

*William Butler (1535–1618)*

of this intermediate phase in the development of medical practice and philosophy. Of Butler's MSS. in the Library of Clare College, the six which are medical, and one other, are here transcribed and discussed. In these papers he appears as a physician not tied to any theoretical system, but with ideas pointing to the testing of remedies by trials and theory by experience, to a concern with the influence of the mind on bodily disease, and to a middle view of the capabilities and limitations of medical practice. These pointers do not however indicate any system, and Butler is without either the older framework of medical philosophy or any new one. His humanity and forthrightness are consistently shown in the MSS.

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LORD COHEN OF BIRKENHEAD, C.H., F.R.C.P.

We regret to record the death of Lord Cohen of Birkenhead on 7 August 1977. Lord Cohen was for many years a member of the Editorial Board of *Medical History*. An obituary will be published in the January 1978 issue.