

We now arrive at a very interesting character, Nicholas de Cusa, who died in 1564. He was a great student of all the range of subjects then known. There is a manuscript on pharmacology which has written in it the statement that it was bought in 1449 by Nicholas de Cusa. Nicholas de Cusa invented the method of counting the pulse by weighing the amount of water that would flow through a tube while the observer counted one hundred beats. In the case of a slow pulse more water would escape while making the count than in the case of a quick pulse. He will go down to future generations on account of his device for comparing the rate of different pulses. He became a cardinal of St. Peter ad Vincula.

Thomas Linacre, the founder of the Royal College of Physicians was born about the same year as that of the death of Nicholas de Cusa, 1564. He studied Greek in Italy, and obtained his M.D. from Padua about 1500. He studied the writings of Hippocrates, and these with other ancient writings up of his mind. He founded the college in 1518. He ever urged that physicians do as Hippocrates and Galen had done, make use of observations, and not merely to accept the conclusions of writers. The physician now began to be looked upon as of the learned class. Leland and Caius speak in high terms of praise of Richard Bartlot, the first elected Fellow of the College of Physicians. There is good reason for thinking that he knew Greek, Hippocrates, Galen, and the mediæval writers. It would seem appropriate that the one who knew the ancient writers and coupled them with modern medicine of his day, should be chosen as the first Fellow. When he died he was buried in the church of which Mirfield was so prominent a figure.

Linacre was the first president, and had among his friends Dr. John Clement, a noted Greek scholar, and student of medicine, Sir Thomas More, Erasmus and Colet. Edward Wotton was president in 1541, John Clement in 1544, and John Caius in 1555. Wotton and Caius were both good Greek scholars. These were the first to add zoology to their list of studies. While Wotton was quite young, he was lecturer in Greek at Carpus Christi, Oxford. He has granted a Fellowship with the right to travel. He proceeded to Italy, and, in 1526, graduated M.D. at Padua. In 1552 he published a work on Zoology, the first from the pen of Englishmen on this subject. It was brought out with fine paper and type, and dedicated to Edward VI. John Caius also wrote a good deal on zoology. Sir John Mason was the patron of both.

The study of languages was much encouraged by the physicians of the Royal College of this period. Doyley took his B.A., in 1564, and his M.A., in 1569. He then studied medicine in Basle, where he graduated in 1581. He was elected a Fellow in 1588.