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The Symposium of the Gold-Headed Cane.

History of the Gold-Headed Cane. DR. MCCRAE.

Among the many treasures of the College of Physicians in (162) London not the least interesting is that known as the Gold-Headed Cane. This made its appearance in medical circles probably about the year 1689 and for one hundred and thirty-six years was carried by a leading London practitioner, during this time passing through the hands of Radcliffe, Mead, Askew, the two Pitcairns, and Baillie. The shape of the handle of the cane is rather unusual for the time when it was made, as at that period the head of the physician's cane was generally round and contained a cavity in which aromatic substances were carried, the inhaling of which was thought to prevent contagion. The first owner of the cane, Radcliffe, was a man always impatient of convention, and it is possible that he adopted the unusual shape to be different from the rest of the profession. The cane came into possession of the College as a gift from Mrs. Baillie, the widow of the last of the series who carried it.

The book which is known as "The Gold-Headed Cane" is written in the form of what may be termed an autobiography. The cane is represented as giving an account of the lives of the men who carried it and the more interesting events in which they were concerned. The book was published without the author's name, but was written by Dr. William Maemi- (163) chael (1784-1839). The first edition was published in 1827 and the second in 1828. The third edition, which was published in 1884, was edited by William Munk, and in it many

(163) additions were made. The book is written in a chatty, conversational style, deals with many points in the lives of its possessors and also refers to many of the happenings of the times.

The first possessor of the cane, John Radcliffe (1650-1714), is discussed elsewhere. From him the cane passed to Richard Mead (1673-1754), one of the most interesting figures in British medicine. He studied classics at Utrecht, physic at Leyden, where he was a student with Boerhaave, with whom he kept up an intimate friendship, and graduated at Padua in 1695. He settled in London and was shortly afterwards appointed to the staff of St. Thomas' Hospital. He was a great collector of books, prints, pictures, coins, and gems, as well as Oriental, Greek, and Latin manuscripts. In the chapter of the Gold-Headed Cane dealing with his life we are brought into contact with many of the interesting people of the time—Sir Hans Sloane, who founded the British Museum, Dr. George Cheyne, who pleaded for a simpler life even at that day, Lady Mary Wortley Montague, and the introduction of the inoculation for small-pox. Accounts are given of meetings at Mead's house in Great Ormond Street, where the Children's Hospital now stands, in which Arbuthnot and Pope figure, and also a description of the last illness of Sir Isaac Newton. Medically, Mead was especially interested in snake venoms and had also much to do with the introduction of inoculation for small-pox. It is interesting to remember that he probably had considerable influence on the founding of Guy's Hospital, as he and Guy were great friends and Mead was consulted as to the best way in which Guy could use his fortune for the establishment of a medical charity. Mead was a great patron of literature and art and has been termed the Mæcenas of his day. It is rather a commentary on what makes for fame that Radcliffe, who did comparatively little during his life, is so well remembered through his bequests, while Mead, who did so much during his life, left little behind him by which he is remembered.

From Mead the cane passed to Anthony Askew (1722-1774), a graduate of Cambridge who studied at Leyden and

subsequently spent many years in travelling abroad. He settled in London, was attached to St. Bartholomew's Hospital and became a very intimate friend of Mead. He is perhaps better known as a classical scholar than as a physician. He was a great book collector, and it was even said that it was difficult to get into his house on account of the halls being filled with books. Dr. Cushing will speak more especially of his library. After the death of Askew the cane passed into the possession of Dr. William Pitcairn (1711-1791). He belonged to the same family as Archibald Pitcairn, of Edinburgh, who at one time occupied the chair of physic in Leyden, and was a great exponent of the mechanical school of medicine. William Pitcairn studied at Leyden and took his degree at Rheims. He was associated with St. Bartholomew's Hospital and was president of the College of Physicians for many years. During the latter part of his life he gave up active practice and transferred the cane to his nephew, Dr. David Pitcairn (1749-1809). He was also attached to St. Bartholomew's and is said to have been the first to recognize the relationship between acute rheumatic fever and endocarditis. He died of œdema of the glottis and the description of his condition is said to be one of the earliest in which the account of an autopsy was given. (163)

From Pitcairn the cane passed into the hands of Matthew Baillie (1761-1823). About this time the cane ceased to be considered a necessary appendage of the physician, and after the death of Baillie in 1823 the cane was presented by his widow to the college, where it was deposited in 1825. At this point the history of the cane as given in the first and second editions of the work comes to an end, but in the third edition the cane is represented as continuing the history of the college and of some of its most prominent members after 1825. There is also a note regarding many of the portraits and busts in the college.

