fellows then in possession at T.C.D. were found to have any statutable position, and accordingly, by a King's letter dated Whitehall, 29th December 1660, several nominations were made to the vacant fellowships.

If the high party spirit of those times be taken into account, it must be concluded that Stearne had all along played his part well, for with Joshua Cowley, Richard Lyngard, Patrick Sheridan, and William Vincent, he was appointed a senior fellow by the King's letter above mentioned, and immediately after was elected Public Professor of Laws. He also, being a married man, obtained a dispensation from the statutes respecting the celibacy of fellows.—(See *University Calendar*, and *Taylor's History of the University of Dublin*.)—He married in 1659,^a Dorothy, daughter of Charles Ryves, Esq., and she survived him.^b

DR. STEARNE'S SON JOHN.

He had an only son, who afterwards attained to great eminence; he was born in 1660, and his name was John. He was the predecessor of Swift in the Deanery of St. Patrick's, from which he was promoted to the See of Dromore, and finally, in 1717, to that of Clogher. He was elected Vice-Chancellor of the University in 1721, founded and endowed the University Printing House in 1734,^c and died unmarried 6th June 1745, leaving

^a Monck Mason's *Hist. of St. Patrick's Cathedral*, p. 229.

^b Annexed to his posthumous work “*De Obstatione*” is an Elogy on him by Robert Maxwell, Bishop of Kilmore. In this she is named as surviving him. She was alive in 1677; for under the date October 24, in that year, among “*Recepta Dris. Crosby [Registrarii] durante sus ministerio*,” I find the following entry in *D'Olins Book* (already described in a note as “11 very old accounts”) “*De vidua Sterne pro reditu semi annuo domus hujusce [Trin. Hall] £03 01 03.*”

^c The inscription over the entrance of the printing house is as follows:—“*R. R. Johannes Stearne, Episcopus Clogherensis, Vice cancellarius hujus Academiae probenevolentia quam habuit in Academiam et rem literarium. Posuit 1734.*” See notices of him in *Harris' Ware*, *Cotton's Fasti Ecclesiae Hiberniae*, *Mant's History of the Irish Church*, and *Sir W. Scott's Life and Writings of Swift*.

by his will annual endowments to many religious and charitable institutions in this city. Among these I may specify Steevens' Hospital, Mercer's Alms Houses, the Lying-in Hospital, the Blue Coat Hospital, Swift's Hospital, and the residue to the support of blind children.^a He also left £1,000 to build the granite spire of St. Patrick's Cathedral.—(*Mason's Hist. of St. Patrick's*, p. 10.) The Bishop had three sisters, namely, Bridget, Catharine, and Mabella. Of these the eldest, Bridget, m. John Rotton, and had one son, John Rotton, Esq., of Dublin, and four daughters, Bridget, wife of John Hawkshaw, LL.D.; Jane, wife of Thomas Putland, Esq. (ancestor of the Putlands of Brayhead); Frances; and Dorothy, wife of Alderman Henry Hart.

DR. STEARNE'S PROPOSALS ABOUT TRINITY HALL AND A COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, IN 1660.

On February 18, 1660, Dr. Stearne renewed his former proposal to the Board in the following terms:—

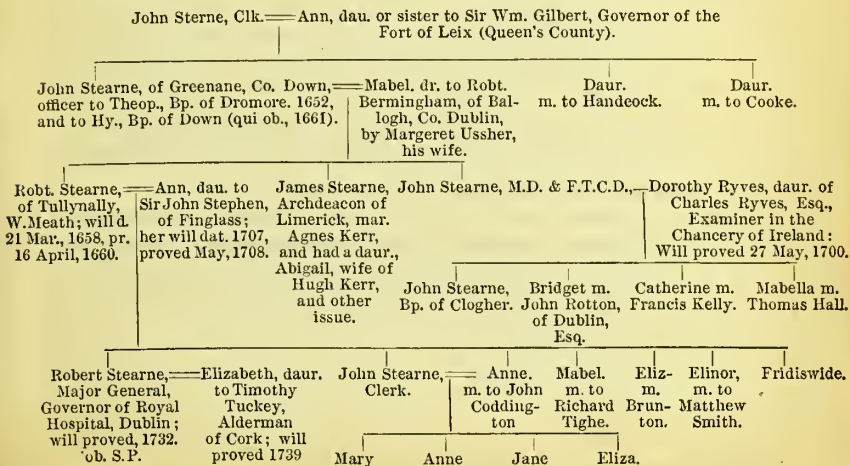
“1. That Trinity Hall, with the land thereunto belonging, may be set apart in perpetuum for the advancement of the study of physic in Ireland.

“2. That in Pursuance of the said design, John Stearne be constituted President of the said Hall for and during his natural life.

“3. That the nomination of a President of the said Hall upon Vacancy be always in the Provost and Senior Fellows aforesaid and their Successors.

^a See acknowledgements of money received from this source in the Annual Reports of St. Mark's Ophthalmic Hospital.

The following is the pedigree of the Stearnes already referred to, corrected by Sir Bernard Burke:—



“4. That the said John Stearne may accommodate himself with gardening upon the ground belonging to the said Hall, and with Chambers out of the present building, or out of such as shall hereafter be raised upon the ground unto the said Hall appertaining.

“5. That the President of the said Hall shall call into a fraternity able Physicians, who, together with him, are desired to endeavour to advance moneys for additional buildings to the said Hall, and to procure a Charter for to be a body corporate with privileges.

“6. That all students of physick in the said Hall shall, until the President of the said Hall and the fraternity thereof be made a body corporate by Charter, be bound to come to prayers in Trinity College aforesaid, and to perform Exercises there, according to their several capacities.

“7. That the President and fraternity shall, if demanded, meet to consult upon the best means for the recovery of the Provost and Senior Fellows aforesaid, or their Successors, whenever any of them shall happen to be sick.

“8. That no students be admitted into the said Hall, but such as are first admitted or incorporated into Trinity College aforesaid.—John Stearne.”—(*Barrett's MSS.*, p. 68.)

These proposals were approved of by the board, and a legal instrument according to the tenor of them, was duly executed on 22nd February, 1660^o. This was soon cancelled, probably because of some informality, and a new deed was sealed and signed 22nd April, 1661.

