*Harveiana Edinburgensia:*RELATIONS OF WILLIAM HARVEY TO
MEDICINE IN EDINBURGH.BEING THE HARVEIAN ORATION TO THE EDINBURGH
HARVEIAN SOCIETY

BY

SIR ROBERT PHILIP, M.D., LL.D.,

CONSULTING PHYSICIAN, ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH; PRESIDENT-
ELECT OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

FELLOW HARVEIANS,—The return of our Harveian Festival recalls from the subconscious a host of feelings to each of us: in the forefront the sense of profound reverence towards one of the *Dii immortales* of medicine; in little less degree, the sense of pride—national pride—that the unravelling of the enigma of the circulation was British born. For it is not we alone who, on the day of celebration, stand bareheaded before the perpetual monument; in every school of medicine the world over the same impulse is felt, whatever the outward expression.

The recurrence of the festival rekindles our interest in the personality of the man and the bygone times when he accomplished his work, and in the relation of that time to ours. The events of those far-off days and of this evening in the Physicians' Hall intermingle in curious intimacy—a closer intimacy than we may have hitherto realized. That is the burden of my song, and on that account I have ventured to label these pre-prandial jottings "*Harveiana Edinburgensia*."

Hopeless as it seems to shift the kaleidoscope so as to reveal any further facet in the precious stones unearthed by the labours of his genius, and impossible as it may be to add to the knowledge of his life, I crave indulgence in seeking to forge some links which attach William Harvey to our city, and particularly to the University and Edinburgh School of Medicine.

Partial as may be its success, the effort may not lack in interest on the occasion of the Harveian Festival which coincides so closely with the celebration of the bicentenary of the Medical Faculty. For it seems to me a reasonable view, on evidence to be presently submitted, that in the events which culminated in the creation of the Edinburgh School the manifold activities of Harvey played no insignificant part.

HARVEY'S EARLY LIFE AND SCHOOLING.

In order to clarify the leading *motif* of this address, you will allow me, first, to recall some biographical points, familiar enough, but with special bearing on my purpose. The facts are drawn from a variety of sources. For those which bear on Harvey's life I would express my especial indebtedness to Sir Norman Moore's *History of St. Bartholomew's Hospital*, and Sir D'Arcy Power's *William Harvey*.

William Harvey was born at Folkestone on April 1st, 1578. His father was an alderman of Folkestone and filled the office of Mayor in 1600. His mother must have been a remarkable woman, and probably influenced her family (seven sons and two daughters) in high degree. On her tombstone she is described as

"A Godly harmles Woman: A chaste loveings Wife;
A Charitable quiet Neighbour: A cofortable frendly Matron:
A provident diligent Hyswyfe: A carevill teder-harted Mother.
Deere to her Hysband: Reverensd of her Children:
Beloved of her Neighbourrs: Elected of God."

Harvey was educated at the King's School, Canterbury (five years), and passed to Cambridge (Caius College) at the age of 16. The selection of Caius College seems an early indication of his direction towards medicine, for Caius, the founder of the college, besides being a classic, seems to have been one of the first exponents of practical anatomy in this country. Caius College had the privilege of receiving annually for dissection the bodies of two criminals who had undergone capital punishment. Harvey took the degree of B.A. in 1597.

About this date his passion for travel showed itself, and in 1598 he set out for Italy by way of France and

Germany. Anatomist and physician in embryo, he made for Padua—which had been the home of Vesalius and was at the date of Harvey's residence the school of Fabricius (de Aquapendente). Padua was the university at which Caius had taught. In each session, which commenced with an oration in praise of medicine, followed by High Mass and the Litany, the entire body was dissected twice in public by the professor of anatomy.

Fabricius must have been a remarkable man. Admittedly most learned, he was given precedence of all other professors, with a right to wear a robe of purple and gold and the golden collar of the Order of St. Mark. In his old age he was granted an annual pension of a thousand crowns. Harvey seems to have been singled out by Fabricius, then aged 61, who became his close friend. At the time of Harvey's arrival Fabricius was engaged in original work on the circulation, especially the veins. Harvey was admitted Doctor of Medicine of Padua in 1602. The diploma, dated April 25th, records that "he had conducted himself so wonderfully well in the examination, and had shown such skill, memory, and learning, that he had far surpassed even the great hopes which his examiners had formed of him. They decided therefore that he was skilful, expert, and most efficiently qualified both in arts and medicine, and to this they put their hands, unanimously, willingly, with complete agreement, and unhesitatingly." The diploma of Padua granted to Harvey leave to practise and teach in every land and seat of learning.

