

(Extract from Mr. John Lane's letter to  
Morning Post, London, Jan. 7, 1920).

August 7, 1915.

. . . Mention should also be made of Sir William Osler's enthusiasm for Sir Thomas Browne and his works, of which he possessed every known edition and many MSS., including the rare edition, surreptitiously printed in 1642, of "Religio Medici." He has as well, copies of all his engraved portraits, and photographs of all known paintings of him, with the exception of one which I, happily, was the means of bringing to his notice. I shall never forget his intense interest when I told him of the existence of this unrecorded portrait of Sir Thomas Browne within twenty-five miles of Oxford. Thanks to the courtesy of the fourth Lord Sherborne, its owner, a day was set for a visit to Sherborne House in August, 1915. Sir William was profoundly impressed by this, to him, unknown portrait of his hero, the more so as the picture of the mother of Sir Thomas Browne hangs in the same room. This lady married, for her second husband, Sir Thomas Dutton, through whom Lord Sherborne inherited these portraits. Lord Sherborne was then in his eighty-fifth year, yet, unlike some owners, he showed a keen interest in all his treasures. . . .