

FENNY STRATFORD.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL.

BROWNE WILLIS ANNIVERSARY.

COMMEMORATION RECEPTION.

SIR WILLIAM OSLER, BART., ON
"WILLIS, THE ANATOMIST."

With the recurrence of St. Martin's Day, the annual festivities and celebrations took place in Fenny Stratford on Saturday week and again on Tuesday, the latter being the principal day of the commemoration. From time immemorial, even Fenny Stratford has been dependent for what prosperity she has ever enjoyed on the support of strangers and wayfarers. At the present moment there are large numbers of strangers within her gates, and to many of them a short and succinct history of how Saturday and Tuesday's events came to be observed will probably be of more than passing interest.

HISTORICAL.

The close connection of St. Martin with Fenny Stratford is, compared with the date of his life on earth, comparatively modern, commencing, as it does, about 1730, when Dr. Browne Willis—he was a doctor of Laws, not of medicine—built the original portion of what is now the Parish Church, and dedicated it to St. Martin. The reason for so doing was not admiration of the life and work of the Saint, but because grandfather Willis, whom the doctor greatly venerated, lived in St. Martin's Lane, London, and died on St. Martin's Day. It was also in the Royal Parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields that the celebrated physician, Dr. Thomas Willis, acquired the wealth which, bequeathed to his grandson, enabled the latter to restore to Fenny Stratford a Parish Church.

As regards the date on which to celebrate St. Martin's Day, there has been not only confusion, but also friction in the past in Fenny Stratford. Browne Willis always celebrated it on Nov. 22nd, following the old style calendar, although the new style came into operation seven years before his death in 1760. Shortly after his death the advocates of Nov. 22 and those for Nov. 11 fell out, and, failing to fall in again, there were two separate celebrations, one led and presided over by the Rector of Bletchley—then also Rector, or Vicar, of Fenny Stratford—and the other by the curate-in-charge of St. Martin's Church. There is no record of a recurrence of this episode. Of St. Martin himself, perhaps all that is known is that he was Bishop of Tours, was born in A.D. 315 in Pannonia, educated at Pavia, served as a soldier under Constantine and Julian the Apostate; became a Disciple of Hilary of Portieres; was converted; was persecuted; founded a Monastery; practised austerities; in A.D., 371, he was extracted from his retirement by main force and made Bishop of Tours, very much against his will. He worked miracles, wrote a Conformation of Faith, died, and was Canonised.

During his life-time, Browne Willis maintained and celebrated the Festival annually, the place of the festivities being the Bull Inn, High Street, where the dinner continued to be held until the early days of the present century, when the "Bull" ceased to have any connection with the celebrations. When Browne Willis died a letter was found on his death-bed, in which he expressed a hope that these celebrations might be kept up "for ever," and stating that he had left an "endowment" to that end. This endowment turned out to be two cottages, believed to have originally been situated in High Street. However, for many many long years the "St. Martin's Cottages" were two of the ancient buildings of the class in Aylesbury Street. Here successive tenants lived, paid their rents, and

many years past, indeed, with perhaps greater dignity, honour and glory than ever before. Certainly, the company assembled for the occasion, was a very distinguished one, including, as it did, a Bishop, the Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, a celebrated physician all the way from Boston, U.S.A., and others. The doings on St. Martin's actual day, Nov. 11th, comprised simply the letting off of the "Poppers." On the following Tuesday the real celebrations took place. In these, again, the "Poppers" had a voice, more than one voice. Then there was a service in St. Martin's Church, at which the Bishop of Buckingham preached the memorial sermon, a dinner and a reception.

THE DINNER.

The Swan Hotel was the scene of the annual dinner. A company numbering some 30 sat down to an excellent repast, provided by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Ruffie.

