

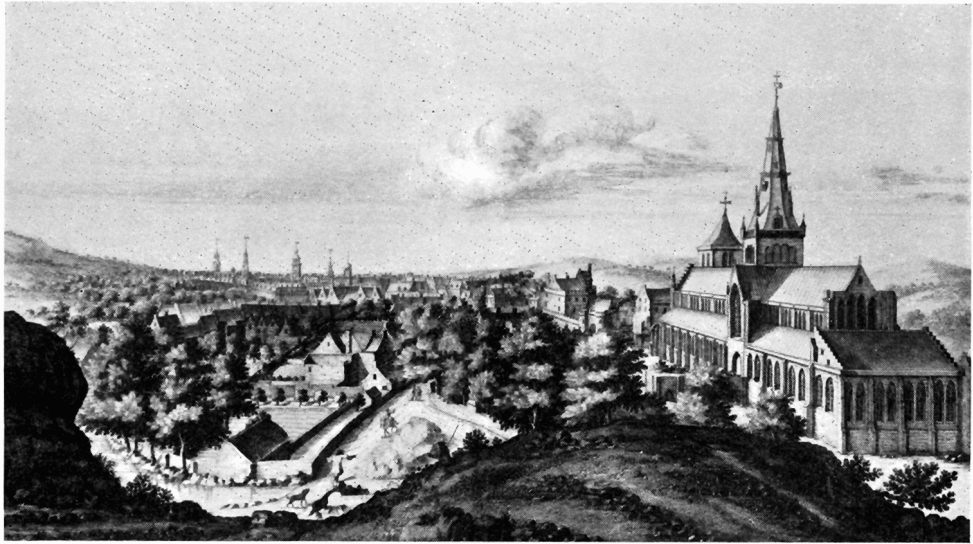
THE OLD COLLEGE OF GLASGOW AND BLACKFRIARS CHAPEL

*(From engraving by Slezer about 1650)*

The buildings were demolished about 1874. The front entrance is preserved as the lodge at Gilmorell.

## THE EARLY MEDICAL SCHOOL OF GLASGOW

GLASGOW, until the early part of the 19th century, was not a town of great size. About the middle of the 16th century it seems to have occupied only the eleventh place in size among the Scottish towns, with a population of between four and five thousand,<sup>1</sup> and even at the beginning of the 17th century it occupied about the same relative position. It consisted practically only of the High Street,



GLASGOW IN THE 17TH CENTURY, FROM THE EAST

The Bishop's Castle, upon the site of which the Royal Infirmary was built, is shown beyond the Cathedral.  
The College is in the centre of the spires to the left

*(Engraving by Slezer)*

crossed at its upper end by Rotten Row, and at its southern end by the Trongate, with a few straggling houses between this and the Clyde, and numerous narrow wynds branching off from both sides of the main streets. The College was in the High Street not far from the Cathedral. Most of the houses had gardens behind, and in the 16th and 17th centuries Glasgow must have been a pleasant little town.

<sup>1</sup> Gibson: "History of Glasgow," p. 78.

In the early part of the 12th century, David I. settled a Bishop at Glasgow, and in 1175 William the Lion granted to the Bishop the right of having a burgh of barony, although the place was not a Royal Burgh. In these surroundings a "*studium generale*" was founded at the instance of Bishop Turnbull by a Bull of Pope Nicholas V., in 1451, and this, in a letter of James II., under the Great Seal in 1453, is called the University of Glasgow. Medicine does not, however, appear to have been actively taught in this University for a long time after its foundation. In 1469, Andrew de Garleis, *Doctor in Medicinis*, seems to have been admitted to the University, but there is no further trace of him. In 1536, Andrew Borde speaks of studying and practising medicine in Glasgow, where his services were in request and countenanced by the University. He was an agent of Thomas Cromwell, maintaining communication with the political party favourable to England.<sup>1</sup>

In the 16th century barber surgeons or physicians probably came from other places and settled in Glasgow, and it appears from records of the Town Council, mentioning regulations directed against plague, leprosy and other diseases, that the Council had the benefit of expert advice in these matters.