HARVEY AND THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF
LONDON.

On returning to England Harvey fixed his residence in London. He took the degree of Doctor of Medicine at Cambridge, and became a Member of the College of Physicians of London in 1604. Later in the same year he married Elizabeth Browne, daughter of Dr. Lancelot Browne, physician to Queen Elizabeth and to James I. His professional advance was rapid. In June, 1607, he was admitted a Fellow of the College of Physicians, and in 1609 was elected to the office of physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. In his application for this post he had the support of King James I and the president of the Royal College of Physicians.

In 1615 he was appointed Lumleian Lecturer—one of the earliest offices in the gift of the Royal College of Physicians, which continues till this day. The fact that it was primarily an anatomico-surgical lectureship is interesting, and emphasizes the close relation which existed in those days between the better educated physicians and surgeons. Harvey, be it noted, was a leading Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and we commonly think of him nowadays as a physician. The Harveian Festival of London is the central feature in the annual life of the Royal College of Physicians. Yet Harvey was conspicuously an anatomist and biologist. He held the Lumleian Lectureship for forty years, and he evidently practised surgery, for one of the clauses of his will bequeaths especially his "little silver instruments of surgery to Dr. Scarborough."

His function as Lumleian Lecturer seems to have corresponded to that of professor of anatomy. From the earliest times anatomy, as the foundation of medicine, held a high place. The lecturer on anatomy was held in supreme respect. Anatomical discourses were conducted with considerable ceremony. The fact is illustrated in Rembrandt's celebrated picture of Professor Tulp demonstrating the relations of the flexor sublimis (perforatus) and flexor profundus (perforans) of the hand in the midst of a group of colleagues of the Guild of Surgeons of Amsterdam (painted in 1632).

Harvey's attitude to the Lumleian Lectures shows the large scope of the lectureship and no less the width of his own outlook. Among the principles he laid down for himself in the conduct of his lectures are included the following:

Not to speak of anything which can be as well explained without the body or can be read at home.

Not to enter into too much detail, or into too minute a dissection, for the time does not permit.

To enforce the right opinion by remarks drawn from far and near, and to illustrate man by the structure of animals. To bring in points beyond mere anatomy in relation to the causes of diseases, and the general study of nature, with the object of

correcting mistakes and of elucidating the use and actions of parts, for the use of anatomy to the physician is to explain what should be done in disease.

It is noteworthy that Harvey's first course of lectures, delivered in 1616 (the year of Shakespeare's death), already contained in embryo his great discovery, which was only formally published in 1628. In discoursing on the thorax he says:

"It is plain from the structure of the heart that the blood is passed continuously through the lungs to the aorta as by the two clacks of a water bellows to raise water. It is shown by the application of a ligature that the passage of the blood is from the arteries into the veins. Whence it follows that the movement of the blood is constantly in a circle, and is brought about by the beat of the heart."

HARVEY'S RELATIONS WITH THE STUARTS.

In the midst of his scientific observations and research Harvey acquired an influential practice. He had as patients Francis Bacon, the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Arundel, and others. And who can say whether he may not have been consulted by William Shakespeare? He was appointed Physician Extraordinary to King James I on February 3rd, 1618. In the formal language of the time, "the King, as a mark of his singular favour, granted him leave to consult with his ordinary physicians as to his Majesty's health," promising him the post of Physician in Ordinary as soon as one should become vacant. This is highly significant as showing Harvey's very close relations with the King, whose promise, although not fulfilled in his lifetime, because there was no vacancy, was implemented in his son's reign, when Harvey became Physician in Ordinary to Charles I (1631). In the College of Physicians Harvey was appointed one of the four Censors in 1613, and was reappointed on several occasions. In 1627 he was nominated one of the "elects" (one of eight), who had the duty of selecting the president and of examining candidates for licence to practise. In 1628 he became treasurer of the College, and was re-elected as treasurer in 1629. The year 1628 is still more conspicuous as being the year of the publication of his great work *Exercitatio Anatomica de Motu Cordis et Sanguinis*.