The Vicar, the Rev. J. H. Firminger, presided, supported in the vice-chair by Mr. E. R. Ramsbotham (Parishioners' Warden). As the guests of him and Mr. W. E. Cooke (Vicar's Warden), who was also present, were Sir William Osler, Bart., F.R.S., Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University, and the Bishop of Buckingham. Others present included the Rev. A. Matheson (Rector of Newton Longville, and Rural Dean of Bletchley), the Rev. H. L. L. Denny (Vicar of Winslow), the Rev. F. W. Bennitt (Rector of Bletchley), Dr. Viets (Boston, U.S.A.), Dr. Benson (Claydon), Dr. Baker (Aylesbury), Dr. Kennish (Winslow), Dr. Bradbrook (Bletchley), Lieut.-Col. C. J. Deys, R.A.M.C. (Bletchley), Lieut.-Col. Back, Major Barber, Capt. Vandermin (4/5th Norfolk Regt., R.D.C.), Mr. J. L. Shirley, Mr. C. Bourne, Mr. W. A. Foll, Mr. Forbes Oldham, Mr. H. J. Clarke, Mr. E. E. J. Durran, Mr. A. F. Wood, Mr. H. S. Pettit, Mr. Marshall (Newton Longville), Mr. C. Matthews, etc.

The proceedings at the dinner were quite informal, there being no toasts, and no speeches of any sort, these being reserved for the reception.

As soon as dinner was over, those present at it adjourned to the Town Hall, where a company of ladies and gentlemen, numbering a hundred or more, had assembled, and here tea and coffee was served by the ladies in charge of the department. In the hall there was on view a number of objects of interest having connection with the Festival.

The Vicar presided.

THE EXHIBITS.

Sir William Osler had brought with him a bound volume of the Works of Thos. Willis, the celebrated seventeenth century physician, and grandfather of Browne Willis; also a number of photographs of the title pages of these Works, and of others written by Willis's friends and contemporaries at Oxford.

The portrait (an engraving) of Thos. Willis, which hangs in the Vestry at St. Martin's, was on view. Under this picture Browne Willis had written:—

In honour to thy memory, blessed shade,
Was the foundation of this Chapell laid.
Purchased by thee, thy son and present heir.
Owe these three mannours to thy art and care.

For this, may all thy race, thanks ever pay,
And yearly celebrate St. Martin's Day.

A portrait of Browne Willis—an engraving (1800) of Fenny Stratford, showing the Church tower and the old farm house in Aylesbury Street, now a shop.—A photograph of the painted ceiling of the original St. Martin's Chapel.—Photograph of Cole, the historian of Bletchley.—The parish deed box.—A collection of photographs of the Church, etc.—A bound volume of the Fenny Stratford Parish Magazine, 1866, and other various items.

All these were closely inspected with in-

had it before him. To Willis's special circle in Oxford belonged a most interesting group in the history of science in England. The awakening of science in England had begun in the early part of the 17th century, and perhaps the first scientific work of first rank to be published in Great Britain, was Gilbert's De Magneto (1600). Harvey's memorable work on the "Circulation of the Blood" appeared in 1628. Harvey was himself at Oxford during the period that Willis was an undergraduate. Whether or not they ever met was not known, but whilst there he met a group of men whose lives and works as the