Plague was a serious and destructive disease to the early inhabitants of Glasgow. It appeared several times during the 14th century.<sup>2</sup> In the 15th century and 16th century, the city was four times ravaged by the plague: namely, in 1455, 1501, 1515 and 1545,<sup>3</sup> and at this time Glasgow was a place of suspicion to the neighbouring authorities of Edinburgh. In 1584 and 1588, when plague was present in the burghs of the Fife coast and in Paisley, the Glasgow authorities established a rigid quarantine against the infected districts, and the danger was averted. The most serious epidemic of the plague which visited Glasgow was that of 1645-1646, when a house-to-house visitation was adopted, daily reports sent to the Magistrates regarding the sick, and an old expedient, which had been previously tried, of transporting the plague-stricken out of town to the muir, was practised. At this time the Principal, regents and other members of the College were transferred to the town of Irvine. Long before 1665, however, when the plague made its memorable visitation of London, Glasgow had been freed by these means from the dreaded disease.<sup>4</sup>

To compensate for the scanty inducements to ordinary practice, the Town Council of Glasgow, at an early period, began to offer salaries to doctors whom they invited to settle in the place. There is a minute of the Town Council of 17th May, 1577, to the effect that "Allexander Hay, chirurgiane," was granted a yearly pension of ten merks, to be paid by the Treasurer of the town, while at the same time, he was made a burghess and freeman of the burgh, and to be free from taxes, conformably to the privilege held by James Abernethie, his master,

<sup>1</sup> Buist: "Andrew Borde," *Caledonian Med. Journ.*, June, 1921.

<sup>2</sup> Gibson: "History of Glasgow," pp. 72 and 73.

<sup>3</sup> James Coutts, M.A.: "History of the University of Glasgow," Maclehose, Glasgow, 1909, p. 3.

<sup>4</sup> Duncan: "Memorials of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 1599-1850," Glasgow, 1896, pp. 10 and 11.

previously.<sup>1</sup> In 1589, it is recorded that Thomas Myln, a salaried surgeon, was brought up before the Council for speaking slanderously of the town, calling it the "hungrie toun of Glasgw." For this offence, the culprit was ordained to forfeit his pension for one year, the money to go to the improvement of the burgh.<sup>2</sup> Allaster M'Caslan was another surgeon mentioned as being paid by the baillies for "curing of sindry puir anes in the towne" in 1596.<sup>3</sup> At the end of the 16th century, the number of surgeons practising in the town probably did not exceed six, and there appears to have been only one physician. There were however, in addition, at least two midwives, who transacted most of the obstetric practice of the burgh.<sup>4</sup> In the year 1598 the Kirk Session appears to have taken an active interest in medical life, for it sent a deputation to the Town Council representing that an enquiry should be made as to those practising within the town, who pretended to have skill in medicine and had not the same, and that those who had skill should be retained and the others rejected. In April, 1599, the Town Council took action by appointing three baillies, with other men skilled in medicine in the town. This committee had, however, hardly got to work, when the matter was settled from another direction. King James VI.



PETER LOWE

(Original picture in the Hall of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow)

<sup>1</sup> "Extracts from the Records of the Burgh of Glasgow, 1573-1642," Glasgow, 1876, p. 58.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 138.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 178.

<sup>4</sup> Duncan: "Memorials of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 1599-1850," Maclehose, Glasgow, 1896, p. 18.



granted, in November, 1599, letters under the Privy Seal empowering Peter Lowe and Robert Hamilton, "professoure of medecine and their successouris indwelleris of our Citie of Glasgow," to examine and try all who professed or practised the art of surgery, to license those whom they adjudged fit, and to exclude the unqualified from practice, with power to fine those who proved contumacious. These "visitors," as Lowe and Hamilton were called, reported to the city Magistrates in cases of death by accident, violence or poison, and were empowered to exclude from the practice of medicine all who could not produce a testimonial of a famous University where medicine was taught. These extensive powers of licensing for medical practice extended over the burghs of Glasgow, Renfrew and Dumbarton, and the Sheriffdoms of Clydesdale, Renfrew, Lanark, Kyle, Carrick, Ayr and Cunningham, thus covering the greater part of the south-west of Scotland. This was the beginning of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons at Glasgow.