In 1629, by command of the King, he accompanied James Stuart, afterwards Duke of Lennox (aged 17), on a Continental journey, resigning his office of treasurer of the College and getting leave of absence from St. Bartholomew's. They travelled in France and Spain (apparently not Italy, where, in the north, plague was virulent). An interesting sidelight on his scientific outlook is found in a letter from Harvey to Viscount Dorchester in which, describing the countries he passed through, he wrote:

"I can only complain that by the way we could scarce see a dog, crow, kite, raven, or any other bird, or any thing to anatomise, only some few miserable people, the relics of the war and the plague where famine had made anatomies before I came."

On his return to England he renewed his interest in the College of Physicians. In 1631 he was appointed Physician in Ordinary to King Charles I, with whom he appears to have come into very close personal relations, accompanying him everywhere and joining in sport and social functions. Of the intimate terms on which he stood with King James and King Charles I there is abundant evidence in his life. More than once there are references to specimens—eggs and the like—which he showed to the King. He utilized his frequent hunting expeditions with King Charles for the purpose of dissecting deer; for example, he says:

"The game, during the three summer months, was the buck, then fat and in season; and in the Autumn and Winter for the same length of time the doe. This gave me an opportunity of dissecting numbers of these animals almost every day during the whole season. . . . I had occasion, so often as I desired it, to examine and study all the parts . . . because the great Prince, whose physician I was, besides taking much pleasure in such inquiries and not disdaining to bear witness to my discoveries, was pleased in his kindness and munificence to order me an abundant supply of such animals and repeated opportunity of examining their bodies."

Referring to the minute embryonic heart, he writes:

"I have exhibited this point to His Serene Highness the King, still palpitating. . . . It was extremely minute indeed, and without the advantage of the sun's light falling upon it from the side, its tremulous motions were not to be perceived."

And again, with reference to a young nobleman (the eldest son of Viscount Montgomery) in whose case the King was much interested, he writes:

"I carried the young man himself to the King that His Majesty might with his own eyes behold this wonderful case: that in a man, alive and well, he might without detriment to the individual, observe the movement of the heart, and with his own hand even touch the ventricles as they contracted. And His Most Excellent Majesty, as well as myself, acknowledged that the heart was without the sense of touch: for the youth never knew when we touched his heart except by the sight and sensation he had through the external integument. . . . We also particularly observed the movements of the heart, viz., that in the diastole it was retracted and withdrawn; while in the systole it emerged and protruded."

In 1633 he accompanied the King to Scotland when His Majesty was crowned at Holyrood, at the time when ecclesiastical difficulties were rife in Scotland and Janet Geddes threw her stool at the Bishop of St. Giles. During that visit to Scotland Harvey found time to develop his biological taste, visiting the Bass Rock, which he described in interesting and graphic terms.

In 1636 Harvey visited Germany, Austria, and Italy, apparently in the entourage of the Earl of Arundel, who went to Vienna as Ambassador Extraordinary to the Emperor Ferdinand. *En route*, he stopped at Nuremberg and tried (in vain) to convince Casper Hofmann, one of his leading critics, of the truth of his views by demonstration. A letter bearing on his visit to Rome describes him as "honest little Harvey whom the Earl is sending to Italy about some pictures for His Majesty"—an interesting sidelight on his quality and culture.

In 1639 he was appointed Senior Physician in Ordinary to the King. The civil war was just beginning and Harvey accompanied the King. At the battle of Edgehill, on October 23rd, 1642, he was placed in charge of the King's sons, Charles and James. Retiring with the King to Oxford, he was admitted to the degree of M.D. on December 7th, 1642. During his stay in Oxford, in addition to the usual professional work, he devoted himself to natural science, worked at anatomy, made many dissections, and was in close touch with men who were working there, including notably Highmore and Charles Scarborough. The latter was attached to Mertoun College, of which college Harvey was named Warden by Royal mandate in 1645. Scarborough was admitted a Doctor of Physic in 1646.

LATER YEARS.

When Oxford surrendered in 1646 he returned to London, and thereafter retired largely into private life, living with his brothers Eliab and Daniel. His attachment to the College of Physicians was maintained. He was elected councillor in 1655 and 1656, and continued to hold the Lumleian Lectureship till 1656.