FOUNDERS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

had had the greatest influence of any single group of men on the development of science in this country. Wallis himself told the story of the Society's meetings, first, in London and then in Oxford. Most of the scientific subjects they discussed had been set on foot really within the previous thirty years chiefly by the remarkable observations of Galileo. These men who had an important influence on the subsequent development of science in this country deserve to be held in remembrance. Seth Ward, who was subsequently Bishop of Exeter and of Salisbury, was the centre around whom the majority of these scientific men revolved. He was "a profound statesman, but a very indifferent clergyman" (laughter). Wallis, who was also a Cambridge man, more than any single man was the living spirit in the formation of the Royal Society. He was a great mathematician, and in a most astonishing mathematical dream, extracted the figure root from eight groups of figures—and it was correct (laughter). He became Professor of Geometry at Oxford, and his reputation as a mathematician extended throughout Europe. Another man who had quite a great influence was Wilkins, Warden of Wadham, a very ingenious man with a good mechanical head, who was afterwards Bishop of Chester. In Wadham College was still shown the early meeting room of the Royal Society in Oxford. Perhaps the best remembered genius of the group was Christopher Wren, who was an undergraduate at Wadham College in 1649, and became so much interested in the studies that were in progress with Willis, Boyle and others that at first he studied medicine, and it was a remarkable fact that the distinguished architect was the first in England, probably in Europe, to invent a method for the transfusion of blood from one human being to another, or from one animal to another. He was also remembered as the first man who made drawings from the microscope. He also did many of the drawings for Willis's works. Another remarkable member of the group was the Hon. Robert Boyle, son of the Earl of Cork. He was a great exponent of the experimental method, and every elementary student of physics still knew him through Boyle's law. It was astonishing when one thought how much Boyle did, how little was the impression he made. It was probably due to the fact that he was rather a rough experimenter; he had a better mind than hands. Co-ordination of head and hand were necessary for a great experimenter. But he did a great work in stimulating research and a good deal of the reputation of English science on the Continent was due to him. Another extraordinary character in the group was that genius, Sir William Petty, who made the Down Survey in Ireland, and was the founder of the science of Political Economy. He went to sea at eight or nine years of age, and while being nursed in France for a broken leg he began

A CAREER OF MONEY-MAKING.

He went to Paris with no other capital than his native wit, became a doctor, and came to Oxford at the time one of his (the speaker's) predecessors had the fortunate habit of fainting whenever he saw a dead

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phlebotomy. It was not until 1857 that the problem of fermentation was solved by Louis Pasteur, who showed that fermenta- tion was not a pure chemical process, but due to changes owing to the growth of living bodies in the fluid. That was the

GREATEST SINGLE DISCOVERY

as far as the welfare of humanity was con- cerned, and it had the farthest reaching in- fluence of any single discovery of the cen- tury. It revived the parallel which had been drawn 300 years before between fer- mentation and fever. Fracastorius had called attention to it in the 16th century, and Boyle had said that the man who would solve the problem of fermentation would solve the problem of infectious fevers. Pasteur solved both. He showed that if they took the tiniest little drop on the point of a needle from a fermenting fluid and put it into a sugary solution it would create fermentation, and in just the same way the tiniest drop of blood from an animal suffering from anthrax would cause identical changes to occur in the blood of another animal; there would be a multipli- cation of the germs, a change in the fluid, and at the end of the fever produced by the anthrax one could not induce the fever again by inoculation. That was the founda- tion of our modern treatment of infec- tious disease and the antiseptic treatment of wounds. Besides that subject of fermenta- tion, Willis also dealt with intermittent fevers and enteric or typhoid fever. He was one of the first to describe an epidemic in 1643 in the Army of Essex besieging Reading. He reported also on an epidemic in 1661. It was interesting to see what he prescribed for typhoid. One would not care to have typhoid fever and to be treated by Willis (laughter). The patient would be lucky if he were not bled, dosed with all the available purges in the Pharmacopoeia, sweated, given two or three active vomits and blistered on the calves of the legs, the abdomen, and probably the back (laughter). These were five articles of

THE TREATMENT OF FEVER

that the public at present were spared (laughter). Willis was one of the first to describe typhoid fever in epidemic form, and one of the first to give an accurate descrip- tion of child-bed fever. He was the first to give an accurate account of the disease known as diabetes, and he recognised the saccharine or sugar variety from the ordi- nary form. He was better remembered to-day by his big work on the brain. He did a really fine piece of study on the human brain, and it was the best book of its date on the nervous system, not only in the des- cription of the anatomy of the brain, but of the anatomy of the nerves, in which he was greatly helped by Lower's sections and Wren's drawings. His classification of the nerves of the brain remained in England until his (the speaker's) generation. Willis was remembered particularly by the descrip- tion of certain blood vessels at the base of the brain known as the circle of Willis. A great part of Willis's book was taken up with a "Pharmaceutic rationale." It was as dead as Willis (laughter). It gave him a shudder to think of the constitutions our ancestors had, and of how they withstood the assaults of the apothecary (laughter). It was a really wonderful age we lived in, for what the human body missed more than for what we had (laughter). When he looked through the list of drugs that were given and the prescriptions that were then followed, he felt that the public had to thank the profes- sion for having got rid of so many

NAUSEOUS AND HORRID DRUGS.