In this hasty review reference has been made to only a few of the many interesting points in the history of the Gold-Headed Cane. It will probably not be possible for all of you to pick up copies, but those of you who read it will find many

(163) facts regarding some of our predecessors which will stimulate interest in the history of the profession, one of the objects of this club.

John Radcliffe. DR. OSLER.

Radcliffe is remembered, first by the Gold-Headed Cane, second by never having written a line, and third by the superb monuments which exist to his memory. He was a Yorkshire man, educated at the school at Wakefield. He took his B. A. at Oxford in 1672, and his M. B. in 1675, when he entered on the "physic line" and secured his M. D. three years later. For some years he practiced in Oxford and laid the foundations for his remarkable success.

Radcliffe was characterized by extraordinary shrewdness and wit. One of his most celebrated sayings shows the opinion in which were held the so-called water-casters of his day. These water-casters made the diagnosis of disease from a specimen of the urine, and they still exist in some parts of England. A woman, hearing how celebrated he was, brought Radcliffe a sample of her husband's urine. He was disgusted at being taken for a water-caster and his reply was that if her husband, who was a shoemaker, would fit him for a pair of shoes from a sample of his (Radcliffe's) urine, then would he give her a diagnosis.

In addition to carrying on an active practice he remained interested in his college and became one of its most munificent benefactors. Proceeding to London, Radcliffe became connected with the court circles, and King William liked him, though at times disgusted at his bluntness, as Radcliffe was not always a user of choice and elegant language. He once (164) said to the king, when the latter was suffering from dropsy, that he would not have his two legs for his three kingdoms. On another occasion he said, "if Your Majesty will forbear making long visits to the Earl of Bradford (where, to tell the truth, the King was wont to drink very hard), I'll engage to make you live three or four years longer." Radcliffe was also called in to see Queen Mary, who died of small-pox. He said he had been called in too late. He had much trouble with

his royal patients, offending Queen Anne by telling her her (164) trouble was merely the vapours. In the last illustrious council at the time of her death he was summoned, but sent the blunt answer "that he could not come."

Radcliffe had the reputation of being niggardly and penurious. Later in life he found his money had doubled itself from good investments. He saved money with a specific purpose in view. A remarkable document has lately come out at an auction in Yorkshire. It contains his investments and receipts, entered by his secretary, and shows the great skill exercised in his investments.

Radcliffe's character is well given in the *Gold-Headed Cane*. It says: "Two years after the death of Prince George, when Radcliffe was in his sixtieth year, I was somewhat surprised, one morning after breakfast, to observe him attired with more than ordinary exactness. His full-bottomed wig was dressed with peculiar care; he had put on his best suit of lilac-colored velvet with yellow basket buttons, and his air upon the whole was very commanding. He reminded me very strongly of his appearance some ten or fifteen years before. He had an elevated forehead, hazel eyes, cheeks telling of the good cheer of former days, if anything a little too ruddy; a double chin, a well-formed nose, and a mouth round which generally played an agreeable smile. When he sat in his easy chair, with his right hand expanded, and placed upon his breast, as if meditating a speech, and clearing his voice for the purpose of giving it utterance; his left wearing his glove, and resting on his side immediately above the hilt of his sword, which was a very usual attitude with him, he certainly had a most comely and well-favored appearance." Kneller's portrait in the library at Oxford gives an admirable presentation of him.

Again here is a little fragment worth reading: "Though my life is, I dare say, pretty well known to you, yet I will mention some of the leading circumstances of it, from which perhaps you may be able to derive some instruction. Since I began the study of medicine, I have devoted myself chiefly to a careful examination of the most valuable modern treatises.