His last literary effort—the treatise on generation—was published in 1651. In that year he offered to build a library for the College of Physicians. This was formally handed over to the College in February, 1654. That same year the College sought to elect him president, but he declined on account of his age. In giving up the Lumleian Lectureship in 1656 he took formal farewell of the Fellows and presented his paternal estate in Kent to the College. He was succeeded in the Lumleian Lectureship by Sir Charles Scarborough, to whom he was attached by affectionate ties, and whom he had urged to come to London.

Harvey suffered much from gout, and the attacks became aggravated with the advance of years. He died at Roehampton in his brother's house on June 3rd, 1657, in his eightieth year—apparently from cerebral haemorrhage—and was buried at Hempstead, Essex, on June 26th, being followed to the grave by the Fellows of the College of Physicians "clothed in their gowns."

His devotion to the College of Physicians is further illustrated by the terms of bequest, which run:

"And first, I appoint so much money to be raised and laid out upon that building which I have already begun to erect within the College of Physicians in London as will serve to finish the same according to the design already made." And again: "Touching my books and household stuff, pictures and apparel, of which I have not already disposed, I give to the College of Physicians all my books, and papers and my best Persian long carpet and my blue satin embroidered cushion, one pair of brass andirons with fire shovel and tongs of brass for the ornament of the Meeting Room I have erected for that purpose."

And in testimony of his close attachment to Sir Charles Scarborough the will reads:

"I give my velvet gown to my loving friend Mr. Dr. Scarborough"; and later, "And to Dr. Scarborough all my little silver instruments of surgery."

In thus briefly recalling some points in the life of Harvey I have sought to punctuate those which reveal to us the manner of man he was: humanist, biologist, physician with a sidelong glance towards surgery, the confidant of the best men of his time, the trusted adviser and friend of two successive sovereigns, and the supremely devoted Fellow of the Royal College. His influence in all these spheres must have been great.

"He dwelt among men: physician and sage,
He served them, loving them, healing them;

* * * * *

He played on men, as his master, Phœbus, on strings
Melodious."

HARVEY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

My immediate purpose in rehearsing these points has been to inquire whether, and to what degree, his influence had bearings on events in the history of Edinburgh, and particularly of the Edinburgh Medical School.

It is indeed a remarkable fact that William Harvey, born in England, educated at Cambridge and Padua, and early and closely attached to the Royal College of Physicians of London, was, by reason of the circumstances of the times, brought into closest relationship with the monarch who, after long residence and rule in Scotland, carried to England a full knowledge of the educational and allied conditions in Edinburgh, to which city, some twenty years before, he had granted the Royal Charter founding King James's College—the Town's College—which subsequently developed into the University of Edinburgh.

William Harvey was born just four years before the foundation of the Town's College of Edinburgh in 1582. It matters little whether credence is to be given to the detailed, but apparently mythical, story of Bower in his history of Edinburgh University, when he tells how Bishop Reid of Orkney bequeathed 8,000 marks "to the town of Edinburgh for the purpose of erecting a University within the city," and that in 1561, "on the faith of speedily obtaining" the said sum, the town council discussed the establishment of a college, and "in 1563 purchased part of the ground upon which the College at present stands"; and that "three years afterwards the unfortunate and susceptible Mary, whose generosity was unbounded, her love of learning sincere, and her proficiency considerable, entered warmly into the same views, and endowed with revenues the institution which she was so anxious to patronize." Certain it is that about the date indicated the town council began to busy themselves regarding the application of public moneys which hitherto had been paid to "papists, priests, friars, monks, nuns, and others of that wicked sort, for maintaining of idolatry and vain superstition," and resolved that these should "be applied to more profitable and godly uses, such as for sustaining of the true Ministers of God's Word, founding and building of Hospitals for the poor, and Colleges for learning and upbringing of the youth, and other such godly works."

Gradually from out the rather vague educational proposals the conception of the Town's College took shape. The city register, of date August 9th, 1564, records that the stonework of the Kirk-of-Field is being taken down, and that the council think it should "be bought for the good Town, either for the Hospital or for a University to be made in the said Kirk-of-Field."

The final acquisition of the Kirk-of-Field took time. There seems no indication that Mary Stuart was inspired by a wish to transfer the site for the purpose. The desire of the city of Edinburgh and the city ministers to have a college founded seems to have been thwarted in part by the three older universities in which the influence of the bishops continued. It seems certain that the final practical move towards the foundation of the college was made by the city ministers, more especially Mr. James Lawson, who, according to Craufurd, "Having obtained a gift of a University within the City, in the beginning of this year (1581) purchased from John Gib and John Fenton, servants

to the King, their right to the Kirk-of-Field to be a place for the situation of the intended College."