They still had a fair number, not that the profession liked to give, but the

great surprise. He had expected to address an audience composed of clergymen, Church- wardens, and other Church officers, and perhaps doctors, and though he had known much about Thomas Willis before he promised to come to Fenny Stratford, he had since then spent many sleepless nights after reading up all about him in that big book they had all seen (laughter). But he had not expected an audience of ladies. Had he done so he would have confined his address to a certain disease lengthily dealt with by Thos. Willis—Hysteria (loud laugh- ter). He did not suggest that any of the ladies present suffered from that disease— (laughter)—but no doubt they had friends who did—(laughter)—and from Willis's book he could have given them language that would have enabled them to waggle their tongues to good effect and quite astonish their friends (laughter). He heartily thanked all for his most kind reception (applause).

The speeches being concluded a short musical programme was rendered, songs being sung by Mr. J. H. Fennell, Mr. E. Badger, Mr. C. Bourne and others, Mr. Victor Pike being at the piano.

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the place of the festivities being the Bull Inn, High Street, where the dinner continued to be held until the early days of the present century, when the "Bull" ceased to have any connection with the celebrations. When Browne Willis died a letter was found on his death-bed, in which he expressed a hope that these celebrations might be kept up "for ever," and stating that he had left an "endowment" to that end. This endowment turned out to be two cottages, believed to have originally been situated in High Street. However, for many many long years the "St. Martin's Cottages" were two of the ancient buildings of the class in Aylesbury Street. Here successive tenants lived, paid their rents, and the "endowment" existed. But evil times came with the twentieth century. Tenants got into the cottages who made difficulties about paying the rents. Then modern legislation in the shape of a Town Planning Act with House Inspection Clauses attached, was formulated. A Medical Officer of Health and a Sanitary Inspector visited the cottages and ordered all sorts of alterations and repairs to be executed and carried out if they were to continue to be used as dwelling places. There was no money to defray the cost of this work, and besides, you cannot take the roof off a house to enlarge the upper storey while the occupants of the house insists upon remaining in it, and refuse to quit! So the only practicable course was taken. The cottagers appeared before a Bench of magistrates, a closing order was made, the recalcitrant tenant died,—it is not suggested that the magistrates' order was the cause of death—the cottages were closed, offered for sale by public auction, found no bidders, were disposed of privately to a local firm of builders, and pulled down. The money realised by the sale—less, of course, expense—was duly sent to the Charity Commissioners, invested by them in one of the War Loans, and produces an annual sum in interest which is just over £2—the sole remaining "endowment" of the Browne Willis cum St. Martin Festival.

Any reference to the Festival would be incomplete without mention of the "Fenny Poppers." Those who are particularly interested in these "guns," and possess a copy, can look them up in that erudite publication, the Encyclopædia Britannica, though it is only right to warn them that the information there obtainable is, to say the least, not quite accurate. Local tradition says that the "Poppers" were designed, invented and given to the parish of Browne Willis, but the very strange fact remains that, neither in all his voluminous MSS., nor in the Cole MS., is there the slightest reference to, or mention of the "Poppers," from which fact it may be taken for certain that they did not exist in the days when Browne Willis and Cole were alive. Their origin is "wropt in mystery;" all that is definitely known refers to the present set of six. These replaced the original ones somewhere about the year 1857. The first set, it is said, became worn out and unsafe to fire. Be that as it may, the late Mr. Geo. Pacey, of Aylesbury Street, is the authority for saying that somewhere about the date given above, the present set of "Poppers" was forged, not cast, and bored by the firm of Barwell, at the Eagle Foundry, Northampton.

THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS.

Last year the annual celebrations almost lapsed.—collapsed would, perhaps, be the better word. This year they were revived in fuller completeness and glory than for

Owe these three manours to thy art and care.