On the 19th March, 1660^o, the board decreed, on account of Stearne's practice of physick, and the remoteness of Trinity Hall from Trinity College, Dublin, that “he shall not be penally obliged to be present at Coll: prayers, unless he be thereunto specially required, and that he receive his Commons in money.”^a

Under the date 1662, June 3, Dr. Barrett writes:—“Dr. John Stearne constituted and elected Public Professor of Medicine in the University of Dublin for and during his natural life, he was sworn by the Vice-Chancellor June 4th.”

Stearne having accomplished his purpose respecting Trinity Hall, now set himself to procure the charter. Here, however, he met with delay; but at last, on the 8th of August, 1667, the physicians received the long promised letters patent.

This charter has never yet been published either in English or in Latin; and as it is a document of considerable importance, and withal is comparatively short, I shall here set it down as copied from “Sir Patrick Dun's Book,” p. 27. The original is not in the possession of the College, having been surrendered previous to obtaining the Charter of William and Mary in 1692.

^a Barrett's MSS.

CHARTER OF KING CHARLES II.^a

“CAROLUS SECUNDUS Dei Gratia Angliæ Scotiæ Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex Fidei Defensor etc OMNIBUS ad quos presentes Literæ nostræ pervenerint Salutem. Cum Regii Officii nostri munus arbitremur Ditionis nostræ hominum felicitatem omni ratione consulere, et ad hoc apprime necessarium est indocti Artis Medicinæ Professores supprementur, et periti in hac arte fovantur et incitentur. Ac Superind Collegium perpetuum gravium et doctorum vivorum,^b qui Medicinam publicè exer-teant in Civitate nostræ Dublin in dicto Regno nostro Hiberniæ et per spacium^c septem miliarium a dicta Civitate undequaue versus Institui volumus.

“SCIATIS igitur quod nos de gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa scientia et mero motu nostris, Necnon de advisamento et consensu predilecti et perquam dilecti Consanguinii et Consilarii nostri Jacobi Ducis Ormondæ Locumtenentis nostri generalis ac generalis Gubernatoris dicti Regni nostri Hiberniæ ac juxta tenorem et effectum quarundam Literarum nostrarum manu nostra propria signatarum et sub Signeto nostro datarum apud Curiam nostram de Whitehall Vicessimo Octavo die Junii Anno Regni nostri Decimo Septimo et nunc in Rotulis Curie nostra [æ] Cancellariæ dicti Regni nostri Hiberniæ Irrotulatarum.

“DEDIMUS Concessimus Constituimus et Ordinavimus quod Johannes Stear[n]e, Medicinæ Doctor, Gulielmus Petty Miles, Edvardus Dynham, Abrahamus Yarner, Josephus Waterhouse, Gulielmus Currer, Robertus Waller, Thomas Margetson, Nathaniel Henshaw, Samuel Scielamore, Jeremias Hall, Carolus Willoughby, Johannes Unmusique, et Johannes Cusacke, Omnes Medicinæ Doctores, de cetero siut et erunt vigore presentium in re facto ac nomine unum Corpus incorporatum et Politicum et Communitas perpetua sive Collegium perpetuum per nomen Præsidentis et Sociorum Collegii Medicorum in Dublin, et eos per nomen Præsidentis et Sociorum Collegii Medicorum in Dublin, in unum Corpus Corporatum et Politicum in re facto ac nomine realiter et ad plenum pro nobis Heredibus et Successoribus nostris erigimus, facimus et ordinamus, et Creamus per presentes. Et quod per id nomen habeant Successionem perpetuam et siut et erunt perpetuis futuris temporibus personæ habiles et in Lege capaces ad habendum perquirendum recipiendum et possidendum absque aliqua licentia inde a nobis Heredibus et Successoribus nostris in hac parte obtinenda: Terras Tenementa et Hereditamenta quæcunque non exedentia^d annum Valorem Centum librarum Sterl. per annum.

^a In Sir P. Dun's Book this charter is written in contracted Latin.

^b Vivorum, error for “virorum.”

^c Spacium for “Spatium.”

^d Exedentia for “excedentia.”

“ AC ULTERIUS de gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa Scientia et mero motu nostris Necnon de Advisamento et consensu prædicto, facimus constituimus et ordinamus prædictum Johannem Sterne primum et moderum^a Præsidentem Collegii sive Communitatis prædictæ ad Supervidendum recognoscendum et gubernandum Collegium sive Communitatem prædictam et omnes homines ejusdem facultatis Existentes Membra Collegii prædicti et negotia eorundam: continuandum in eodem Officio durante Vita Sua naturali, constituimus: etiam ac declaramus quod post mortem prædicti Johannis Sterne Præpositus Socii et Scholares Collegii sanctæ et individuae Trinitatis juxta Dublin pro tempore existentes pro eo quod obligarunt se dare stabilire et disponere Aulam communitatis vocatam Trinity Hall, cum Terris eidem spectantibus ad usum dictæ communitatis sive Collegii Medicorum, quod ipsi et eorum Successores de tempore in tempus quoties opus fuerit valeant et possint singulis annis in perpetuum post mortem dicti Johannis Stearn, eligere de Communitate et Collegio Medicorum prædicto, talem providum virum et in facultate medicinæ expertum quales Approbatus fuerit per Locumtenentem nostrum generalem aut Deputatum, vel alium Capitalem Gubernatorem vel Gubernatores dicti Regni nostri Hiberniæ pro tempore existentes fore, Præsidentem ejusdem Collegii sive Communitatis Medicorum prædictæ ad Supervidendum recognoscendum et gubernandum Collegium sive Communitatem Medicorum prædictam pro uno Anno integro, et omnes homines ejusdem facultatis existentes Membra Collegii Medicorum prædicti et negotia eorundam. Et quod Præsidentis et Collegii sive Communitatis Medicorum prædictum habeant Commune Sigillum Negotium dictæ Communitatis et Præsidentis in perpetuum Serviturum; Et quod ipsi per nomen Præsidentis et Sociorum Collegii Medicorum in Dublin placitare et implacitari possint coram quibuscunque Judicibus in omnibus Curiis nostris et Actionibus quibuscunque. ET ULTERIUS volumus et per presentes pro nobis Heredibus et successoribus nostris Damus et concedimus præfato Præsidenti et Sociis Collegii Medicorum in Dublin et Successoribus suis in perpetuum plenam potestatem et Authoritatem de tempore in tempus eligendi talem personam vel personas Medicinam profitentes, quod ipsi vel major pars eorum quorum Præsidentis dicti Collegii Medicorum pro tempore existens unum esse volumus, cum approbatione Locumtenentis nostri generalis aut Deputati vel alius Capitalis Gubernatoris vel Gubernatorum dicti Regni nostri pro tempore existentis Aptos esse judicabunt fore Membra aut Socios dictæ Communitatis sive Collegii Medicorum prædicti. AC ULTERIUS de uberiore[*i*] gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa Scientia et mero motu nostris necnon de advisamento et consensu prædicta, Dedimus et concessimus et per presentes pro nobis Heredibus et Successoribus nostris damus et concedimus præfato Præsidenti et Sociis Collegii Medicorum in

^a Moderum for “ Modernum.”