(164) In this particular I differ, I know, from you, who are a profound scholar; but my books have always been few, though I hope well chosen. When I was at the university, a few vials, a skeleton, and an herbal, chiefly formed my library. By following the dictates of common sense, while I practiced at Oxford after taking my bachelor of medicine's degree, instead of shutting up my patients who were ill of the small-pox, as was done by the Galenists of those days, I gave them air and cooling emulsions, and thus rescued more than a hundred from the grave. I have always attempted to discountenance the attempts of quacks and intermeddlers in physic, and by the help of Providence I have succeeded most wonderfully. My good Dr. Mead, you must consider this conversation as quite confidential, and if I mention anything that has the air of boasting, you will reflect that I unbosom myself to a friend, and what I am about to say is for your encouragement." The book further goes on to tell of his practice: "My practice rapidly increased, and I was even credibly informed that Dr. Gibbons, who lived in my neighborhood, got more than one thousand pounds a year by patients whom I really had not time to see, and who had therefore recourse to him."

As to the question why Radcliffe never married, the Gold-Headed Cane states: "You will naturally ask me why I never married: it does not become me to speak of my good or ill fortune in that line, especially now when I ought to recall my thoughts from all such vanities, and when the decays of nature tell me that I have only a short time to live. That time is, I am afraid, barely sufficient to repent me of the idle hours which I have spent in riotous living; for I now feel, in the pain which afflicts my nerves, that I am a martyr to excess, and am afraid that I have been an abettor and encourager of intemperance in others."

On his deathbed Radcliffe is said to have made the following statement, that where, when he first started practicing, he had twenty remedies for one disease, when he finished he had twenty diseases for which there was not a single remedy. He died on the first of November, 1714, three months after the Queen; and it was said that dread of the populace, and the

want of company in the country village, where he had retired, (164) shortened his life.

His fortune, by his will, he left wisely and generously. His Yorkshire estate he left to the Masters and Fellows of University College for ever, in trust, for the foundation of two travelling fellowships which still exist. They are conferred upon men who have taken certain degrees at Oxford, the conditions being that six months of the three years during which the fellowship is held must be spent abroad, and any surplus must be turned in and used by University College. In addition, his will provided £5000 for the enlargement of the buildings of University College, where he himself had been educated; £40,000 for the building of a library, and instructions regarding the purchase of books on medicine and natural history. Some years ago this building became so full that the library was moved, and at the cost of the Drapers Company, of London, £60,000 being spent and a new Radcliffe library built. Then in the fourth place he left £500 annually toward mending the diet of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the balance of his property being handed to his trustees to do as they saw fit. They built the large Radcliffe Observatory and pay all its expenses, and in 1770 built the Radcliffe Infirmary, paying the major part of its cost.

So there are at least four special foundations connected with his name, all are associated with scientific work, and certainly there is no modern physician with so many large and (165) important monuments. Yet he put no line to paper, but saved with a special object in view. One lesson learned from his life is that if you do not write, make money, and, after you finish, leave it to the Johns Hopkins Trust.

Matthew Baillie. DR. FUTCHER.

Matthew Baillie was the last possessor of the Gold-Headed Cane, having received it from the younger Pitcairn. He was a Scot, his father being the Rev. James Baillie, who traced his descent from the patriot William Wallace. His mother was Dorothea, the sister of John and William Hunter, the cele-

(165) brated anatomists. Matthew Baillie was born at Shots, in Lanarkshire, in 1761. Soon after his birth his father moved to Bothwell, thence to Hamilton, and later to Glasgow where he became Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow. He received his early education in the grammar school in Hamilton and later in the University of Glasgow. His first leanings were towards divinity or law, but, owing to the exceptional facilities afforded by the influence of his two illustrious uncles, he eventually took up medicine. It was William Hunter's wish that he should receive his medical education under his own immediate direction, but in order that he might obtain an English degree in medicine, his nephew's limited means made it necessary for him to procure an Oxford "exhibition," which the professors of the University of Glasgow have in their power to bestow on deserving merit. The death of his father in straightened circumstances at this juncture rendered the securing of an "exhibition" more urgent, and it was finally granted him. In 1780, armed with a letter of introduction from his mother to William Hunter, he went to London and thence to Balliol College, Oxford, where he eventually was graduated. Between "terms" he spent his vacations in the Anatomical Theatre and Museum of William Hunter in Windmill Street, London, carrying on anatomical dissections.