For this, may all thy race, thanks ever pay,
And yearly celebrate St. Martin's Day.

A portrait of Browne Willis—an engraving (1800) of Fenny Stratford, showing the Church tower and the old farm house in Aylesbury Street, now a shop.—A photograph of the painted ceiling of the original St. Martin's Chapel.—Photograph of Cole, the historian of Bletchley.—The parish deed box.—A collection of photographs of the Church, etc.—A bound volume of the Fenny Stratford Parish Magazine, 1866, and other various items.

All these were closely inspected with interest, by practically all present, especially by the visitors to Fenny Stratford, and during the evening some of the articles were passed round the hall so that all could have an opportunity of a good and close view.

The Vicar, in introducing Professor Sir William Osler, to the audience, said it was a matter of the greatest gratification to them all that he had been able to spare the time to be present with them that night.

Sir William Osler said they did well as Fenny Stratfordians to cherish the memory of the distinguished family to which the parish was so much beholden. It was not always easy to find enthusiasm for an annual festival, but St. Martin of Tours was a jovial host whose name was associated with all sorts of good living and better company (laughter). That the annual dinner preceded and did not follow the oration suggested a wise provision on the part of the Saint to whom a personal reference stirred his blood when he thought of some far-away ancestor whose hostlerie was so good and whose hospitality, he hoped, was so free that his guests in gratitude called him by the name of his house; the name from which his, the speaker's, was obviously derived (laughter). It was fitting that the Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford should come there to honour a family to which Thomas Willis, the anatomist, grandfather of their founder, belonged. This was the first time, he believed, in the many years they had held the festival, that his chair, the University and the College to which Willis belonged, had been honoured in that way. Another reason for his presence was that he happened to be curator of the Bodleian Library to which Browne Willis was a very generous donor. Then, he had the great pleasure to be the friend of Dr. Bradbrook, their townsman, who had done so much to keep alive the memory of Browne Willis. That evening he wished to speak of

WILLIS, SENIOR, THE PHYSICIAN,

whom they all knew in the profession, and of his circle at Oxford. Thomas Willis took his M.B. in 1646, and began his practice in a house, still existing, known as Beam Hall. He had a special interest in the Church of England, and during the Cromwellian occupation of the city, the services of the Church were held twice a day in his house. One of the most famous pictures hanging in the hall in Christ Church showed John Fell, John Dolben and Richard Allestree with a copy of the Liturgy open before them. That picture may have been taken in Willis's house opposite Merton, where these three men, all great friends, were in the habit of attending the service of the Church of England twice daily. Willis married for his first wife a sister of John Fell, the Dean of Christ Church. Browne Willis's devotion to the Church was natural—his grandfather

work in stimulating research and a good deal of the reputation of English science on the Continent was due to him. Another extraordinary character in the group was that genius, Sir William Petty, who made the Down Survey in Ireland, and was the founder of the science of Political Economy. He went to sea at eight or nine years of age, and while being nursed in France for a broken leg he began

A CAREER OF MONEY-MAKING.

He went to Paris with no other capital than his native wit, became a doctor, and came to Oxford at the time one of his (the speaker's) predecessors had the fortunate habit of fainting whenever he saw a dead body, so it was impossible for him to do dissection. Petty was made Professor of Anatomy, and joined this circle of Boyle's, and was a most invaluable member of it. He became well-known throughout the country as the resuscitator of Ann Green, a young woman who was "hanged by the neck until she was dead," and then handed over as a perquisite to the Professor of Anatomy, who claimed the bodies of all criminals for dissection. In spite of the fact that the relatives had tugged at the rope, before the body was cut down and had jumped on her to make sure she was dead, Petty resuscitated her, and she lived for many years and became a very respectable member of the community (laughter). It was a great loss to Oxford when Petty went to Ireland; he was of interest to the present generation as the founder of the Lansdowne family. Other remarkable men of the circle were Sydenham and John Locke, the author of the "Essay on the Human Understanding," which even an ordinary woman could read (laughter). There was no one in the room who would not be improved by a careful study of that book over a period of several years (laughter). The last man of the circle was Lower, who did a good deal of work for Willis, whose name was remembered by the