Whether or not there was an earlier charter, as has been suggested, the charter of James VI, dated April 14th, 1582, gave large powers to the town council in the direction of founding a college or colleges. It is significant in this connexion that in 1617 King James VI—or, as he then was, King James I of England—when he revisited Scotland, is reported to have said: "After the founding of the college of Edinburgh had been stopped for sundry years in my minority, so soon as I came to any knowledge I zealously held hand to it."

However we may choose to appraise the amount of King James's zeal, the above statement made by the King has especial interest in view of his having lived in Edinburgh during twenty-one years following the grant of the charter to the university, and thereafter in England some fourteen years before the above statement was made. Coming as the statement does some thirty-five years after the event, it suggests that the circumstances of the grant of the charter had made a definite impression, and there is reasonable presumption that the King was familiar with subsequent developments during his residence both in Edinburgh and later in the South. At that time there was no question regarding medical teaching in Edinburgh.

To return to Harvey. By his own qualities and happy matrimonial alliance his advance was rapid, professionally and socially. Four or five years after his return from Padua we find him a Fellow of the College of Physicians and physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, being supported for the latter office by King James and by the president of the Royal College of Physicians. During the succeeding years his relations with the Court had become pretty intimate. This is evidenced by the manner in which his appointment as Physician Extraordinary was made. Harvey was thus in close touch with King James at the date when the King recalled, in the words I have quoted, the circumstances of the foundation of Edinburgh University. So rapid was Harvey's advance in the College of Physicians that in 1613 he was appointed one of the four Censors of the College, and, in 1615, Lumleian Lecturer.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH.

It is not likely that those facts and their bearings were unknown to King James. Can we doubt that from time to time conversation turned on such topics? It is, therefore, of very great interest to recall that the first move towards the foundation of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh was made in 1617, on the occasion of the King's revisit to Holyrood. If nothing immediate came of it, it seems hardly conceivable that the endeavour failed from lack of interest on the part of the King.

The personal relations between the Court and Harvey were continued throughout the reign of Charles I, who nominated him to more than one office, and, in 1631, appointed him to be his Physician in Ordinary. It is significant to recall that that date corresponds very nearly with a further effort towards the foundation of the Edinburgh College. Harvey was by this time in intimate relations with King Charles, and accompanied him to Holyrood in 1633. On the occasion of that visit Harvey, who found time to study the solan geese on the Bass Rock, cannot fail to have become well versed in the *pros* and *cons* in the leading professional question of the moment. At that date—within a few years after the publication of his great work on the circulation—his interest in the project and his influence must both have been great. They were not, however, sufficient to overcome local prejudice and animosity.

From now onwards Harvey's life was growingly overshadowed by the surging difficulties which led finally to civil war and the execution of the King in 1649. But during the Oxford period (1642-46) began the very significant relation between Harvey and Scarborough which ultimately ripened into affectionate friendship. In a very literal sense Harvey's mantle fell on Scarborough (see the terms of Harvey's will), who went to London on Harvey's suggestion, and succeeded him as Lumleian Lecturer in 1656.

During ten or twelve years these two men must have exchanged many ideas. Inevitably they would discuss

medical and academical matters. Can it be supposed that questions affecting Edinburgh escaped their consideration? Harvey knew the facts both from conversations with the King and by personal observations in the city itself. The proposals for the establishment of a College of Physicians can hardly have been excluded from Harvey's talks with Scarborough.

It is a fact of pathetic interest that the next serious move towards the foundation of the College of Physicians of Edinburgh occurred in 1657—the year of Harvey's death. The proposal had the sanction of the Protector, and would probably have been carried through but for Cromwell's death the following year. Between that date (1657) and the actual granting of the Charter to the College (1681) there was an interval of twenty-four years. During that period various forces and counter-forces were at work until all the difficulties were removed.

