

News, Notes and Queries

John Forbes, Mr. Keate, Sir Mathew Tierney and Mr. Liston were some of the members of the medical profession who referred patients to him. Durlacher held the appointment as Surgeon-Chiropodist to the Medical Department of the Royal Household of King George IV, King William IV and Queen Victoria. On one occasion he demonstrated his operation for ingrowing toe-nail at the Hospital of Surgery in Panton Square, London. He wrote *A Treatise on Corns, Bunions, the Diseases of Nails and the General Management of the Feet*, London, Simpkin, Marshall and Co., 1845. The book was a notable contribution to the literature and was well received by medical critics. It contained a fine description of Morton's metatarsalgia—35 years before Morton described it. Durlacher was well aware that the lower classes, and especially servants, suffered severely from minor disorders of the feet. In the preface, dated January 1st, 1845, he wrote: 'I am preparing proposals for the establishment of a dispensary for the diseases incidental to the feet, which I hope will soon be in actual operation. . . .' The dispensary was never founded and I would be very grateful if anyone could give me any information as to where Durlacher lodged his proposals, how they were dealt with and by whom.

THE KEDERMINSTER PHARMACOPOLIUM

AMONG recent accessions to the Wellcome Historical Medical Library is a transcript of an important source-book for information on English domestic medicine in the early seventeenth century. The *Kederminster Pharmacopolium* is a manuscript volume of over 500 pages, containing recipes and prescriptions collected by Sir John and Lady Kederminster, and no doubt used by them in attempting to ease the sufferings and cure the ills of their family, servants and tenants. Sir John Kederminster was the owner of Langley Park in Buckinghamshire. In 1623 he founded the Kederminster Library, a collection of theological books for the use of the clergy of the district. More books were added to the library under his will in 1631. This library, under the control of a body of Trustees, is kept in a panelled room adjoining the ancient parish church of St. Mary, Langley Marish, near Slough. In the time of its founder the clergy often had to assist in the cure of bodies as well as of souls, especially those of the poorer parishioners, and the *Pharmacopolium* was probably placed in the library as a guide for their use. On the title-page it is dated 1630, but the writing is in several hands, and pages are left blank for additional entries, so it is reasonable to assume that it was compiled over a period of years and probably during the married life of Sir John and Lady Kederminster.

The present vicar of St. Mary's, the Reverend F. C. Heward, and his wife Elizabeth, have made the transcript in the most scholarly fashion and they have deposited it in the Wellcome Library (MS. 5497), where it may be consulted by all who are interested in the subject or the period. The typescript is illustrated by photographs of the original illuminated title-page, of several pages of the text, and of the illuminated pedigree showing Sir John's relationship to Queen Elizabeth I.

THE ANATOMICAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF FABRICIUS AB AQUAPENDENTE

The importance of the work of Fabricius in both human and comparative anatomy is summarized by Singer and Cole, and it is strange that the wonderful series of coloured illustrations which he bequeathed to the Bibliotheca Marciana at his death in May 1619 has never been reproduced. Indeed, little notice has been taken of these important documents in the history of science and medicine, although a detailed account of them was published by G. Sterzi in 1909 ('Le "tabulae anatomicae" ed