Dublin prædicti et Successoribus suis in perpetuum, quod ipsi et Successores sui Congregationes licitas et Honestas de Seipsin in Aula prædicta communiter vocata Trinity Hall aut alibi (toties quoties opus fuerit) habere tenere et convocare possint, et talia Statuta et Ordinantia pro salubri et meliori gubernatione Collegii sive Communitatis Medicorum prædicti facere stabilere^a et ordinare qualia approbata fuerint per Locumtenentem nostrum generalem aut Deputatum vel alium Capitalem Gubernatorem vel Gubernatores et Concilium dicti Regni nostri Hiberniæ pro tempore existens. Et quod in dicta Civitate et per Spatium Septem miliarum a dicta Civitate undequaque Versus, Nullus exerceat dictam Facultatem Medicinæ nisi ad hoc prædictum Præsidentem et Communitatem Collegii Medicorum prædictam sive Successores eorum qui pro tempore fuerint admissus sit per Literas Testimoniales sub Sigillo communi dicti Præsidentis et Collegii Medicorum Sigillatas, Sub pœna forisfactura Centum Solidorum Sterl. pro quolibet mense in quo ipse qui sit non admissus est eandem Facultatem Medicinæ exercuit intra meta et loca prædicta unam medietatem inde nobis Heredibus et Successoribus nostris solvendam et aliam medietatem Præsidenti Collegii Medicorum pro tempore existenti. AC ULTERIUS de uberiori gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa Scientia et mero motu nostris Necnon de advisamento et consensu prædicta, dedimus et concessimus ac per presentes pro nobis Heredibus et Successoribus nostris damus et concedimus præfato Præsidenti et Sociis Collegii Medicorum in Dublin, et Successoribus suis in perpetuum, quod hæc literæ nostræ Patentis et quilibet Articulus et Clausula in cisdem contentus vel Irrotulamentum earundam sint, construentur, interpretentur et adjudicentur in maximum advantagium beneficium et favorem præfati Præsidentis et Sociorum Collegii Medicorum in Dublin prædicti et Successorum suorum, erga et contra nos Heredes et Successores nostros, tam in omnibus Curiiis nostris infra Regnum nostrum Hiberniæ quam alibi ubicunque absque aliqua confirmatione licentia vel toleratione imposterum a nobis Heredibus vel Successoribus nostris procuranda seu obtinenda Non obstante quodam Statuto edito in Regno nostro Anno Septimi Regni Regis Edwardi Primi de Terris in manu mortuam^b non alienandis, &c., Non obstante alio Statuto edito apud Westmonasterium in Anno decimo octavo regni Regis Edwardi Primi vocato Statuto quia Emptor Terrarum et non obstante aliquo alio Statuto Acto Ordinatione sive Provisione aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacunque in contrarium non obstante PROVISIO semper quod præfati Præsidentis et Socii Collegii Medicorum irrotulabunt vel irrotulari causabunt has Literas nostros,^c Patentis in Rotulis altæ Curie nostræ Cancellariæ, in dicto regno nostro

^a Stabilere for "Stabilire."

^b Menu mortuam for "manu mortuam."

^c Nostros for "nostras."

Hiberniæ infra sex meuses proximas post datum harum literarum paten-
 rium, Eo quod expressa Mentio de vero valore Annuo aut de Certitudine
 præmissorum seu eorum alicujus, aut de aliis donis sive Concessionibus
 per nos vel per aliquem Progenitorum nostrorum eidem Præsidenti et
 Sociis Collegii Medicorum prædicto ante hac factis in præsentibus minimè
 factis existit; Aliquo Statuto Acto Ordinatione sive Provisione aut aliqua
 alia re causa vel materia quacunque in contrarium præmissorium facto
 in aliquo non obstante, Volumus etiam ac per præsentés pro nobis Herci-
 dibus et Successoribus nostris damus et concedimus eidem Præsidenti et
 Sociis Collegii Medicorum prædictis quod habeant et habebunt has literas
 nostras Patentes sub magno Sigillo nostro Hiberniæ debito modo factas et
 Sigillatas absque fine magno vel parvo proinde nobis in Hanaperio
 nostro vel alibi ad usum nostrum reddendum Solvendum seu faciendum.
 IN CUJUS rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus Patentes: Teste
 præfato Locumtenente nostro generali et generali Governatore nostro
 Regni nostri Hiberniæ prædicto. Apud Dublin Octavo die Augusti Anno
 Regni nostri decimo nono."

THE CHIEF PROVISIONS OF THE PRECEDING CHARTER.

From the contents of this charter it seems that a King's letter such as
 that issued by Charles I. was written from Whitehall on the 28th of
 June, 1665, and enrolled in the Irish Court of Chancery. More than
 two years after ("on the 8th day of August, in the 19th year of our
 reign") the provisions of the King's letter were embodied in the charter,
 which, *inter alia*, ordained that Dr. John Stearne and thirteen other
 doctors of medicine, of whom the celebrated Sir William Petty was one,
 should be constituted fellows; that Stearne should be the first president,
 and should hold that office for life; that the college should have jurisdic-
 tion over practitioners in physic in Dublin and within seven miles thereof;
 that no person should practise medicine within these limits without the
 license of the college, under a penalty of one hundred shillings for each
 month of unlicensed practice; that the college might have a common seal;
 might sue and be sued in courts of law; might acquire property to the
 value of £100 per annum; might meet as often as they chose, and make
 bye-laws, and elect fellows subject to the approval of the Lord Lieutenant
 or his Deputy. After the death of Stearne his successors in the presi-
 dency were to be elected by the Provost, Fellows, and Scholars of Trinity
 College, provided they settled Trinity Hall and the lands belonging to it
 on the College of Physicians; the election of the president was to be
 confirmed by the Lord Lieutenant.

TRINITY HALL, COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, AND TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.