Two years after the commencement of his anatomical studies Baillie became a teacher in his uncle's Anatomical Theatre. He had not been thus employed more than twelve months when William Hunter died, bequeathing to him for life the use of his museum, which after his death was to go to the University of Glasgow where it is still deposited. His uncle also left him his Anatomical Theatre and house in Windmill Street and Long Calderwood, the old Hunter estate in Scotland, which he had recently purchased. Baillie at once graciously turned over the latter to John Hunter, whom he considered the rightful owner. William Hunter, although wealthy, left his nephew an annuity of only one hundred pounds, stating his reason for this small bequest "that it was his intention to leave him but little money, as he had derived

too much pleasure from making his own fortune to deprive (165) him of doing the same."

Two years after William Hunter's death, Baillie, associated with Mr. Cruickshank, gave his first course of anatomical lectures, thus undertaking, in his twenty-second year, the arduous task of filling his uncle's place. It is interesting to note that the number of students did not diminish.

During the years he was particularly interested in normal anatomy and subsequently during his practice as a physician. Baillie lost no opportunity of preserving for a private collection specimens of diseased organs. This museum consisted upwards of 1000 specimens which were nearly all prepared with his own hands. Three years before his death he presented this collection to the Royal College of Physicians with £400 for the purpose of keeping it in a proper state of preservation.

Up to 1787 Baillie devoted almost his entire time to teaching. In this year he took his doctor's degree at Oxford, was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and was appointed a physician to St. George's Hospital, the institution in which his uncle was at that time such a shining light. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1789. After 1787, Baillie from year to year gradually gave more and more time to practice. His interest in pathology was a marked feature of this period of his life. The museums of the two Hunters afforded him abundant opportunity for the study of morbid lesions and he made admirable use of the specimens they contained. The pathological data derived from these sources as well as from the specimen he himself prepared formed the basis of his work entitled "The Morbid Anatomy of Some of the Most Important Parts of the Human Body," first published in 1795, and constituting his most important contribution to medical literature. This was really an epoch-making work, for, although it was ante-dated by the morbid anatomies of Morgagni and Bonetus, the morbid descriptions in the works of the latter were difficult to get at, owing to their being masked by diffuse clinical descriptions. Baillie was the first to publish, in any language, a work devoted ex-

(165) clusively to the description of morbid processes. He is credited with being the first to describe the simple round ulcer of the stomach and also the morbid appearances of cirrhosis of the liver, although he did not fully recognize their significance in either instance. He is said to have been the first to describe typhoid ulcers, although Thomas Willis has been accorded this honor by some.

In 1799, four years after the appearance of his *Morbid Anatomy*, he published a volume of engravings for its elucidation. The work is entitled "A Series of Engravings Representing Every Diseased Change of Structure to which the Internal and more Important Parts of the Body are Subject." These superb engravings were made by William Clift, who devoted so much time and care to the preservation of John Hunter's Museum and who was afterwards Conservator of the Museum of the College of Surgeons. It is interesting to note that Baillie's two most important works were published before he was thirty-eight years of age, his *Morbid Anatomy* appearing when he was thirty-four.

(166) Baillie became so engrossed in private practice that he was forced in 1799 to give up all his teaching. He took a house in fashionable Grosvenor Street and from this time on was the leading consultant in London, and his advice was sought alike by the laity and his fellow practitioners. Some conception of how busy a man he was may be obtained from an account of his daily routine. From 6 a. m. till 8.30 a. m. he was occupied with letters; from 8.30 until 10.30, excepting a short interval for breakfast, he received patients at his own house; and afterwards until 6 p. m., he was out seeing patients chiefly in consultation. From 6 p. m. until 8 p. m. was devoted to dinner and his family, after which, often until a late hour, he returned to outdoor visiting. His practice yielded him £10,000 annually, a fair sum considering that a guinea was the regulation consultation fee. For ten years he was physician extraordinary to King George III and his family and found the visits to Oxford a temporary respite from his arduous daily routine.

Besides the two great works already mentioned, Baillie at

intervals published papers on miscellaneous medical subjects ⁽¹⁶⁶⁾ in the Transactions of the Royal Society, of the Society for the Improvement of Medical and Surgical Knowledge, and of the College of Physicians, all of which were edited by James Wardrop and published in two volumes in 1825. These contain reports of many interesting cases.

