

on the other hand a considerable number of distinguished physicians, among whom may be mentioned Marsilius Ficinus and John Clement, became priests. Linacre, too, joined this group of φιλοθεολογιατρόνομοι as it has been called. The date of his ordination is not known, but about the year 1509 he began to receive preferment in the church and he became in succession Rector of Mersham in Kent, Prebend of Wells, Incumbent of Hawkhurst, Canon and prebend of the Collegiate Chapel of St Stephen, Westminster, Prebend of York, Rector of Holworthy, and Rector of Wigan. Many of these livings he resigned shortly after receiving and it is quite probable that the sale was a source of profit, as was so common in those days when the evils of pluralism were not regarded very seriously. From a statement made to his friend, the Archbishop of Canterbury, he seemed to have taken orders with the view to obtain the neces-