SMALLEST SINGLE FRAGMENT

in the human body. It was astonishing on how small a cork a man would float down the ages. He did, however, a great deal of good work, especially in the dissection of the brain. These were Willis's friends during the years he was a practitioner in Oxford. Willis did two things; he made himself a good scientific man as far as the science of that day went, and he made himself a first class practitioner, and those two sides of the man were presented in his works. It was not possible in a mixed audience to go into the character of his work, but there were one or two things that would interest them. The first of his collected works was a "Study of Fermentation." From time immemorial it had been one of the great mysteries how certain bodies underwent the extraordinary change known as fermentation, and why at the end of the fermentation there was such a good change in the liquid (laughter). Willis studied this mystery and made it still greater in the pages he devoted to it (laughter). But he grasped one very important thing, the analogy between a fever and fermentation, and he made the very interesting observation that there was no difference between the vintner and the physician: when the vat became too full in fermentation the vintner drew off some of the liquid, and he said: "What is that but what we do with blood fermenting in a fever?" That was a good reason for

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witness the fo
ingham had lo
sons. The Chu
duty, and in su
mingle with it
Dr. Viets and

The Rev. A.
them for havin
of spending su
evening, and
and interesting
felt deeply gr
being present
(applause).

Dr. Viets sa
greatly appreci
to welcome his
stood and appre
and was now
Stratford wha
thanked them
Sir Wm. Osle
that hall that

where the dinner con-
tinue the early days of the
when the "Bull" ceased
action with the celebra-
wne Willis died a letter
death-bed, in which he
that these celebrations
"for ever," and stating
"an endowment" to that
ent turned out to be two
to have originally been
street. However, for many
the "St. Martin's Cot-
of the ancient buildings
esbury Street. Here suc-
ed, paid their rents, and
existed. But evil times
teenth century. Tenants
ges who made difficulties
rents. Then modern
shape of a Town
House Inspection Clauses
ulated. A Medical Officer
Sanitary Inspector visited
ordered all sorts of altera-
to be executed and carried
to continue to be used as
There was no money to
his work, and besides, you
off of a house to enlarge
while the occupants of the
remaining in it, and re-
ne only practicable course
cottagers appeared before
ates, a closing order was
ant tenant died,—it is not
magistrates' order was
the cottages were closed,
public auction, found no
sed of privately to a local
and pulled down. The
the sale—less, of course,
sent to the Charity Com-
d by them in one of the
roduces an annual sum in
ust over £2—the sole reme-
ment" of the Browne
rtin Festival.
o the Festival would be
mention of the "Fenny
who are particularly in-
"guns," and possess a
n up in that erudite pub-
yclopedia Britannica,
right to warn them that
ere obtainable is, to say
s accurate. Local tradi-
Poppers" were designed,
to the parish of Browne
ry strange fact remains
d his voluminous MSS.,
S., is there the slightest
ention of the "Poppers."
may be taken for certain
exist in the days when
Cole were alive. Their
in mystery;" all that is
fers to the present set of
d the original ones some-
ear 1857. The first set, it
rn out and unsafe to fire.
the late Mr. Geo. Pacey,
at, is the authority for
ere about the date given
set of "Poppers" was
nd bored by the firm of
gle Foundry, Northamp-

CELEBRATIONS.