Of the various possessors of the Gold-Headed Cane, Baillie contributed more towards the advancement of the science of medicine than any of the others. His *Morbid Anatomy* was in many ways an epoch-making work and was a model of conciseness and of accuracy in observation. He belonged to a most talented family. He was the nephew of the two Hunters, and Joanna Baillie, the well-known poetess, was his sister.

Baillie's arduous practice gradually began to tell upon his health. He developed a tracheal affection, for which he visited Tunbridge Wells with some relief. His health seemed permanently undermined, however, and he eventually retired with his family to his country place in Gloucestershire where he died of phthisis on September 23, 1823, at the age of 62.

The Holders of the Gold-Headed Cane as Book Collectors. DR. CUSHING.

Were an uninformed gathering asked, "Which of these five or six men, whose names Dr. McCrae has written upon the board, is most likely to have been a lover of books?" from many the answer doubtless would be, "Radcliffe." But he was, as Dr. Osler has told you, in no sense a scholarly man. The real Radcliffe is well portrayed in Mat Prior's jingle—

I sent for Dr. Radcliffe: was so ill,
That other doctors gave me over:
He felt my pulse, prescribed his pill,
And I was likely to recover.

But when the wit began to wheeze,
And wine had warmed the politician,
Cured yesterday of my disease,
I died last night of my physician.

(166) He is said to have boasted that a few vials, a skeleton and an herbal constituted his library; and yet in two ways Radcliffe showed the respect that he actually held for the learning to which he himself was a stranger. One was by the magnificent use that he made of his fortune; and though one of the wits of the day said that it would be as appropriate for a eunuch to found a seraglio as for Radcliffe to establish a library, still you have learned from what has already been said how much foresight he showed in the final disposition of his accumulations: the other evidence of his respect for learning was his appreciation of the scholarship shown by his successor, Mead. For it is told that when, early in their acquaintance, he found Mead sitting in his library and reading Hippocrates, he ejaculated, "What, my young friend, do you read Hippocrates in the original language? Well, take my word for it, when I am dead you will occupy the throne of physic in this great town." His vanity must have been tickled by Mead's suave reply that his Empire, like Alexander's, would have to be divided amongst many. And though, in a sense, it did become divided, yet Mead ruled over much of it, and as one of the most remarkable figures in English medicine. He had been educated in Leyden, and, it will be remembered, was Boerhaave's house companion and lifelong friend.

Though it is not my purpose to dwell at any length on his fame as a physician, I wish to show these volumes—Mead's more important contributions to Medicine—as an evidence of his literary activity; for he more than any other of the carriers of the Cane, possibly excepting Baillie, has left us publications of value. The first of these, *A Mechanical Account of Poisons*, was printed in 1702 while Mead was still a young man. In the first of the four essays that constitute the work he settles the long-disputed point as to whether the viper emits an actual poison with its bite.

De Imperio Solis ac Lunae in Corpora Humana, his second work, appeared soon after, in 1704, and this particular copy was presented by Mead to John, Earl of Orrery, and you may see by the inscription what a careful penman was the author. It is rather a philosophical treatise than a work of medical

value, and there seems to be little doubt but that he was led (166) to propound the views herein expressed by the influence of his friend, Sir Isaac Newton, whose deductions regarding the tides had just been brought forth.

The first edition of his Discourse concerning Pestilential Contagion, etc., was published in 1720—this copy is the eighth edition, dated only two years later—and here begin a series of works dealing with infectious diseases and their prevention: and there can be little doubt but that, occupying the position he did, Mead's common-sense attitude toward contagion must have been a power for good. Then, even more than now, people did not take easily to the idea of contagion, and a previous owner has bound up in these covers together with Mead's discourse two other tracts—"The Plague *no* Contagious Disease" and "The Rise and Fall of Pestilential Contagion"—by anonymous authors, of course.

This paragraph is a sample of Mead's chapter on prevention, and it is upon prevention that he chiefly dwells—"As for *Houses*, the first Care ought to be to keep them *clean*; for as *Nastiness* is a great Source of *Infection*, so *Cleanliness* is the greatest Preservative; which shows us the true Reason, why the *Poor* are most obnoxious to *Contagious Diseases*. It is re- (167) marked of the *Persians*, that though their Country is surrounded every Year with the *Plague*, they seldom or never suffer anything by it themselves; and it is likewise known, that they are the most *cleanly* People of any in the World, and that many among them make it a great part of their religion to remove *Filthiness* and *Nusances* of every Kind from all Places about their Cities and Dwellings."