Dr. Stearne having now procured the charter agreeably to his engagement with the Provost and Fellows, made an application to them that Trinity Hall, which had been previously granted to him in trust, "might be by Councel learned in the Law settled upon Matt. Barry and Launcelot Sandes, Esq., for the sole use of the Coll: of Physicians." This was done on the 13th of August, and on the 9th of September, 1667, it was recorded:—"The said P. F. and Scholars do hereby declare that the said John Stearne hath fully discharged the trust in him by the said instrument reposed, and order this their declaration to be Entered in the Registry."—(*Barrett's MSS.*, 65–70.) In the deed of settlement of the 13th August, one of the original articles (No. 7) which had been omitted from the charter was again agreed upon in these terms:—"And they (the Provost, Fellows, and Scholars) provide that the said President and Fellows of the Coll: of Physicians and their successors shall, when demanded, meet and consult, without fees, upon the best means for the recovery of the Provost and Sen. Fellows of T. C. and their Successors, whenever they or any of them shall happen to be sick or diseased."—(*Barrett's MSS.*, p. 70.) It does not appear why they who were least able to pay physician's fees, *i. e.*, the Junior Fellows and Scholars, were excluded from the benefits of this bargain.

The question now occurs:—"In what position was the College of Physieians with respect to Trinity College and the University; was it an independent Collegiate Corporation, or was it a College in the University? I may best answer this by giving the following extract from *Barrett's MSS.*, which shows the light wherein this question was regarded a few years after the incorporation of the College of Physicians.

James Kyan became a senior fellow in 1671, and, as Dr. Todd notes in the margin of the MSS., it was subsequently to that date that he recorded a short account of the foundation of the College of Physicians.* In this account, having described the accomplishment of Stearne's wish in obtaining the charter, and his discharge from the trust reposed in him by Trinity College, Dublin, he goes on to say:—"So that the full intent and purpose of the conveyance of Trinity Hall and of the ground thereunto appertaining is completely executed. For Trin. Hall now is a College Hall in a twofold sense. Either of which doth better intitle Trin. Hall to be called a Coll. Hall than any use unto which formerly it hath been employed. It is now a Coll. Hall, because it is an Hall to a Coll. of Physicians, which are more considerable than a small

* From the contents of this document, it appears that it was written during Stearne's lifetime; and, as he died, 18th November, 1669, it is plain that it was written, if not registered, before that date.

number of undergraduates. It is now an Hall also to Trin: Coll: because Trin: Coll: hath the nomination of a President thereof for ever: which alone makes it more a Coll. Hall than the residence of a few Freshmen and Sophisters, which formerly were intertained therein, and of whom it hath been observed, that generally they miscarried by reason of the remoteness of Situation from Trin. Coll., under whose government they were. Trinity Hall is not alienated from Trinity College; but by them converted into the use intended. And it may be considered that after the death of the said John Stearne and perhaps before, there will be accommodation for students of the Coll: of Physicians and [they] are as considerable a portion of scholars as any number of Undergraduates wherewith the said Hall was heretofore stored, and as useful to the whole Kingdom. Lastly, Trin: Hall is at present in nowise fit to entertain the actual students of Trin: Coll: for there are now so many buildings interposed betwixt it and Trin: Coll: that it is not possible in Trin: Hall to hear Trin: Coll: Bell, by which the actual students thereof are summoned hourly almost to Divine service, Meales, and Exercises: not to mention many inconveniences and interruptions that must naturally happen by often [going] backward and forward upon the account of prayers, Meales, Lectures, Disputations, other Exercises and public meetings, and to pass by the danger of young men's residences near suspected places. James Kyan, Registrarius."

From this document it is plain that shortly after the incorporation of the College of Physicians there were numerous medical students belonging to it who could not be accommodated in Trinity Hall because the President resided there; and it is not improbable that on Stearne's death the intention already referred to was carried into effect. There were undergraduates there seventeen years after the grant of the premises for medical purposes, and two years after the college had obtained the new charter of William and Mary. Dr. Barrett records the appointment of a tutor in arts thus (p. 74):—"July 9, 1694, Sir Smith chosen master of the school in Trinity Hall." However, at or shortly after this time the hold of the Physicians on Trinity Hall had been given up,^a and it became so entirely alienated from educational purposes, that the discovery of its site in our own day required the searching powers of the antiquary.^b

^a The next entry on the same page is "Nov. 21, 1694. Lease ordered of Trin. Hall for 41 years to Math. Shaw." The last notice of it by Dr. Barrett is "24th Jan., 1710, two leases to Dr. Jn. Barton, of Trin. Hall perfected for 40 years."

^b See in Dr. A. Smith's "Early History, &c.," an account of the differences between the two colleges which led to the alienation of Trinity Hall. In the book already described in a note as "11. Very Old Accounts," (and which I shall here call "D'Olin's book"), among the accounts, 1680-83, is this entry of a receipt:—"De Collegio Trinitatis juxta Dublin pro resignatione Aulae Trinitatis, £070.00s.00d." This meant the cancelling of the deed of 1631, which, according to Barrett's MSS, occurred in 1680, when new terms were agreed to. "A portion of its site is occupied by the Alms House of St. Andrew's Parish."—Gilbert's Hist. of Dublin, p. 17. Vol. iii.

COLLEGE ARMS.

Beside the letter of Charles I. and the charter of Charles II., there is but one other document of this period in the college archives.^a This is the original certificate of a grant of arms, which was made to the college in accordance with a provision in the charter for the use of a common seal. The document in question is now framed in the College Hall; it begins with a depicted emblazonry of the arms, and runs thus:—

The emblazonry occupies this position in the original.

The following is a description of the Arms of 1863, which (as will presently appear) are nearly the same as those of 1667:—"Per Fesse Ermine and Azure, a dexter celestial Hand issuing out of clouds in Chief proper, and in base the Harp of Ireland ensigned with the Royal Crown, all also proper, for motto, RATIONE ET EXPERIENTIA." Dated 9th November, in 27th year of Queen Victoria.

