

Sir Hans Sloane deserves more than a passing notice. He was born in County Down, Ireland, in 1660, and died in 1753, in London. His father was head of a Scottish colony sent over to Ireland by James I. As a youth he was fond of collecting objects of natural history. In order to follow his studies he went to London and devoted himself to botany, materia medica and pharmacy. He became useful to John Ray and Robert Boyle. He travelled in France and visited the leading cities of that country taking his degree in medicine from the University of Orange in 1683. He brought home with him a large collection of plants and curiosities. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, making the acquaintanceship of Sydenham, who gave him an introduction into practice. In 1687 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and then went to Jamaica. While there he collected about 800 new plants, of which he issued an account in two folio volumes from 1707 to 1725. He became secretary of the Royal Society in 1693, and edited the *Philosophical Transactions* for twenty years. In 1716 he was made a baronet, being the first medical man to receive a hereditary title. In 1719 he became president of the Royal College of Physicians, an office which he held for 16 years. In 1722 he was appointed physician-general to the army, and in 1727 physician to King George II. In 1727 he followed Sir Isaac Newton as president of the Royal Society, which he continued to fill for thirteen years, until he was in his eightieth year. He left his enormous collection of books, manuscripts, plants, curiosities, etc., to the nation, for which his estate was paid by the Government £20,000. To this collection the library of George II. was added, and all was opened to the public in 1759, as the British Museum. He gave the Apothecaries Society his botanical gardens at Chelsea. Among his collection were the writings of Harvey, Mayerne, Glisson, Sir Thomas Browne, Edward Browne, the letters of many medical men, and the note-book of Dr. Nathaniel Hodges, who died in a debtors' prison, notwithstanding his heroic conduct during the time of the great plague, along with Dr. Francis Bernard. What a change from then and now! No one now dies in prison for a petty debt. There was also the manuscript of the Anatomy of Highmore, of Antrum fame. There was also the extensive collection of letters which Sloane had received from all ranks of society.

Sir Thomas Molyneux was to Ireland somewhat as Sir Hans Sloane was to England. He was the descendant of a French family that settled in Ireland. When in London he made the acquaintance of Newton, Tyson, Evelyn, Flamsteed, Browne, Dryden, etc. He went to Holland and the University of Leyden, where he met John Locke. It was mainly due to Molyneux that Locke published his work on education. On re-