annual celebrations almost
would, perhaps, be the
year they were revived
ness and glory than for

care.
For this, may all thy race, thanks ever pay,
And yearly celebrate St. Martin's Day.
A portrait of Browne Willis—an engraving
(1800) of Fenny Stratford, showing the
Church tower and the old farm house in
Aylesbury Street, now a shop.—A photo-
graph of the painted ceiling of the original
St. Martin's Chapel.—Photograph of Cole,
the historian of Bletchley.—The parish deed
box.—A collection of photographs of the
Church, etc.—A bound volume of the Fenny
Stratford Parish Magazine, 1866, and other
various items.
All these were closely inspected with in-
terest, by practically all present, especially
by the visitors to Fenny Stratford, and
during the evening some of the articles were
passed round the hall so that all could have
an opportunity of a good and close view.
The Vicar, in introducing Professor
Sir William Osler, to the audience, said it
was a matter of the greatest gratification
to them all that he had been able to spare
the time to be present with them that night.
Sir William Osler said they did well as
Fenny Stratfordians to cherish the memory
of the distinguished family to which the
parish was so much beholden. It was not
always easy to find enthusiasm for an annual
festival, but St. Martin of Tours was a
jovial host whose name was associated with
all sorts of good living and better company
(laughter). That the annual dinner preceded
and did not follow the oration suggested a
wise provision on the part of the Saint to
whom a personal reference stirred his blood
when he thought of some far-away ancestor
whose hostlerie was so good and whose hos-
pitality, he hoped, was so free that his
guests in gratitude called him by the name
of his house; the name from which his,
the speaker's, was obviously derived (laughter).
It was fitting that the Regius Professor of
Medicine at Oxford should come there to
honour a family to which Thomas Willis,
the anatomist, grandfather of their founder,
belonged. This was the first time, he be-
lieved, in the many years they had held the
festival, that his chair, the University and
the College to which Willis belonged, had
been honoured in that way. Another reason
for his presence was that he happened to be
curator of the Bodleian Library to which
Browne Willis was a very generous donor.
Then, he had the great pleasure to be the
friend of Dr. Bradbrook, their townsman,
who had done so much to keep alive the
memory of Browne Willis. That evening he
wished to speak of
WILLIS, SENIOR, THE PHYSICIAN,
whom they all knew in the profession, and
of his circle at Oxford. Thomas Willis took
his M.B. in 1646, and began his practice in
a house, still existing, known as Beam Hall.
He had a special interest in the Church of
England, and during the Cromwellian occu-
pation of the city, the services of the
Church were held twice a day in his house.
One of the most famous pictures hanging in
the hall in Christ Church showed John
Fell, John Dolben and Richard Allestree
with a copy of the Liturgy open before
them. That picture may have been
taken in Willis's house opposite Merton,
where these three men, all great
friends, were in the habit of attending the
service of the Church of England twice
daily. Willis married for his first wife
a sister of John Fell, the Dean of Christ
Church. Browne Willis's devotion to the
Church was natural—his grandfather

deal of the reputation of English science on
the Continent was due to him. Another
extraordinary character in the group was
that genius, Sir William Petty, who made
the Down Survey in Ireland, and was the
founder of the science of Political Economy.
He went to sea at eight or nine years of
age, and while being nursed in France for
a broken leg he began

A CAREER OF MONEY-MAKING.

He went to Paris with no other capital than
his native wit, became a doctor, and came
to Oxford at the time one of his (the
speaker's) predecessors had the fortunate
habit of fainting whenever he saw a dead
body, so it was impossible for him
to do dissection. Petty was made Pro-
fessor of Anatomy, and joined this circle of
Boyle's, and was a most invaluable member
of it. He became well-known throughout
the country as the resuscitator of Ann
Green, a young woman who was "hanged
by the neck until she was dead," and then
handed over as a perquisite to the Professor
of Anatomy, who claimed the bodies of all
criminals for dissection. In spite of the fact
that the relatives had tugged at the rope,
before the body was cut down and had jump-
ed on her to make sure she was dead, Petty
resuscitated her, and she lived for many
years and became a very respectable mem-
ber of the community (laughter). It was a
great loss to Oxford when Petty went to
Ireland; he was of interest to the
present generation as the founder of the
Lansdowne family. Other remarkable men
of the circle were Sydenham and John
Locke, the author of the "Essay on the
Human Understanding," which even an or-
dinary woman could read (laughter). There
was no one in the room who would not be
improved by a careful study of that book
over a period of several years (laughter).
The last man of the circle was Lower, who
did a good deal of work for Willis, whose
name was remembered by the