"TO ALL AND SINGULAR AS WELL NOBLES and Gentlemen as others, to whom these presents shall come Richard St. George, Esq., Ulster King of Armes of all Ireland, sendeth greetinge, Know yee that whereas his Majestie by his Royall Charter bearing date the 8th day of August in the nineteenth year of his Reigne, was graciously pleased to make constitute and Appoynt a Colledge of Physitians, within the City of Dublin, and for

their greater incouragement and advantage, was further pleased to graunt them to be a Corporation and free Community for Ever, as in and by the said recited Charter doth and may more largely appeare. In consideration whereof and being requested by the said Colledge, to assigne to them such Armes as they may lawfully use in publique seale or otherwise without prejudice to any other Persons or bodies Corporate, I have therefore in Compliance to their reasonable request, Assigned to them these Armes following, viz.:—*Party per Fes, Argent, and Azure, in the middle of the Cheife, a Cæstial hand issuinge out of a Cloud, feelinge the Pulse of a Terrestrial hand, all Proper, in ye Nombrell poynt ye Royall Harpe of Ireland, as a fit distinction from the like Colledge in England, together with this motto Ratione et Experientia as in the Margent above more lively is depicted*, which Armes and Motto, and every part and parcell thereof, I the said Ulster King of Armes of this Kingdom, by the power and Authority annexed to my Office under the Greate Seale of England, do give, graunt, ratify, and confirme, unto the said Colledge and Corporation of Physitians, by these presents for Ever; the same to use, beare, and set forth either in publique seale, or otherwise, without ye let, trouble, or interruption of any person whatsoever. In full testimony whereof, I the said Ulster King of Armes, have hereunto Subscribed my name, and affixed the Seale of my office,

^a To this list the volume "11 Very Old Accounts," (D'Olin's book) should perhaps be added.

this Sixteenth day of August, being the nineteenth year of the Reigne of our most Gracious Sovereigne Lord Charles the Second, by the Grace of God, of Great Brittain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c., Annoq Domini One Thousand Six Hundred Sixty, and Seven.—Richard St. George, Ulster Kinge of Armes of all Ireland.” (Seal.)

There is no trace of a college seal having been made or used according to the terms of the preceding grant of arms. That it was used, however, up to 1692, when a new charter was obtained, there can be little doubt; but it is highly probable that it was then supplanted by another, of which no trace remains except it be Fig. 1., which, though not found recorded in

Fig. 1

Fig. 2.



the office of Ulster King of Arms, was used up to the present year^a (1864), when a new seal was substituted for it. Fig. 2. will show this last seal to be a modification of the seal of 1667, which was taken as a model, except in so far as the altered circumstances of the college called for change.

DR. STEARNE'S DEATH AND BURIAL.

Dr. Stearne had now seen the favourite project of his life accomplished, and was the acknowledged head of the medical profession in Ireland. Nothing further can be learned of his public life after this; but as to his private life I shall make some remarks presently. He died in Dublin, on the 18th of November, 1669, at the comparatively early age of forty-five, and was buried in Trinity College, under the College Chapel of that day. Most of the ground contained in the Library square is a disused cemetery,

^a Fig. 1 was evidently the seal which was made in 1693, according to a design furnished by a Committee appointed by the College for the purpose [Coll. Journal for 1693].

wherein was formerly buried every person who died in the college. This chapel extended somewhat to the eastward and considerably to the westward of the present belfry, and the vaults under it remain intact. In one of these, to the east of the belfry, Doctor Stearne lies buried, and over him, at the north side of the great altar in the chapel,^a was placed a marble tablet with this inscription:—

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

P. M. S

ΚΑΤΑΡΑ . ΕΣΤΙ . ΜΗ . ΑΠΟΘΑ
= ΝΕΙΝ

Dixit Epictetus Creditit

Johannes Stearne

M & J U D. Collegii SS, & Individ.

Trinitatis Dublin. Socius. Senior. Collegii

Medicorum ibidem Proeses Primus. Qui natus fuit Arbracchæ xxvi Novemb. 1624

Denatus Dublinii xviii Novemb. 1669 Cujus

Exuvia. olim. resumendæ. hic depositæ sunt.

Philosophus, Medicus, Summus q; Theologus idem

Sternius hâc, nullus jam requiescit humo.

Scilicet ut regnet, Natura quod edidit unum,

Dividit in partes Mors inimica duas,

Sed modò divisus coalescet Sternius, atque

Ibit ab extremo, totus in astra, die."

This epitaph was probably written by his former pupil and attached friend, "the learned Mr. Henry Dodwell," from whose printed copy of the verses I have supplied the punctuation above given.

When the chapel under which Stearne was buried was taken down, some monuments which were in it were removed to the east side of the quasi chancel of the present chapel, *outside* which they have long been crumbling to decay, and bearing false testimony as to the burial-places of the learned dead.

Along with an altar-tomb supporting a full-length marble effigy of Luke Challoner^b in the costume of the Elizabethan age, with mural

^a "Epitaphium Marmoris insculptum ad latus Boreale magni Altaris in Sacello Collegii S S. & Individ. Trinitatis Reginæ Elizabethæ juxta Dublin, ubi Sepultus jacet." Prefixed to his posthumous work, "De Obstatione," by the editor, Henry Dodwell.

^b One of the Fellows of T.C.D. nominated in the Charter of Queen Elizabeth. Previous to 1608 he preached 1,428 sermons; of these 397 were on the book of Genesis (and 14 of them on the first chapter), 245 on the book of Deuteronomy, on St. Matthew's Gospel 210, on the Psalms 147, on the Commandments and Lord's Prayer 46, and "on the body of religion" 67. Dr. Barrett says of him (p. 15 MSS.):—

tablets in memory of Provosts Seele^a and George Browne,^b and a flat stone which once covered the remains of Provost Baldwin,^c Stearne's monument was removed, and placed as just described.

REVIEW OF DR. STEARNE'S PUBLISHED WRITINGS.

Dr. Stearne was the author of the following published works:—

1. *Animi Medela; seu de beatitudine & miseria, illius essentia, origine, et ad ipsam methodo, hujus natura causis et remediis tractatus.* 4to. *Dubl.* 1658. (Classed in Library T.C.D. LL. ii. 7.)

2. *Θανατολογία seu de morte dissertatio.* 8vo. *Dubl.* 1656 and 1659. (K. o. 19. Library T.C.D. edit: of 1659.)

3. *Adr. Heereboordi disputationum de concursu examen.* 8vo. *Dubl.* 1660.

4. *Aphorismi de Fœlicitate.* 8vo. *Dubl.* 1654, 1656, and 1664. (EE. n. 50. Library T.C.D. edit: of 1664.)

5. *De Obstinatione; opus posthumum, pietatem Christiano-Stoicam, Scholastico more, Suadens; edente Hen. Dodwell.* 8vo. *Dub.* 1672. (F. o. 1. Library T.C.D.)