And, again, when speaking of the necessity of segregating the sick, and of burning their houses after they have been removed; "And after this, all possible Care ought still to be taken to remove whatever Causes are found to breed and promote *Contagion*. In order to do this, the *Overseers* of the *Poor* (who might be assisted herein by other Officers) should visit the Dwellings of all the meaner sort of the Inhabitants, and where they find them *stifled up too close* and *nasty*, should lessen their Number by sending some into better Lodgings,

(167) and should take Care, by all manner of Provision and Encouragement, to make them more *cleanly* and *sweet*. No good work carries its own Reward with it so much as this kind of *Charity*." And this at a time when pestilence was largely regarded as heaven-born.

His Harveian Oration delivered in 1724 shows where his tastes were carrying him, for it deals with the coins which were struck off by the Smyrnæans in honor of physicians.

In 1744 was published this, A Discourse on the Plague, and three years later his work, De Variolis et Morbillis, &c.

A short essay entitled *Medica Sacra*, a commentary on the diseases mentioned in the Bible and those of biblical heroes, was printed in London, 1749. In it he comments interestingly upon the maladies, among others, of Herod and Job and Saul and "Nabuchodonosor" upon leprosy, paralysis, lunacy, the bloody sweat of Christ, &c., &c.

This final volume, also from Orrery's library, is the authorized translation of Mead's *Monita et Præcepta Medica*, his last work, published only a few years before his death, and containing notes and observations from past life upon many diseases, their symptomatology, treatment, &c. There are many excellent chapters: his description of scurvy, for example, with its prevention and therapy could well supplant that in many a modern text-book.

And so much for his own few writings: but of Mead and the writings of others the story is a far longer one, for there is hardly a more lustrous name in bibliophilic annals. His collections—and not only of books, but of coins, of ceramics, of gems, of pictures, of statuary, of antiquities, and I know not what all—gave him a world-wide reputation that outshone even the repute of his professional attainments. He was everywhere recognized as the Mæcenas of his day, and in this role it is hard to find his peer in history. His house, as Benj. Ward Richardson says, was one great museum and treasury of learning and science. This house stood in Great Ormond Street, the present site of the Hospital for Children, and owing to Mead's express desire that his collections should be dispersed at his death, we now know something of the treas-

ures, especially in book form, that it contained. For this (167) catalogue—*Bibliotheca Meadiana*—issued by Samuel Baker, the auctioneer, contains the list of the more important volumes that passed under the hammer at Covent Gardens between Nov. 18th, 1754, and the following April 7th—a sale extending over 28 days, and bringing in a total sum that would be large even for these extravagant days when millionaires choose to gather in choice volumes unto themselves.

The first day's sale is taken up almost entirely with the disposal of the Bibles and New Testaments. Among these is the *Biblia Sacra ex Pagnini translatione, per Mich. Villanovanum (Servetus)*, bringing only £7—for the prices have all been marked in, on the margin, by the original possessor of this catalogue—and the two-volume *Editio Princeps* of the Latin Bible, 1462, bringing only £28. Later on, to pick out a few interesting items, we find on the sixth day among eight copies of Pliny's *Natural History*, which were sold, that the King of France brought the *Editio Princeps*, Venet. op. Spiram, 1469, for something over £16, while Mr. Willock, one of Mead's friends, bought the next item, an illuminated copy of 1472, for £18 18s. Catesby's *Natural History of Carolina*, "cuts most beautifully coloured by himself" brings £20 19s. 6d.; Winstanley's *Prospects of Andley End* goes for £50; the rare and first edition of *Il Decamerone di Boccaccio* for £16 16s.; *Cæsar's Commentaries, Ed. princeps*, Rome, 1469, for a song; then there are manuscripts and folios and books of all kinds and descriptions, but mostly rare; Vesalius' *Epitome of the Fabrica*, Basle, 1543, unobtainable now, brought £8 12s. 6d.; the Aldine *Petrarch* of 1501 on vellum; Olivet's *Cicero*, purchased by Askew for £14 14s., to be sold again at the sale of the latter's books for £36 18s.; and on the last day's sale we find a book partly in manuscript selling for £8 18s. 6d., entitled *Servetus de Trinitate*. It was at some earlier period that "the scarce and perhaps the only copy of Servetus' last book passed from the shelves of one English worthy (Mead) to those of his friend, M. de Boze." The amount of all the sales brought over £16,000; this includes the pictures, antiquities, &c.

