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Thomas Linacre, May 1908.

This was an address entirely to ^{Oliver} Sir William's taste, for Linacre appealed to him not only as a physician but as a humanist. He is well known; he was born in Canterbury in 1460, educated at Oxford and went to Italy where he became one of the earliest students who sought at Padua the education he could not get at home at the time. He became thoroughly imbued with the Greek spirit which with Caius and others he introduced into England, and on his return he became the founder of the Royal College of Physicians, but all his life was more a scholar than a physician. He became physician to Henry VIII, and became the friend of More, Erasmus, and others, and as has been said elsewhere, was one of the three great men who looked down upon his modern disciple, also a humanist, above his mantel.

The lecture of this year was a new departure in that for the first time it had been decided to invite annually a man of mark to give a single published lecture in Cambridge on the same general plan as the Rede lecture which likewise was on an old foundation going back to 1524, only four years after the death of Linacre. Sir William was introduced by the Master of St. John's, and Sir Clifford Allbutt replied to the address at its close. Sir William pointed out the great services of Linacre, not only to medicine but to scholarship in general, and aroused much interest by his suggestion that Linacre was the hero in Browning's Grammarians' Funeral, a suggestion with which J. F. Payne subsequently agreed.