6 and 7. *De Electione & Reprobatione, and Manuductio ad vitam probam.* (In one vol.) *Dubl.* 1662.

The College of Physicians has not in its library any one of these, the only published works of its founder. T.C.D. possesses those numbered 1, 2, 4, and 5; the Bodleian, at Oxford, has numbers 1 to 5 inclusive; but on searching at Primate Marsh's Library at St. Patrick's Cathedral, I found a complete set, which was bequeathed, with the rest of his books, to that institution by Stearne's son, the Bishop of Clogher before mentioned.

Beside the dedication of his *Animi Medela* already noticed, there is

“A more laborious and diligent preacher can, I believe, scarcely be found.” His daughter, Phœbe, married Archbishop Usher, and was through her grandmother related to that family, and so to Dr. Stearne. Dr. Barrett says that incense was burned at Challoner's funeral, and that it cost 1s. 6d. His epitaph on the altar tomb runs thus:—

“*Conditur hoc tumulo Challoneri triste cadaver
Cujus ope et precibus conditur ista domus
Obiit 27 Aprilis anno
1613.*”

“The college as built by him probably consisted of the old monastery [All Hallows], with considerable repairs and additions.”—Barrett MSS.

^a Died 1 Feb., 1674. His monument was in the gallery of the former chapel.

^b Died 4 June, 1669. His monument was in the ante-chapel of the same building.

^c Died 30 Sep., 1758. He left all his large estates and £36,000 in money to T.C.D. His monument and picture are in the theatre of the college.

prefixed to it a further dedication to his patron, Henry Cromwell; an address to the reader (before noted); an address to the author from John Leslie, Bishop of Raphoe; a certificate of the orthodoxy of its contents, signed "Gr. [Griffithus] Williams Episcopus Ossoriensis, & Ecclesiæ Cathedralis de Bangor Decanus;" and lastly "Carmen 'Ευχαριστικόν' by Robert Maxwell, Bishop of Kilmore.

The work itself consists of four books, and, like all his works, is written in Latin. It pertains largely to Theology and Mental Philosophy beside frequent references to Medicine. The idea before him when writing it is laid down clearly in his address "Ad lectorem." He saw, as he thought, the impending ruin of every earthly institution around him, and, coming to the conclusion that the domain of the mind was yet under his control, and that he could be serenely happy, notwithstanding external things, he discusses the best cure ("medela") for the mind under the unhealthy conditions by which it was then effected.^a

Some idea of its contents may be had by setting down a few of the heads of discourse, *e. g.* :—

Lib. I. cap. 2. Imago Dei in homine.

————— 25. An Melancholicorum & dolorantium imaginationes falsæ sunt, & quo modo?

Lib. II. cap. 13. De Providentiâ.

————— 14. An Malum à bono vel malo oriatur?

Lib. III. cap. 2. An dolor & voluptas consistere possint?

————— 13. Quid metus sit explicatur.

Lib. IV.^b cap. 2. Doloris sensitivi natura explicatur.

————— 3. An dolor sensitivus sit morbus vel symptoma & quod sit ejus subjectum?

————— 10. De Ecstasi dissertatio."

In his day it was a medical heresy of the worst kind to deny the infallibility of Hippocrates, and accordingly we find him asserting that the father of medicine was one "qui nec fallere nec falli potuerat" (p. 58.)

At p. 450 he relates a curious story respecting a case which came under his observation. A young man was successfully operated on for stone in the bladder; the stone was in one piece, and weighed eleven ounces, yet after six days, during which the urine flowed through the wound, the natural function of the urethra was restored, and the parts healed without suture or plasters. The young man's father, who was

^a He was now a disciple of the later Stoics.

^b This book is more directly professional than the others, and abounds in quotations from medical writers.

aged 63, and in robust health, was present at the operation, and became so violently affected by fear of his son's death, that, within twenty-four hours, every hair on his head fell off. Afterwards he complained of extreme heat in his head, was deprived of vision for two hours, and lo! his hair began to bud forth anew.^a

Stearne's *Θανατολογία* has much to say to medicine.^b It is dedicated to the Fellows of Trinity College, Dublin, and is also "Fratri suo charissimo, Roberto Stearne, Centurioni^c S." He wishes long life to the reader, (*Lectori Longævitatem*), and prints after this an address to himself from his friend Jeremy Taylor, afterwards Bishop of Down, and twenty-two Latin verses on the author and his work from the friendly pen of "Rob. Kilmorensis." The work itself is composed of twenty-seven chapters or essays of a mixed theological, physiological, and medical nature. Thus in Cap. I. we have a discussion on the utility, necessity, familiarity, and obscurity of death; Cap. III. explains "Quid sit mors;" Cap. VI. "Mortis naturalis causa;" Cap. IX. An vita in æternum prorogari queat? Cap. XIX. De cadavere; Cap. XX. De Immortalitate Animæ; Cap. XXI. De Animæ à corpore sejuncta cum viventibus commercio; Cap. XXIII. Æternitatis pœnarum ratio proponitur; & quare damnati peccare non possunt ostenditur. Cap. XXV. treats of the eternal beatitude of the soul; and Cap. XXVI. whether that beatitude admits of degrees.

He discusses the effects of air on the body; of moist and dry air inhaled and exhaled; and he thinks moist air highly conducive to long life. He treats of the difference between Aliment and Medicine; and lays it down as a rule with reference to the former that the body can be

^a"In Momoniâ Hiberniæ provinciâ juvenis annum trigesimum agens, vesicæ calculo laboravit: ad sectionem deventum est, et lapis extractus, qui unicus fuit, & uncias undecim pendebat. Per sex dies à sectione, urina per vulnus effluxit, dein cursum naturalem repetiit, partes vulneratæ absque suturâ vel emplastris coaluere. In vivis sed valetudinariis est. Illius pater annum agens sexagesimum tertium, robustus tamen, huic periculosæ operationi interfuit: metu vehementiori mortis filii sui, capitis pili universi intra horas viginti quatuor defluxere. Dein de ingenti capitis ardore conquestus est, et ad binas horas visu orbatus fuit ò crinis jam repullulât."

^bThe following Imprimatur is signed by Petty, afterwards Sir William:—"Hauriat vitalem auram elegans De Morte Dissertatio, quâ doctissimus Stearnius noster non modò famam suam morti, sed etiam Universam Naturam Ruinæ surripuit: siquidem in eâ, nihil bonos mores vitiaturum, nihil in Imperium nunc florens insidiarum nec argutias Sacræ Fidei infestas, video.