Edinburgh would seem to have had a renaissance of intellectual activity and culture. This was evidenced in the trend of young Scotsmen about 1660 towards the universities of Holland, France, and Italy. Of those who ultimately constituted the first twenty-one Fellows of the College of Physicians, approximately one-half went abroad for study—the majority to the University of Leyden, where later, in 1692, one of the first Fellows of the College—Archibald Pitcairne—became professor of medicine and was probably one of the teachers of the great Boerhaave. Those are significant points in relation to the final successful effort to found the Royal College. Presently a band of keen, zealous friends began to hold fortnightly meetings (conferences) in Robert Sibbald's house. Chief among those were Doctors Balfour, Burnet, Pitcairne, Sibbald, and Stevenson.

SIR CHARLES SCARBOROUGH AND THE COLLEGE.

The appointment of Prince James, Duke of York, as High Commissioner to Scotland brought the Prince to Holyrood in 1679. In his train, as medical attendant, came Sir Charles Scarborough, who, in succession to Harvey, had become Physician to the King. The quickened intellectual atmosphere would prove congenial and interesting to Scarborough, who by this time was a member of Council of the Royal College of Physicians of London. Balfour he had already known as a pupil of Harvey. Towards Pitcairne he must have been drawn especially, for Pitcairne was keenly devoted to the teaching of Harvey, which later, both in Edinburgh and Leyden, he did much to disseminate. Sibbald, speaking of the Holyrood group, says: "Wee consulted with Sir Charles, and found him our great friend, and very ready to give us his best assistance, with the King and the Duke, who was by this time High Commissioner." Sibbald was successful in persuading the Earl of Perth and his brother to be friends to the enterprise, and he says, "they brought over many of the nobility to favour the design." To this happy combination of circumstances must be added a piece of good fortune that came to Sibbald, who relates it as follows:

"I having recovered an warrant of King James the Sixth of happie memorie [obtained by his uncle Dr. George Sibbald and left in his care], directed to the Commissioner and Estais of Parliament then sitting in Scotland, dated the 3rd July 1621, with an reference by the Parliament thereanent, to the Lords of Secret Counsell with power to doe therein what they thought fitt and that their determination therein sould have the form of ane Act of Parliament, dated the Second of August 1621, . . . produced this to his Royall Highness, who, as soon as he saw it superscribed by King James, said with much satisfaction 'he knew his grandfather's hand and he would see our business done,' and from that moment acted vigorously for us."

After unavoidable discussions as to its form, the completed Charter was duly written on parchment and the Great Seal was appended on St. Andrew's Day, November 29th, 1681.

The College is fortunate in having in its possession an engraving of Sir Charles Scarborough, who thus played so important a part in relation to its foundation. But I may be permitted to express regret that the original oil painting of the eminent benefactor, which was presented three or four years ago to the Royal College of Physicians of London, did not come to this hall. During the past year the College has had the good fortune to receive at the hands of one of its Fellows, Dr. Alexander Blackhall-Morison, an early portrait in oils of William Harvey

himself, whose relations—direct and indirect—to the foundation of the College can no longer be overlooked.

The commemoration of the bicentenary of the Medical Faculty of the University of Edinburgh during the present year has rekindled interest in the history of the medical school. At those celebrations becoming tribute was paid from many sides to the supreme part played by the first Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians in the establishment of the Faculty of Medicine within the University. Four years after the granting of the Royal Charter the College of Physicians submitted a petition for the establishment of professorships of medicine; and in 1685 the town council of Edinburgh appointed Sir Robert Sibbald, Dr. James Halket, and Dr. Archibald Pitcairne to be professors of medicine within the University.

This first gesture, culminating as it did in the creation, in 1726, of the Faculty of Medicine, was fitting crown of the renaissance of intellectual activity in relation to medicine which emerged in Scotland after the union of the two kingdoms. It follows that whatever links may be suggested as attaching William Harvey to the Royal College of Physicians must, by the rules which govern lineal relationship, be regarded as attaching him no less surely to the Medical Faculty of the University. So far as my memory serves, during the recent bicentenary celebration of the Faculty, no suggestion of so significant a connexion emerged. I trust my fellow Harveians will not think me presumptuous in thus endeavouring to repair the omission.

THE HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

There remains little time to dwell on another life of thought which I should gladly have developed in more immediate relation to our Harveian Society.

