

ment in 1540 united these two companies into "The Masters or Governors of the Mystery or Commonalty of Barbers and Surgeons of London" and gave to the new Company the bodies of four felons every year "for their future and better knowledge, instruction, insight, learning and experience in the . . . Science or Faculty of Surgery": those "using barbery or shaving" were not to occupy "any surgery, letting of blood, or any other thing belonging to surgery; drawing of teeth only except"; and those using "the Mystery or Art of Surgery" were not to "occupy or exercise the feat or craft of barbery or shaving"—this was to prevent the spread of "the pestilence, great pox and other contagious disorders".³

This was the body of which Dr. Turner became a member; and he was one of the surgeons, being admitted as such. The surgeon was, at that time, of a distinctly lower grade in the profession than the physician—he could sue for his fees as an attorney could, while the physician could not, as a barrister could not—these members of the higher branch of the professions had to rely upon a honorarium, not recoverable by law. Turner desired to join the higher branch, and, in 1711, he was allowed to retire from the Barber Surgeon's Company on paying a fine of £50; and the same year he became a Licentiate of the College of Physicians.

Before the time of the much married Henry VIII, there was no regulation of physicians. "Common artificers as smiths, weavers and women boldly and accustomedly took upon them great cures and things of great difficulty in which they partly used sorcery and witchcraft, partly applied such medicines to the disease as were noxious and nothing meet therefor, to the high displeasure of God, great infamy to the Faculty and grievous hurt, damage and destruction to many of the King's liege people". In 1511, Parliament forbade anyone within London or within seven miles thereof to practise or occupy as a physician or surgeon without a licence from the Bishop of London or the Dean of St. Paul's, who were to call on four "Doctors of Physick" to examine the physicians, and, for surgery, other expert persons in that Faculty.⁴ This did not prove wholly satisfactory, and in 1515, King Henry granted a charter to Thomas Linacre and others for a "Fellowship" or "Commonalty" of the Faculty of Physick. In 1522 Parliament confirmed the Charter and called the corporation the "Commonalty and Fellowship of the Faculty of Physick", directed the six persons named in the Charter to select two other members and so form "eight Elects", and enacted that no one should practise Physick in England without being examined by the President and three of the Elects (except graduates of Oxford and Cambridge).⁵ In 1540, all such licentiates were authorized to practise surgery "forasmuch as the Science of Physick doth comprehend, include