Maister Peter Lowe probably arrived in Glasgow about the beginning of 1598, and the fact of his selecting Glasgow for his residence when he returned from the Continent raises the presumption that he belonged to the west of Scotland. From his use of the descriptive title "Arellian," it is possible that he may have been born at Errol or at Ayr. He was undoubtedly a Scot, because he appends the title "Scottishman" almost every time he writes his name, and he probably left Scotland for the Continent after the middle of the 16th century and about the time of the Reformation. He was a friend of Gilbert Primrose, Deacon of the Incorporation of Surgeons in Edinburgh, to whom, along with James Harvie, Surgeon to the Queen, he dedicates his "Chyrurgerie." He speaks of having had occasion to use remedies on service "in France, Flaunders and else-where, the space of twenty-two yeares: thereafter being Chirurgicalian-Major to the Spanish Regiments at Paris, two yeares: next following the French King my Master in the warres six yeares, where I tooke commoditie to practise all points and operations of Chyrurgerie."<sup>1</sup> As the Spanish regiments were assisting to hold Paris in 1588-1590 against Henry IV., this fixes the dates of his service on the Continent as lasting from 1566 to 1596. The period included such memorable historical events as the Massacre of St. Bartholomew and the Revolt of the Netherlands. From the side on which Lowe was serving, it appears that he was then a Catholic; and as he was later "ordinary Chyrurgion to the French King and Navarre," he must have changed sides about 1590, and probably at the same time changed his religion. He also described himself as "doctor in the facultie of Chyrurgerie at Paris," and was therefore apparently a master surgeon of the Collège de St. Côme. His return to Britain was probably made in 1596, for in this year his book on "The Spanish Sicknes" was published in London. In the following year, 1597, his "Chyrurgerie" appeared, being dated from London, although the materials for the book had been collected abroad, and he made his appearance in Glasgow

<sup>1</sup> Peter Lowe: "Chyrurgerie," Edn. of 1612; address to the reader. See also for full account, Finlayson: "Account of the Life and Works of Maister Peter Lowe," Glasgow, 1889.

in the early part of 1598. He was not long in coming into collision with the power of the Kirk, for on 8th August, 1598, there is a minute of the Presbytery indicating that he had been condemned to stand on the "pillar" for three Sundays, apparently for some offence against ecclesiastical discipline, and to pay a fine. Mr. Peter Lowe had apparently treated the punishment with ridicule, but whether he ever "made his repentance as ordanit" is a matter of which there is now no record.

A book which must have been used to a considerable extent by Scottish practitioners, especially those in the west of Scotland, was the "Chyrurgerie" of Peter Lowe, first published in 1597, with later editions in 1612, 1634 and 1654. This little treatise was the outcome of Lowe's experience in France. It is essentially practical, and its descriptions of operations indicate by their accuracy of detail, his personal knowledge and practical experience of the things of which he wrote. The earlier part of it deals with the theory of surgical treatment, and takes the form of a dialogue between Peter Lowe and his son John, in which the latter is questioned and answers, somewhat after the manner of a catechism. The following extract gives a good example of Lowe's style, and describes the method used in the 17th century for an amputation of the leg:—

"The usage of this ribben or band is divers. First, it holdeth the member hard and fast, so that the instrument or incising knife may cut more surely. Secondly, that the feeling of the whole parts may be stupified, and rendred insensible. Thirdly, that the fluxe of bloud may be stayed. Fourthly, it holdeth up the skinne and muscles which must cover the bone after it be cut, and so it maketh it more easie to heale. The bandage then being thus made, wee cut the flesh with a rasor or incising knife, which must be somewhat crooked to the forme of a hooke or halfe moone.

"The flesh then being so cut to the bone, the said bone must be diligently rubbed and scraped with the backe of the sayd knife, which backe must be made purposely for that effect, to the end the periost which covereth the bone, may be lesse painfull in cutting of the bone. Otherwise it teareth and riveth with the same, so causeth great colour: Also letteth [*hinders*] the cutting, although the bone have no feeling of it selfe. This

*Instruments, and Cutters actuals, for extirpation.*

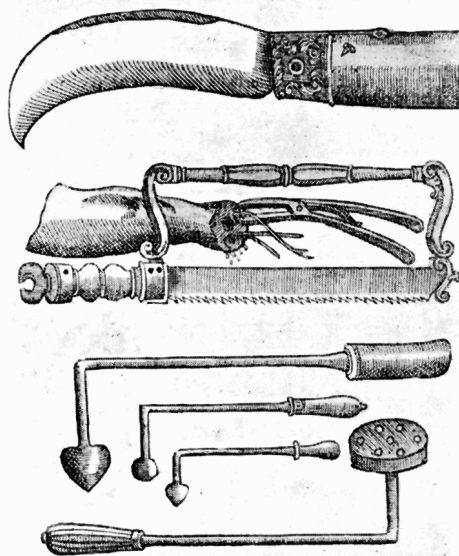


FIGURE OF 16TH CENTURY AMPUTATION  
(From Peter Lowe's "Chyrurgerie")

being done, you must saw the bone with a sharpe sawe: then loose the ligatour, draw downe the skin, and cover the bone in all the pares; and if there be great putrifaction, let it bleed a little, for that dischargeth the part, and so is lesse subject to inflamation; then one of the Assisters shall put the extremities of his fingers on the great vaine & artiers, to stay them from bleeding, till the Chyrurgion either knit or cauterize them one after another."