(167) In his history of the disease "Bibliomania," Dibdin says that Mead died of the complaint, one of its most splendid victims, and adds in a foot-note:

"It is almost impossible to dwell on the memory of this Great Man without emotions of delight—whether we consider him as an eminent physician, a friend to literature, or a collector of books, pictures, and coins. Benevolence, magnanimity, and erudition were the striking features of his character: his house was the general receptacle of men of genius and talent, and of everything beautiful, precious, or rare. His curiosities, whether books, or coins, or pictures, were freely laid open to the public; and the enterprising student, and experienced antiquary, alike found amusement and a courteous reception. He was known to all foreigners of intellectual distinction, and corresponded both with the artisan and the potentate. The great patron of literature, and the leader of his profession (which he practised with a success unknown before), it was hardly possible for unbefriended merit, if properly introduced to him, to depart unrewarded. The clergy, and in general, all men of learning, received his advice *gratuitously*: and his doors were open every morning to the *most indigent*, whom he frequently assisted with money. Although his income, from his professional practise, was very considerable, he (168) died by no means a rich man—so large were the sums which he devoted to the encouragement of literature and the fine arts!"

Anthony Askew was of the same feather with Mead, with like mind, like learning, and the same passion for collecting. Having taken his medical degree at Cambridge and having passed the usual year in study at Leyden, instead of returning to London he travelled widely, and during the three years thus spent, laid the foundation of the library that afterwards became so celebrated. He naturally acquired the warm friendship of Mead, who, we are told, supported him by a sort of paternal zeal; nor did he find in his protege an ungrateful son. Though he never attained to the position in the community held by Mead as a patron of the fine arts in general, his library became perhaps even more widely renowned than that of his predecessor.

Like Mead's, Askew's collection of books was dispersed at auction after his death, and turning the leaves of this catalogue issued by Baker and Leigh—*Bibliotheca Askeviana sive Catalogus Librorum Rarissimorum Antonii Askew, M. D.*—

vill enable you to gather some idea of the volumes "rarissimi- (168)
 morum" which were knocked down during the nineteen days
 following February 12, 1775, an occasion memorable in the
 records of such transactions.

The possessor of this catalogue, too, has carefully marked
 on the margins the prices bid for the various items, and in
 many cases the purchaser thereof; and we find "The King,"
 "King of France," "De Bure," "British Museum," and
 others, including "Wm. Hunter" as purchasers of some of
 the more notable volumes. We can imagine the many-sided
 one of the brothers Hunter, the "man mid-wife," rather
 dandified in person when contrasted with John, sitting at the
 sale and competing for the possession of books with the royal
 agents of England and France. And many of the choicer
 volumes he secured, and they to-day are lying little appreci-
 ated and as yet uncatalogued among the treasures that he
 bequeathed to the University of Glasgow at his death. Mead,
 Askew, and Wm. Hunter as bibliophiles were cut from the
 same cloth, and had Hunter been a physician he would have
 been the natural carrier of the Cane after Askew. Dr.
 Fletcher, however, has told us how the Cane came subsequently
 into the possession of the Hunter family through Baillie.

Possibly the largest sums offered for any of the items are
 those under Hunter's name; for example,

- 817 Anthologia Græca, EDITIO PRINCEPS, IMPRESS. IN MEM-
 BRANA, ET IN LITERIS CAPITALIBUS, *compact, in corio
 turcico, cum foliis deauratis, Florent. ap. Laur. de
 Alop. 1494, £28-7-0.*
- 1415 Diogenes Laertii Vitæ Philosophorum, Latiné,
 EDITIO PRINCEPS, *exemplar pulcherrimum, compact, in
 corio turcico, cum foliis deauratis, Venet. ap. Jensen,
 1475, £6-6-0.*
- 1876 Homeri Batrachomiomachia, Græcè, EDITIO PRINCIPIS,
*compact, in corio turcico, cum foliis deauratis, Venet,
 ap. Laonicum Cretensem, 1486, £14-14-0. In this
 book is this note—This book is so extremely rare
 that I never saw any other copy of it, except that of
 Mons. de Boze, who told me he gave 650 Livres for it.*