Alongside Harvey's pre-eminent genius as observer and interpreter of nature, there was a rich store of human qualities which attached him to his friends and fellows, and continues to arouse feelings of personal regard and affection. In making over to his beloved College his paternal estate at Burmarsh in Kent, with provision for a salary to the College librarian, and the endowment of an annual oration, he begged that the orator should exhort the Fellows of the College "to search out and study the secrets of nature by way of experiment, and also for the honour of the profession to continue mutual love and affection among themselves." It was the dual character of Harvey's manhood—his science, on the one hand, and his humanity on the other—which led to the establishment of our own Harveian Society and the Harveian Festival which, for the 139th time, we are holding to-night.

The objects of the Harveian Society, as primarily indicated, were threefold—namely, to commemorate the discovery of the circulation of the blood, to cherish a kindly feeling among the members of the medical profession, and to foster a spirit of experimental inquiry among the students at this school of medicine.

The third object of the society, embodied in the award of an annual prize to the author of the best essay on a subject announced by the society, has fallen into abeyance, and the laws read now as follows:

Law II.—The Objects of the Society shall be to commemorate the discovery of the Circulation of the Blood, and to cherish a kindly feeling among the Members of the Medical Profession.

Law III.—The Society shall endeavour to accomplish these objects by dining together annually on April 12th, the birthday of the illustrious Harvey; and in any other way the Society shall see fit.

To-night, in commemorating the discovery of the circulation of the blood, as enjoined by the laws, we do reverently place anew our wreath of laurel before the monument of Harvey. It was long the practice of the society to dine on the anniversary of his birthday. The changes which have inevitably occurred in relation to the school of medicine—the division of the session into terms with alternating holidays—have rendered the month of April unsuitable for a commemorative gathering. Hence it comes—without, so far as I know, any formal change of the law—that, in place of dining together on April 12th, we meet to-day (July 2nd, 1926).

If the primary purpose of the Harveian Festival is to pay reverent homage to William Harvey, it is certain that

it was no less the purpose of its founders to cherish a kindly feeling among the members of the medical profession.

The Harveian Society was a direct offshoot from the older Aesculapian Club. Both were founded by Dr. Andrew Duncan, and both have flourished—and flourished abundantly—to the present time; nor is there indication of senility or decay.

The Aesculapian Club was established in 1773, and consisted exclusively—as it does at the present day—of Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians and Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons. The Aesculapian Club, which was essentially a supping, or dining, club, was limited not only in numbers (ranging from 12 to 22 members in all), but also in funds. When, three years after its foundation, the members of the Aesculapian Club proposed to widen their interest and influence by presenting a prize for medical investigation, they found—canny Scots—that, by reason of the limited number of members, the presentation of the prize (although amounting only to some 5 guineas) would press heavily on the purses of its members. Accordingly, the proposition was made that, without infringing on the prestige of the select Aesculapians, a larger society should be instituted which would include not only Fellows of the Colleges but graduates of the University and men in practice in the counties adjacent to Edinburgh or attached to the naval and military services.

Thus our society had its birth in 1782—bearing apparently two baptismal names by which it was known indifferently—namely, the Harveian Society, or the Circulation Club. Judging by available documents it would seem at the beginning to have been more commonly known as the Circulation Club.

The initial roll of the club (1782) contained 23 names, including, of course, that of its founder, Dr. Andrew Duncan, whose portrait by Raeburn adorns the College hall, and, it is interesting to note, Dr. Nathaniel Spens, whose portrait by Raeburn in the dress of the King's Body Guard for Scotland is well known to you, Mr. Benjamin Bell, Dr. Alexander Monro, Dr. Daniel Rutherford, and others which recall far-reaching connexions with the medical history of Edinburgh. The first president was very naturally Dr. Andrew Duncan, who thereafter assumed the office of secretary, which he held for forty-six years to the end of his life.

One sometimes thinks with envy—too hastily perhaps—of the leisure times which the profession enjoyed 150 years ago. Yet Andrew Duncan—immersed in practice, lecturing on the principles and practice of medicine, first outside and latterly within the University; founder and moving spirit of the Aesculapian, Harveian, and Gymnastic Clubs; institutor of the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, and inspiring influence of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, Royal Public Dispensary, and Scottish Horticultural Society—must have been not only busy, but possessed of superabounding health and energy.

How the Harveians of those days realized their purpose to “cherish a kindly feeling among members of the profession” may perhaps best be realized by two pictures drawn from the minutes of the society—both relating to Harveian Festivals held at a time when Great Britain was overshadowed by the fateful possibilities of the Napoleonic wars.