The following is Peter Lowe's description of his operation for the relief of hernia, especially when it is strangulated, and of the truss which should be worn by elderly persons or by persons in whom the hernia is so great as to make operation unsuitable:—

"Of the Herne intestinal, called by the Greekes *Interocele*. This kinde of rupture is when the guts fall downe in the cods, either through ruption or enlarging of ye Periton where the spermatike vessels doe passe, and where the muscles *Cremastres* doe end, and the membranines *Dartos* and *Erethroides* begin, wherein the gut Call or both doth fall. . . . If the fecall matter let [*hinder*] the reduction of it, you must use such remedie as is set downe in the last Chapter, with glisters to discharg the intestine. If by those remedies the intestine do not reduce, but the matter fecall doe waxe hard with great dolour, you shall make incision in the upper side of the codde, eschewing the Intestine. Thereafter put a little piece of wood up by the production of the Periton, neere unto the hole. Of dissent<sup>1</sup> the piece of wood must be round on the one side and flat on the other, whereon you shall make the rest of your incision, then rubbe the inticed part & whole of dissent with a little oyle of Cammomill, or Lyllies, which will make it lubricke, and cause it to reduce more easily. . . . This operation must not be used but in great necessity, and the sicke strong prognosticating of the daunger, *Ne fefellisse aut ignorasse vidæaris*: being reduced, it must with bandages and astringent fomentations be contained, with this emplaister upon Leather . . . and keepe the bed for the space of fortie dayes . . . using in the meane time good dyet and of light digestion. Abstaine from strong drinke, weake, and windie meats, from hoysting [*coughing*], crying, or other violent motion, so farre as the patient may. In the meane time, keepe open the wombe [*bowels*], and lye in such sort, that the head and shoulders be lower than the hanches and fundament: by these meanes sundry doe heale, when the dilation or ruption is not great. In great dilations and people of elder age, I find no remedie, save onely the bandage made of cloth with Cotton, Iron or Steele, as shall be most meete: such people as doe ryde great Horses and are armed, are much subject to this disease, as I have often seen amongst the French, Almaine, or Ryfters Horse-men: who for the most part have their bandages of Iron, cyther for one side or for both."<sup>2</sup>

As a result of the report by Peter Lowe to the Privy Council upon the abuses of medical practice in Glasgow, he got a privilege under the Privy Seal to "try and examine all men upon the Art of Chirurgerie, and to discharge, and allow in the West parts of Scotland, who were worthy or vnworthy, to professe the same." In 1601, he accompanied the Duke of Lennox, Lord Great Chamberlain of Scotland, who was appointed special ambassador for the Scottish King at the Court of France, upon an embassy to that country. For this purpose he obtained leave of absence from his duties in Glasgow with a continuation of his salary for a year.<sup>3</sup> In 1602, he was back again in Glasgow, and there are numerous other references

<sup>1</sup> The two words "of dissent" belong to the previous sentence, but are printed here as in the original.

<sup>2</sup> Peter Lowe: "A Discourse of the whole art of Chyrurgeric," 3rd edition, 1631, pp. 90 and 91, 247-249.

<sup>3</sup> "Extracts from the Records of the Burgh of Glasgow, p. 223.

to him in the minutes of the Faculty and those of the Town Council. He published a second edition of his "Chyrurgerie," dated 20th December, 1612, and died apparently in the next year.

The great work of Peter Lowe was the establishment of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, which embraced within its powers the regulation of the practice of medicine, surgery and pharmacy in the west of Scotland. The Charter instituted medico-legal examiners who reported to the authorities, thus forming in 1599 a very early example of State medicine. It was the duty of the Faculty to examine and license surgeons, but physicians were only to be called upon to produce the diploma from their University. As none of the Scottish Universities at this time granted degrees in medicine, this presumably refers to graduates of foreign Universities, who might be expected to settle in Glasgow. The Faculty also at a very early date undertook the gratuitous medical visitation and treatment of the sick poor. This practice was apparently taken by Peter Lowe from one of the regulations of the Collège de St. Côme at Paris.