- (168) *Mr. Smith, our Consul at Venice, wrote me word that he had purchased a copy, but that it was imperfect, &c.*
- 2656 Platonis Opera, Græcè, IMPRESS. IN MEMBRANA, 2 vol. *compact in corio turcico, cum foliis deauratis, Ven. ap. Ald., 1513, £55-13-0.*
- 3337 Terentianus Maurus de Litteris, Syllabis & Metris Horatii, EDITIO PRINCEPS, & *exemplar pulcherrimum Mediolan per Ulder. Scinzenler, 1497, £12-12-0.* In this book is this note—*This is judged to be the only copy of this edition in England, if not in the whole world.—If so, it is worth any money.—Dr. Askew could find no copy in his travels over Europe, though he made it his earnest and particular search in every library which he had an opportunity of consulting.*
—JOHN TAYLOR, Cantabrig.

But I cannot do better than to read again from Dibdin, who sighs with grief of heart over such a victim of the Bibliomania as Askew. He says :

“ Dr. Anthony Askew had eminently distinguished himself by a refined taste, a sound knowledge, and an indefatigable research relating to everything connected with Grecian and Roman literature. It was to be expected, even during his life, as he was possessed of sufficient means to gratify himself with what was rare, curious and beautiful in literature and the fine arts, that the public would, one day, be benefited by such pursuits: especially as he had expressed a wish that his treasures might be unreservedly submitted to sale, after his decease. In this wish the Doctor was not singular. Many eminent collectors had indulged it before him: and, to my knowledge, many modern ones still indulge it.

“ We are told by the compiler of the catalogue that it was thought unnecessary to say much with respect to this Library of the late Dr. Anthony Askew, as the Collector and Collection were so well known in almost all parts of Europe. Afterwards it is observed that “ The books in general are in very fine condition, many of them bound in morocco, and Russia leather, with gilt leaves.” “ To give a particular account,” continues the compiler, “ of the *many scarce editions* of books in this catalogue would be almost endless, therefore the *first editions* of the Classics, and some *extremely rare books* are chiefly noticed. The catalogue, without any doubt, contains the best, rarest, and most valuable

collection of GREEK and LATIN BOOKS that were ever sold in (168) England." This account is not overcharged. The collection, in regard to Greek and Roman literature, was *unique* in its day.

The late worthy and learned Mr. M. Cracherode, whose library now forms one of the most splendid acquisitions of the British Museum, and whose *bequest* of it will immortalize his memory, was also among the "Emptores literarii" at this renowned sale. He had enriched his collection with many *Exemplar Askevianum*; and, in his latter days, used to elevate his hands and eyes, and exclaim against the prices *now* offered for EDITIONES PRINCIPES!

The fact is, Dr. Askew's sale has been considered a sort of *æra* in bibliography. Since that period, rare and curious books in Greek and Latin literature have been greedily sought after, and obtained at most extravagant prices. It is very well for a veteran in bibliography, as was Mr. Cracherode, or as are Mr. Wodhull and Dr. Gosset, whose collections were formed in the days of Gaignat, Askew, Duke de la Valliere, and Lamoignon—it is very well for such gentlemen to declaim against *modern prices!* But what is to be done? Books grow scarcer every day, and the love of literature, and of possessing rare and interesting works, increases in an equal ratio. Hungry bibliographers meet, (169) at sales, with well furnished purses, and are resolved upon sumptuous fare. Thus the hammer *vibrates*, after a bidding of *Forty pounds*, where formerly it used regularly to *fall* at *Four!*

And with Askew ends Bibliomania so far as it is concerned with the peripatetic life of the Gold-Headed Cane: and perhaps this was none the worse for the patients and certainly it was the better for the purses of the succeeding owners. But for one, I would have wished to see the Cane follow the books and go to William Hunter along with the Aldine Plato for which he paid so dear. Had this happened so, the Cane would probably have ended its active life with Baillic even as it did.