SMALLEST SINGLE FRAGMENT

in the human body. It was astonishing on
how small a cork a man would float down
the ages. He did, however, a great deal
of good work, especially in the dissection of
the brain. These were Willis's friends
during the years he was a practitioner
in Oxford. Willis did two things; he made
himself a good scientific man as far as the
science of that day went, and he made him-
self a first class practitioner, and those two
sides of the man were presented in his
works. It was not possible in a mixed
audience to go into the character of his
work, but there were one or two things that
would interest them. The first of his col-
lected works was a "Study of Fermenta-
tion." From time immemorial it had been
one of the great mysteries how certain
bodies underwent the extraordinary change
known as fermentation, and why at
the end of the fermentation there
was such a good change in the liquid
(laughter). Willis studied this mystery and
made it still greater in the pages he
devoted to it (laughter). But he grasped
one very important thing, the analogy
between a fever and fermentation, and he
made the very interesting observation that
there was no difference between the vint-
ner and the physician: when the vat became
too full in fermentation the vintner drew
off some of the liquid, and he said: "What
is that but what we do with blood fermen-
ting in a fever?" That was a good reason for

of the apothecary (laughter). It was a really
wonderful age we lived in, for what the
human body missed more than for what we
had (laughter). When he looked through
the list of drugs that were given and the
prescriptions that were then followed, he
felt that the public had to thank the profes-
sion for having got rid of so many

NAUSEOUS AND HORRID DRUGS.

They still had a fair number, not that
the profession liked to give, but the
public would have them (laughter). In
some of Willis' prescriptions there were ten
to fifteen different ingredients,—each worse
than the other—besides vomits, purges,
sweatings, diuretics, cordials and opiates
(laughter). Sydenham and Willis probably
owed much of their reputation to their
knowledge of how to use opium. Willis
wrote, amongst other things, two discourses
on the soul of brutes, which would be a
very good exercise for any medical student
or doctor (laughter). Altogether, Willis was
an interesting character to contemplate. He
had known him for a good while and he had
known him far better since he had had his
kind invitation and had had to read Willis's
large book through, from which he had
got a great deal of information he did not
want, and had refrained from giving to them
(laughter). He had only picked out a few
parts here and there, but it had been a
pleasant task, and he felt a good deal better
for it. Willis was a great and a good man,
and the 15th Psalm the Chairman had
read at the service was most appropriate.
It just suited him. There were many good
descriptions of the upright, righteous man,
but none better than that in the 15th
Psalm, which fitted Willis to a "t"
(applause).

Dr. Bradbrook briefly submitted "The
Visitors." It was only right that on such
occasions they should have amongst them
visitors and strangers. That evening they
had listened to a most able address by a
most distinguished and able speaker
(—applause)—who had told them much
about one who was no more. The dead
could no longer instruct us, but they could
influence us. They had as visitors that
evening both those of the Church and the
Army, which were rightly joined and asso-
ciated together. He held that at the
present moment any man who was not
physically unfit or in any other way in-
capacitated, should be in khaki and serving
his country (applause). The Church had,
during the war, made great sacrifices as
witness the fact that the Bishop of Buck-
ingham had lost three fine young men—his
sons. The Church had suffered and done its
duty, and in submitting that toast he would
mingle with it the names of the Rural Dean,
Dr. Viets and Sir Wm. Osler (applause).

The Rev. A. Matheson, in reply, thanked
them for having given him the opportunity
of spending such a pleasant and profitable
evening, and of listening to such an able
and interesting address (hear, hear). He
felt deeply grateful for the privilege of
being present on such a historic occasion
(applause).

Dr. Viets said that as an American he
greatly appreciated all that they had done
to welcome him, and he also fully under-
stood and appreciated all that had been done
and was now being done to make Fenny
Stratford what it was (applause). He
thanked them for a very pleasant evening.

Sir Wm. Osler said that when he entered
that hall that evening he had received a

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