The fact that physicians and surgeons were both included in the operation of the original Charter, and that they have remained united in this body to the present day, has had a great deal to do with moulding the character of the Glasgow Medical School. Although the University did not establish a Medical Faculty till the beginning of the 19th century, the rapid rise of this school and its celebrity as a training-place for efficient general practitioners, has probably been largely due to the fact that its surgeons have always possessed a good knowledge of medicine, while many of its physicians have been competent practitioners of surgery. This Charter is of so much importance for the influence which it has had on Scottish medicine that it is given here in full:—

"JAMES, be the Grace of God, King of Scottis, to all Provostis, baillies of burrowis, sheriffs, stewartis, baillies of regalities, and othis ministeris of justice within the boundis following, and their deputis, and all and sundrie othis our leigis and subditis, quhom it eferis, quhase knowlege thir our letteris sal come, greiting, WIT ZE WE, with auisse o oure counsall, understanding the grit abuisis quhilk hes bene comitted in time bigane, and zit daylie continuis be ignorant, unskillit and unlernit personis, quaha, under the collour of Chirurgeanis, abuisis the people to their plesure, passing away but [without]



FIGURE OF 16TH CENTURY TRUSS  
(From Peter Lowe's "Chyrurgerie")



ROBERT HAMILTON



WILLIAM SPANG

*(Original pictures in the Hall of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow)*

tryel' or punishment, and thairby destroyis infinite number of oure subjectis, quhairwith na ordour hes bene tane in tyme bigane, specially within oure burgh and baronie of Glasgow, Renfrew, Dumbartane, and oure Sherifffdomes of Cliddisdale, Renfrew, Lanark, Kyile, Carrick, Air and Cunninghame; FOR avoiding of sik inconvenientis, and for gude ordoure to be tane in tyme cuming, to have made, constitutit and ordanit, and be the tenoure of thir oure letteris, makis, constitutis, and ordinis Maister Peter Low, our Chirurgiane and chief chirurgiane to oure dearest son the Prince, with the assistance of Mr. Robert Hamilton, professoure of medecine, and their successouris, indwellers of our Citie of Glasgow, GEVAND and GRANTAND to thaim and thair successoures, full power to call, sumonnd, and convene before thame, within the said burgh of Glasgow, or onie otheris of our said burrowis, or publict places of the foirsaidis boundis, all personis professing or using the said airt of Chirurgie, to examine thame upon thair literature, knowledge and practize; gif they be fund wordie, to admit, allow, and approve thame, give them testimonial according to the airt and knowledge that they sal be fund wordie to exercise thareftir, resave thair aithis, and authorize thame as accordis, and to discharge thame to use onie farder nor they have knowledge passing thair capacity, laist our subjectis be abusit; and that every ane citat report testimonial of the minister and eldris, or magistratis of the parochin quhair they dwell, of thair life and conversatione; and in case they be contumax, being lauchfullie citat, everie ane to be unlawit in the soume of fortie pundis, toties quoties, half to the judges, other half to be disponit at the visitoures plesure; and for payment thairof the said Mr. Peter and Mr. Robert, or visitoures, to have oure uthere letteris of horning [*outlawry*], on the partie or magistrates quhair the contemptuous personis duellis, chargeing thame to poind thairfoire, within twentie four houris, under the pain of horning; and the partie not haveand geir poindable, the magistrate, under the same pain, to incarcerate thame, quhill caution responsall be fund, that the contumax persone sall compir at sik day and place as the saidis visitouris sall appoint, gevan trial of thair qualifications:

"*Nixt*, that the saidis visitouris sall visit everie hurt, murtherit, poisonit, or onie other persoun tane awa extraordinarily, and to report to the Magistrate of the fact as it is:

"*Thirdlie*, That it sall be leisum to the said visitouris with the advice of their brethren, to mak statutis for the comoun weill of our subjectis, anent the saidis artis, and using thairof faithfullie, and the braikeris thairof to be punshit and unlawit be the visitoures according to their falt:

"*Fordlie*, It sall not be leisum to onie mannir of personis within the foresaidis boundis to exercise medicine without ane testimonial of ane famous universitie quhair medecine be taught, or at the leave of oure and oure dearest spouse chief medicinarie; and in case they failzie, it sal be lesum to the said visitouris to challenge, perseu, and inhibite thame throu using and exercing of the said airt of medicine, under the pain of fourtie pundis, to be distributed, half to the Judges, half to the pure, toties quoties they be fund in using and exercing the same, ay and quhill they bring sufficient testimonial as said is:

"*Fythlie*, That na manir of personis sell onie droggis within the Citie of Glasgow, except the sam be sichtit be the saidis visitouris, and be William Spang, apothecar, under the pane of confiscatione of the droggis:

"*Sextlie*, That nane sell retoun poison, asenick, or sublemate, under the pane of ane hundred merkis, excep onlie the apothecaries quha sall be bund to tak caution of the byaris, for coist, skaith and damage:

"*Seventlie*, Yat the saidis visitouris with thair bretherene and successouris, sall convene every first Monunday of ilk moneth, at sum convenient place, to visite and give counsell to pure disaisit folkis gratis: and *last of all*, Gevand and grantand to the saidis visitouris

indwellers of Glasgou, professouris of the saidis airtis, and thair bretherene, p'nt and to cum, imunitie and exemptione from all wappin shawengis, raidis, oistis, beiring of armour, watching, weirding, stenting taxationis, passing on assises, inquestis, justice courtis, scheriff or burrow courtis, in actiones criminal or cival, notwithstanding of oure actis, lawis, and constitutionis thairoff, except in geving yairr counsall in materis appertaining to the saidis airtis: ORDAINING you, all the foresaidis provestes baillies of borrowis, sheriffis, stewartis, baillies of regalities, and otheris ministeris of justice, within the saidis boundis, and zoure deputis, to assist, fortifie, concur and defend the saidis visitouris, and thair posterior, professouris of the foresaidis airtis, and put the saidis actis maid and to be maid to execution; and that our otheris letteris of our sessioun be granted thereupon to charge thame to that effect within twentie four houris nixt after they be chargit thairto. GEVIN under oure previe seill, at Haliruid house, the penult day of November, the zeir of God jnvc. and fourscore ninetein zeiris, and of oure regun the threttie thre zeir."<sup>1</sup>

An early act of the Incorporation was to adopt the barbers in June, 1602, as "a pendecle of Chirurgerie." The barbers were apparently adopted as a necessity of the times, but on a distinctly inferior plane. The barber was to be "free of his ain calling" but not of the Incorporation as a whole, and the barber was to "medill with simple wounds allendarlie." This position continued for about a century till, in 1703, the barbers appealed their grievances to the Town Council, and applied to be disjoined from the chirurgions. In 1708, the Magistrates effected this separation, the barbers taking one-fifth of the property of the Incorporation, and being re-incorporated by themselves under a Letter of Deaconry. It may be added that in Edinburgh the union between the surgeons and barbers came to an end in 1719.

Another early activity of the Faculty was the enactment of a code of rules in regard to the education of the members. In 1602, it was ordained that apprentices must be entered for seven years, although in the last two they were to receive board and fee. The apprentice was to pay five pounds for entry money, was to be examined at the end of three years, giving a dinner at the time to his examiners, and again to be examined at the end of five years and at the end of seven years. The examinations were apparently to be partly written and partly practical, and at the end of his term of apprenticeship, before passing as master, he was to pay ten pounds. Finally, if he intended to practise in Glasgou, he had to be enrolled as a burges of the town at a further fee, and he had to pay to the Faculty a quarterly subscription, which was rigorously exacted.

Individuals seem to have been licensed in the early days to practise limited parts of the art of medicine. Thus, in 1668, Matthew Miller was licensed for the "applicatioun of coulters & ventosis [*cupping*], the cuiring of simple woundes, and embalming of corpses," with the proviso that if he should be found afterwards to attain more knowledge and skill of his calling, and found qualified by the Faculty, he should be admitted thereto. Again, from the city records of 21st March, 1661, it was decided by the Magistrates and Council to pay yearly

<sup>1</sup> Duncan: "Memorials of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgou, pp. 217 and 218."



to Evis M'Neill "that cutis the stone, ane hundreth markis Scotis, and he to cut all the poor for that freilie." This salary was apparently paid to him for many years, as he retired in 1688 in favour of Duncan Campbell. Evis M'Neill had been licensed by the Faculty in 1656, on the strength of ten years or thereby of experience "in cutting of the stone," to practise this department only within the bounds of the Faculty's supervision. Again, in 1654, Mr. Arch. Graham was licensed to practise "pharmacie and medicine," but was forbidden to exercise any point of "Chirurgerie."

In 1656, the Faculty made a closer rapprochement with the Town Council by obtaining in favour of the surgeons and barbers a Letter of Deaconry or Seal of Cause. In 1672, the Faculty obtained from the Scottish Parliament a ratification of this municipal charter, drawn in favour of the surgeons, apothecaries and barbers.