"Guil Petty

"Cler. Concilii.

"Datum Dublinii }
ex Camerâ Concilii }
ulto Januarii 1658."

^c His eldest brother, Captain Stearne, of Tullynally, Co. Westmeath. See notices of him, and of his son, Major-General Stearne, at pp. 116 and 29 of Mr. Caulfield's edition of Dean Davies' Journal; printed by the Camden Society in 1857.

nourished only by that animal or vegetable which has not but which has had life; that all aliment is essentially liquid, and that the object and aid of nutriment is "*humidi deperditi restauratio.*" He treats of the proper use of food (quæ bona quæ prava), and of the fitness of various kinds for various ages. He discourses of the various modes of treating corpses (burning, conservatio inartificialis, artificialis, &c.) and argues the question—does a body grow heavier by death?

He treats of the way of attaining long life, and to this end lauds drinking cold water, taking cold baths, and living in cold climates, as well as inhaling the smell of freshly dug pure earth (odor terræ puræ recens effossæ).^a As one proof that cold and moisture conduce to long life, he says, "Quæcunque refrigerando, *calidum* nostrum castigant & temperant, eadem *humidum* reddunt minùs dissipabile. Sanguis Elephantis, qui nonnunquam annum ducentesimum complet, est omnium maximè frigidus."

For the same purpose he strongly recommends nitre, ptisans of pearl barley, crocus, "ambra grysea," opium, and tobacco. He quotes Daniel Sennertus to show that the Indians travelled through the deserts without food or drink, or loss of power, subsisting for three or four days by constantly sucking lozenges made of tobacco leaves and pounded river shells (conehylia quædam cochlearum fluviatilium).

The work No. 3 in the preceding list consists of a series of extracts from the works of Adrian Heereboord, Ordinary Professor of Philosophy at Leyden, with a criticism on each. The matter is what I should term Christiano-Philosophical rather than Theological, and Stearne dedicates it "Johanni Rawlino"—"Ex Aulâ Trinitatis Id. Septemb. An. Dom. 1660."

His "Aphorismi de Fœlicitate" are dedicated to the celebrated Viceroy James Duke of Ormond, at that time (1664) Chancery of the University, and are followed by ten eulogistic verses on the author by John Maxwell, by the eustomary address "Lectori Salutem," and by fourteen eulogistic verses from the pen of his steadfast friend "Rob. Kilmorensis." In the first section there are discourses on twenty-two aphorisms, of which the following may be taken as fair specimens:—"3. Est in hominis potestate fœlicitatem adipisci & miseriam devitare, 16 ubi frustrationis periculum, ibi metus. 17 ubi metus, ibi non est fœlicitas." In section ii. there are twenty-three aphorisms, *e. g.*:—"2. Habenda est ratio valetudinis, voluptatem corporearum, vestitus & domus. 9. Arcana non sunt revelenda. 14. Cui pecuniam mutuemus, cavendum." 21. Multitudinis cedendum. 22. Tempori serviendum. On 14 he remarks, that oftentimes along with the money one loses the friend, and

^a Dr. Stokes tells me that, to his knowledge, this opinion long prevailed in the West of Ireland, where invalids followed the plough as it turned up the soil.

on 21, calling the multitude a beast of many heads ("belluam multorum capitum"), he advises against following it or contending with it, that it is safer to yield to it than to fight against it, that if it be hurt, its power will overwhelm the opposer, while if it be yielded to, "ut omnia violenta, paulatim impetus consumitur & exolescit" (p. 138). In section iii., which contains 9 aphorisms, he urges that men are more frequently moved by lesser than by greater evils; that one who is accustomed to the greater will less mind the lesser, and that it is useful to become accustomed to the greater evils.

There are nine aphorisms in the fourth and last section; but from his ideas of the "vox populi" and of time service (22 and 21, sec. ii.) it is plain that he knew how to keep well with all parties, and his success in life shows that he did so.

His work "De Obstinatione" was completed shortly before his death, and was edited at his request by Henry Dodwell, who had been his pupil, and who appears to have largely shared in his literary tastes, and in his religious and philosophical opinions. The Dedication is remarkable, and runs thus:—"Viris consultissimis: Præposito, Sociis et Scholaribus Collegii Sanctæ & Individuæ Trinitatis Juxta Dublin. Necnon, Sociis Collegii Medicorum, Johannes Stearne, Prioris Collegii Socius Senior, Præses Posterioris, Hasce lucubrationes, quales quales sint, jure, meritoque dicat, consecratque." As this, his last, and in many respects his most remarkable work, is dedicated to the College of Physicians, I shall give somewhat more than a passing notice of it, premising that there is prefixed to it an elegy of thirty-four verses on Stearne's death, by his life-long friend Bishop Maxwell, who survived him but a short time.^a This is too long to quote at length, but there are in it these lines addressed to Mrs. Stearne:—

"Sed tibi continget nunquam Dorothea Maritus
Qualis erat donec Sternius ille fuit.
Sternia, quicquid erit, monitis decede mariti,
Ne videre tuo bis viduata viro."

Whether by this very personal address (as we should now call it) Mrs. Stearne was recommended to marry again or not to do so, I leave the reader to determine. The treatise "De Obstinatione" I conceive to be Stearne's exposition of what he calls the "Christiano-Stoic Philosophy," and the term obstinatio is to be interpreted to mean—Firmness not sinking under adversities, as expressed in Greek by ἀπάθεια, ευστάθεια, ἀναμαρτησία.

^a He died 16 Nov., 1672. See Cotton's Fasti, &c. (Bishops of Kilmore).

This was the first work published by Dodwell,^a who, on reading the MS. after Stearne's death, discovered something therein which he thought might be construed to his master's disadvantage. Accordingly he prefixed to it his "Prolegomena," in which he premises that what Stearne urged on heathen recommendation were *moral* duties, and not Arcana Cœli—mysteries of Christianity—which are only known to us by revelation. He proceeds to argue that in other things which concern our practice reason is to be regarded, even where God has superadded a revelation; that in the examination of natural reasoning the authority of the great assertors and indicators of reason challenge our regard; that consequently the philosophers demand our respect; and, having taken up a number of other points of natural theology, he urges that certain phrases in Holy Scripture must be understood in the sense in which they were received by the writers of that age with whom the Hellenists conversed. He shows that when Stearne recommended the sentiments of the Stoics he thereby meant those, not of the ancient Stoical sect, nor of a sect in the Christian Church, but the opinions of the later Stoics, *e.g.*, Seneca, Epictetus, and Antoninus; and that the Christian Church never condemned these, but rather approved them. The later Stoics did not deny Providence, nor maintain fatality, nor doubt the soul's immortality or a future state. They had much regard to reason and its dictates, and chiefly employed themselves in teaching men to lead virtuous lives, and hence were esteemed among Christians. He apologizes for the severity of some of Stearne's maxims, which he explains, and vindicates his doctrine of Firmness (*obstinatio*) from the charges of Pelagianism and Novatianism.

