

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am most grateful to Sir Gordon Wolstenholme and Sir Christopher Booth, in turn Harveian Librarians of the Royal College of Physicians of London, for allowing this publication of unique manuscript material in the College's possession.

The transcription was made possible only by the kindness of Mr. Geoffrey Davenport, Librarian of the Royal College of Physicians of London, who allowed me unlimited access to the original manuscripts and who has been unwaveringly supportive of the project since its inception in 1985. I am most grateful to him, and to his colleagues, for their expert help so freely given during the last nine years.

I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Dr. Melvin Earles, the distinguished historian of pharmacy. Making light of his other academic work, he willingly undertook the time-consuming task of transcribing all of Snow's prescriptions and other pharmaceutical notations. The great majority of these consist of drugs which are unfamiliar to present-day students, with the prescribed dosages denoted in the nowadays obscure apothecaries' measure. In addition, Dr. Earles has written a learned commentary on the historical background to Snow's pharmaceutical entries, and has provided a glossary of the drugs which Snow commonly used.

The expert graphological opinions of Dr. Anne Summers, Curator in the Department of Manuscripts at the British Library, have been most helpful in deciphering several of Snow's more cryptic entries.

I have valued the encouragement, and the helpful comments of Dr. Richard Atkinson and Sir Ian Fraser, each of whom has previously examined the Case Books and written erudite papers based on them.

My work could not have been completed without the help of a large number of people who have charge of unique manuscript collections and other archival material. I am particularly indebted to David Stewart, Librarian at the Royal Society of Medicine, to Ian Lyle, Librarian of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and to Janina Morris, Librarian at the Medical College of the Royal Hospital of St. Bartholomew. I am grateful to Christine Patel, the History Librarian at St. George's Hospital Medical School for allowing me to reproduce the manuscript letter written by John Snow to Professor Brande. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the assistance of Librarians, and their staffs, at the British Library, the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, London's Guildhall Library, the Greater London Record Office, the Royal Society of Medicine, the British Medical Association, the National Postal Museum, the City of Westminster Local History Library, the National Army Museum, the National Maritime Museum, the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, and Lambeth Palace.

I am glad to acknowledge the guidance which I have received from Professor William Bynum, Head of the Academic Unit at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, and from Caroline Tonson-Rye, assistant editor of *Medical History*. Their expertise and advice have been invaluable.

My wife, Elizabeth, and our children, Charlotte, Nicolette, and Thomas, have shared my enthusiasm for this work. It could not have been undertaken without their wholehearted support, and would not have been completed without the many sacrifices which they have willingly made during the last nine years.

Richard H. Ellis