In 1645, one of the provisions of the original Charter was carried out by the admission to the Faculty, without examination, of Mr. Robert Mayne, the first Professor of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, and Mr. James Dwining, who were both doctors of medicine. Dr. Mayne's activities as a professor in the University were short-lived. He was one of the Regents in the Faculty of Arts, and became Professor of Medicine in 1637. He apparently lectured in the University on Fridays and other convenient occasions, dealing with medicine, although he had no other colleagues in the Medical Faculty. A Commission appointed by the General Assembly, in 1642, to hold a visitation of the Scottish Universities, reported that medicine was not necessary for the College in Glasgow, although they recommended that Mr. Robert Mayne should continue in his post during his time. He died, however, in 1646, and the Chair lapsed for over a century.<sup>1</sup>

Until the latter part of the 17th century the Faculty does not appear to have felt itself strong enough to extend its operations beyond the town of Glasgow, although it had been given a purview over medical practice in a much wider area. In 1673, however, examiners were appointed in Ayr and Kilmarnock to examine applicants for entrance to the Faculty. These were the times of the Covenanting troubles, and some of the Faculty were enthusiastic Covenanters, though most of them tempered piety with prudence. In 1677, the Faculty had the misfortune to have a Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Smith, who attended conventicles, and who had been denounced and called before the Lords of Secret Council. Having some fear that the Corporation might be fined for his misdemeanours, his fellow-members summarily ejected him from office and appointed a successor *ad interim*. On the other hand, the Faculty had much trouble with the impious barbers, who acted as "prophaners of the Sabath by barborizing of persons yt day."

<sup>1</sup> Duncan: "Memorials of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow," p. 111.

This practice was found by the Faculty, in 1676, to be "contrair to the word of God, and to all lawes both humane and divyne." A resolution was therefore passed that any member of the Faculty convicted of plying his craft of barber on the Sabbath day should be fined forty pounds Scots, and, upon refusal to pay the same, be ejected from the Faculty.<sup>1</sup>

About this time the Faculty seem to have been extraordinarily busy in the prosecution of quacks and other unlicensed practitioners within their area, and the records are filled with cases of unqualified persons brought up before the Faculty in its judicial capacity. These were either fined or forbidden under penalty to practise further.

In 1697, the Faculty acquired a property contiguous to the Tron Church, where the members set up a hall and commenced the formation of a medical library, for up to this time they had been without a meeting-place, holding their meetings usually either in the Crafts' Hospital or Hutchesons' Hospital. In 1791, the Faculty moved its hall to the east side of St. Enoch Square, and, in 1860, sold this site to the Railway Company with advantage and moved to its present premises in St. Vincent Street.

In the 18th century it appears that the term of apprenticeship for surgeons was five years, although apprenticeships of four years and three years were also recognised when this apprenticeship was supplemented by attendance on lectures at a Medical School. In 1785, the Faculty established a licentiateship, which gave to country surgeons the power of practising in a limited area on payment of a reduced admission fee.

Several men eminent in medicine were members of the Faculty during the 18th century. Dr. Matthew Brisbane, in the end of the 17th century, had been several times elected Rector of the University, the only medical man in that century to attain the distinction. In common, however, with the general opinion of the times, he apparently had some sympathy with the idea that witchcraft was a possible practice, for in 1696 he made a lengthy report upon a girl, Christian Shaw, daughter of the Laird of Bargarran, whom he had seen to bring hair, straw, coal, cinders and such-like "trash" out of her mouth without its being wet. The case at the present day would unhesitatingly be attributed to hysteria and imposture, but, for the alleged crime of bewitching this wretched girl, four persons were burned at Paisley.<sup>2</sup>

As a pioneer in surgery, much credit is due to Mr. Robert Houston, for whom a claim is made of being the first ovariologist, by reason of an operation which he performed in 1701, more than a century before the celebrated operations of Dr. Ephraim McDowell, of Kentucky.<sup>3</sup> The case concerned a woman,

<sup>1</sup> Duncan : "Memorials of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow," p. 72.

<sup>2</sup> Duncan : "Memorials of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow," pp. 112 and 113.

<sup>3</sup> "Philosophical Transactions," London, 1733. Vol. XXXIII.