This work of Stearne's gives a deep insight into his character, and is valuable chiefly for this reason.

His treatise "De Electione & Reprobatione," though more or less

^a Henry Dodwell (see his life by Fras. Brokesley, 1715, also Ware's Writers, and Wood's Athenæ, Oxon.) was educated in T.C.D., of which he became a Fellow in 1662. Unwilling to take Holy Orders, he resigned his Fellowship in 1666, and retired to England. In 1688 he was elected Camden Professor of History at Oxford, but, being a non-juror, resigned shortly after the revolution. He died at Shottesbrooke, in 1714, having been through life held in high esteem for his learning and piety, and particularly for his qualities as a Theologian and a Philosopher. He was a very voluminous writer, and when a Fellow of T.C.D. was celebrated as a preacher of "Common-places" (*Communes Loci*) in the College Chapel. This practice, not very long disused, was then highly valued. Every resident M.A., whether clerk or layman, was required, in his turn, to deliver short sermons (*ad modum Theologicæ Concionis*) on Friday and Sunday Evenings. Nor was the lay practice confined to the college; it was at one time common in Christ Church Cathedral, where Stearne's distinguished grand-uncle first acquired fame as a licensed lay preacher. The Rev. Dr. Carson, F.T.C.D., tells me that he himself discharged this duty when a layman; and that its disuse arose from its practical inconvenience in the present day. "Common-places" could not exceed half an hour in length.—See Caroline Statutes of T.C.D., cap. xvi.

metaphysical, is virtually a theological treatise; and his opinion on this question (which is in keeping with his Christiano-stoic system) may be known from the title of cap. iv., “Æternum & respectivum Dei decretum (quod etiam absolutum est, ut absolutum conditionato opponitur), de aliis salvandis, & aliis damnandis impugnatur.”

The preceding is followed by his “Manuductio ad vitam probam,” a tractate consisting of twenty-nine essays (in the Baconian sense of the term), and the two, bound in one volume, are dedicated to James Duke of Ormond, and have, added or prefixed, letters from John Leslie, Bishop of Clogher; Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down; as also verses from “Rob. Kilmorensis,” and “Gu. Hill, S.T.D.”

DR. STEARNE'S CHARACTER.

The following summary of his character is given in *Ware's Writers* (p. 159):—“He was a very learned man, and was more fond of the study of Divinity than that of his own profession, in which, nevertheless, he had great knowledge.”

After a careful consideration of his writings, and of the spirit of the times in which he lived, I am persuaded that this statement should be received with considerable qualification.

In his day it was not customary for physicians, even when at the top of the professional tree, as we have seen he was, to write medical treatises. They studied and observed much, but wrote little; and what they did write concerning their own profession was frequently on points not connected with practice, and was more generally addressed to literati than to physicians. Much of this undoubtedly proceeded from their firm belief in the infallibility of Hippocrates, and from the confidence then generally reposed in the teachings of the old physicians. Such a persuasion, of course, rendered constant medical discovery of less importance than we are wont to attach to it, and one page of a medical publisher's catalogue of 1864 will be found to contain the advertisements of more books, and, it must be admitted, of more empty pretension and ignorance, than could appear in half a century of the time in which Stearne lived. But it was held not only to be perfectly compatible with earnest and studious attention to the practice of medicine, but to be the proper thing for a learned and successful physician to write on matters extraneous to his profession; and at that time a large number of physicians all over Europe were much given to philosophical and theological pursuits; these studies being considered more or less accessory to medicine.^a Moreover, the spirit of the age was intensely theological; theological exercises and

^a A reference to Munk's Roll of the London College of Physicians will justify this and the preceding remarks. There were plenty of able Theologians and Philosophers in the medical profession at this time and they were mostly eminent physicians.

disputations were essential parts of a University education, and Stearne's academic position, in which, as shown in the case of Henry Dodwell, he had, at some time in his career, to perform the part of a lay preacher, would naturally tend to foster and encourage a theological taste, supported as it was no doubt by his own known proficiency in the Hebrew language, and his lifelong intimacy with some of the most eminent ecclesiastics of his own time. He was an "admirable Crichton" in his way, and it may be said of him in well-worn phrase—he touched nothing that he did not adorn. He excelled as a philosopher and physician, and equally so as a theologian, in an intensely theological age.^a Presuming his epitaph to have been written by Henry Dodwell, who knew him long and intimately, it may be maintained that with truth the pupil styled the master

"Philosophus Medicus Summusque Theologus Idem."

^a "Theology being the favourite study of these times, we shall not be surprised to find the following entry in the registry:—

July 23, 1617.—The Lord Deputy, the Lord Chancellor, and the Earl of Arundell were entertained at the College with a theological lecture and disputation. The performance of the former was by Dr. Ussher : of the latter by Mr. Martin, Respondent ; Mr. Egerton, and Mr. Donellan, Opponents. The questions were these :—1. Spiritus Sanctus in Scripturâ loquens est solus infallibilis Judex controversiarum.

2. Jejunium Pontificium neque Scripturæ neque rationi est consentaneum."—Barrett's MSS., p. 151.

[In Cap. XVII. of Bedell's Statutes (quoted by Dr. Barrett) I find the following respecting the theological position of the Medical Fellow :—"Quod vero ad exercitia attinet requisitæ a Theologis durante quovis termino, nolumus ea *Professori Juris prudentiæ aut Medicinæ remitti*: sed ab utroque præstari, *Sive communes loci fuerint seu Theologicæ Disputationes.*" In Cap. XVIII. of the Caroline Statutes (1637) the "Jurista" and "Medicus" were exempted from the performance of common-places, while they were bound to lecture in their respective faculties ; but they were expressly bound to perform "disputationes et exercitia requisita a Theologis."—See MacDonnell's edition of Statutes of T.C.D., 1848.]