The first picture is from the Harveian anniversary of April 12th, 1815—less than two months prior to the battle of Waterloo, when Dr. Andrew Duncan, the septuagenarian secretary, was promoted to the degree of Doctor of Mirth and Social Glee. It is best described in the quaint phrasing of the bard of the society:

A Motion was made,
And all present were glad,
As our joys are so few, and our time is so fleeting,
That our vacancy in the chair, of Doctor of Mirth,
Should be regularly fill'd up at our next meeting.

So for this situation,
Without hesitation,
As the time was so precious, the Preses did name
Our trustworthy Secretary, who, for humour and pleasantry,
Through full half a century had acquired much fame.

Then next it was mov'd
And most highly approv'd
That the President, mentioning the candidate's qualities,
Should prepare his diplom; and, when next in this room
Have him duly invested with all the formalities.

Yet, stop, say some, What's all the hurry,
Who is the hero of your story?
Who is the man that's done such wonders,
And thus has benefited hunders
Of generations yet to come,
Of countless myriads a vast sum?
I answer, neither Jew nor Turk
E'er had a hand in this great work;
And joy must glisten in your faces
And national pride add to its graces,
When I inform you that the man
Who's thus completed Harvey's plan
Is one that's here; for him I claim
Th' immortal fame, and now do name
Andream Duncan, virum gravem,
Moribus et vultu suavem,
Virum septuaginto annorum,
Dictum vulgo seniore,
Sed abhinc to be styl'd majorem,
Because in mirth far juniorem
Than half the youngers now before him.

The Diploma was couched in the following terms:

DIPLOMA.
*Sodalitas Edinburgena filiorum Aesculapii,
In GULIELMI HARVEI honorem instituta,
Ut in aeternum floreat inventum utilissimum,
Circulatio sanguinis,
Omnibus ad quos haec pervenerint
Salutem.*

With all the rights of due decorum
Nunc in altissimum honorem,
Erectus sit Andreas Duncan,
Honestus vir, si talis unquam.
As to know him is to respect him,
So nos habemus much delectum,
Quod fausto tempore et loco
Cum risu, cantilena, joco,
He has, auspiciis Minervae,
Completed the great plan of Harvey;
Proving that sanguinem abire
A corde et ad cor redire,
And ita, rite, circumire,
By keeping heartsome, light and cheery.
So therefore “eum nunc creamus,
Statuimus et proclamamus,
Of mirth Magistrum et Doctorem,
Vel si libet Professorem”;
And farther, nos auctoritate,
Invest him plena potestate,
“Quando libuerit, potandi,
Ludendi porro et jocandi,
Moestos vino medicandi;
Et ad risum fabulandi.”

The diploma, held in the hand, was delivered in pronouncing the last words of the following address:

Senex venerande, magnopere laudande
Propter innatam tuam amoenitatem,
Et propter virtutem minime hirsutam,
Cui vita bene acta, senectus est facta,
Vere jucunda.
Doctrina ornate, honore onerate,
Probis probate, omnibus grate
Qualicumque aetate.
Accipe honorem, valde decorum,
Minime quem volumus, atamen quem possumus
Tibi donare.
Quo, tardus et serus abiens in coelos
Vivens hic, beate, bene, fortunate,
Laete, quiete, placide, complete,
Longum fruar.

The second picture is from the Harveian anniversary of April 12th, 1812, when the degree of Doctor of Merriment was unanimously conferred on the Rev. Dr. William Moodie, Minister of St. Andrew's parish church and professor of Oriental languages in the University, who, sadly enough, died within a few months of his promotion to the said degree. With glasses duly charged, the feelings of the Harveians towards their Pontifex Maximus are thus expressed:

To all good fellows be it notum,
That William Moodie, Virum Scotum,
Has proved his power in merriment,
Ut scripta multa nunc nos docent;
And to reward his sterling wit,
Quod felix nunc faustumque sit,
Doctor of Mirth, nos hunc creamus,
And to all laughers, commendamus,
In proof of which his health we drink,
Wishing him well, et nunc et hinc.

The Pontifex Maximus, having duly received this diploma, sent the following acknowledgement to the secretary:

With Aesculapians I did sup,
And with Harveians kept it up,
With dear Gymnastics oft was happy,
Our friends were kind, our liquor nappy,
And he who now the truth can tell,
Ne'er saw wa'r 'mang them than himsel'.