Margaret Millar, whom, in August, 1701, he found to have the abdomen distended to an enormous size. Being pressed by Lady Anne Houston, who took a great interest in the patient, and by the patient herself, to do what he could to relieve the condition, he, with very ineffective instruments, opened the abdomen, removed some nine quarts of gelatinous fluid and numerous cysts, and, after dressing the wound for three weeks, had the satisfaction of seeing the patient again at work, and later of recording her survival for thirteen years in perfect health.

A well-known member of the Faculty about the middle of the century was Dr. John Gordon, to whom Tobias Smollett served an apprenticeship. The latter puts into the mouth of one of his characters, Mr. Bramble, the following appreciation of his old master, who, outside of medicine, conferred upon the city the great benefit of introducing linen manufacture there: "I was introduced to Mr. Gordon, a patriot of a truly noble spirit, who is father of the linen manufactory of that place, and was the great promoter of the city workhouse, infirmary, and other works of public utility. Had he lived in ancient Rome, he would have been honoured with a statue at the public expense." Another friend of Dr. Gordon was Dr. William Smellie, the obstetrician, also a member of the Faculty, who practised in the town of Lanark, and afterwards went to London, where he composed his celebrated "Midwifery," which was revised by Tobias Smollett. Dr. John Gordon lectured for a time in the College on Anatomy, and other lecturers on this subject at various periods between 1730 and 1750, were Mr. John Paisley, Mr. John Love, Dr. Robert Hamilton and Mr. John Crawford.

Other celebrated members of the Faculty were William Cullen and Joseph Black, whose lives and work are mentioned in connection with the Medical School of Edinburgh. Until the early part of the 18th century, Glasgow medicine had busied itself mainly with the improvement of medical and surgical practice, and the few attempts at teaching which have been mentioned had proved abortive. During the second decade of the 18th century, however, the University began to bestir itself for the erection of a Medical School. The Chair of Medicine, which had been abolished by the Commissioners of Assembly in 1646, was revived in 1714, and Dr. John Johnstoun, who had graduated in medicine at Utrecht five years previously, was appointed professor. Dr. Thomas Brisbane, son of Dr. Matthew Brisbane, was next appointed professor of anatomy and botany in 1720. It appears, however, that neither of these professors lectured, and that they regarded their appointments as merely titular.<sup>1</sup> In 1744, Dr. William Cullen, who had moved from Hamilton into Glasgow, began to deliver a course of lectures on medicine outside the University, and in 1746, by an arrangement with Professor Johnstoun, he began to lecture in the University. He persuaded the University also to fit up a chemical laboratory in 1747, and began to teach that subject with the help of Mr. John Carrick, assistant to Dr. Hamilton, now professor of

<sup>1</sup> Thomson: "Life of Cullen," Vol. I, p. 21.

anatomy. In 1748 Cullen also began to teach materia medica and botany. In 1750, Dr. Johnstoun resigned the Chair, and Cullen was appointed his successor in January, 1751.

Cullen was one of the first persons in Britain to treat chemistry as a scientific subject apart from its connection with pharmacy. He also stimulated his pupil, Joseph Black, to take up the subject from the same aspect. Black went to Edinburgh as a student in 1751, and here he accomplished the brilliant feat of isolating "fixed air" (carbonic acid gas), which inaugurated a new era in chemistry. In 1755, Cullen left Glasgow to take up the Chair of Chemistry at Edinburgh; at the same time, Dr. Robert Hamilton, the professor of anatomy, was transferred to the Chair of Medicine, and Dr. Joseph Black succeeded Hamilton as professor of anatomy for one year. Dr. Hamilton having died in 1757, Dr. Joseph Black succeeded to the Chair of Medicine and Chemistry, but in 1766 he again resigned this to succeed Cullen in the Chair of Chemistry at Edinburgh, when the latter was transferred to the Chair of Medicine in that University.

To Cullen and Black the foundation of the Glasgow School of Medicine may reasonably be credited. Black was succeeded in 1766 in the Chair of Medicine and Chemistry by Dr. Alexander Stevenson, and he in turn by his nephew, Dr. Thomas Charles Hope, in 1791. After Black left Glasgow, Mr. John Robison was appointed a lecturer in chemistry, and Dr. William Irvine a lecturer in materia medica. Professor Hope succeeded Joseph Black in the Edinburgh Chair in 1795. It was unfortunate for the developing school at Glasgow that all these men of ability were transferred to other spheres of activity almost as soon as they had made their mark.<sup>1</sup>



SEAL

ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS  
GLASGOW

<sup>1</sup> Duncan: "Memorials of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow," pp. 129-132.