

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

AMONG MY BOOKS

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A short time ago laid up a victim to the universal enemy, commonly called the "Flu", I was for some weeks kept in the house; browsing around in my library, I came across some books of no great value, indeed, but of some interest to medical men, and I determined to place them where they might conceivably prove of benefit to some one. Therefore, I ask the Academy of Medicine to accept them.

I.

The first I mention is "The Art of Surgery", by Daniel Turner,¹ M.D., of the College of Physicians in London, 6th Edition, Rivington's, London, 1742.

Daniel Turner was born in London, 1667, and began his professional life as a surgeon and a member of the Barber-Surgeons' Company—the title of the Company is interesting and a little historical sketch may not be out of place.

Until well after the Conquest the practice in England, of medicine and surgery, outside of the "wise woman", was mainly in the hands of the clergy; but in 1163 the Council of Tours forbade the shedding of blood by monk or priest and this, of course, prohibited surgical operations. Then the barbers, who had very generally acted as assistants, dressers, etc. to the clergy secured a practical monopoly of surgery—at least most of the bleeding, a very important part of the surgeon's practice. They marked their shop with a pole wrapped with a white fillet and a red one, indicating the bandage before and after the blood letting,² and a basin to receive the blood; sometimes also they placed a bottle of blood in the window. The Barbers received a charter from Edward IV. in 1461, and became "The Mystery of the Barbers of London". But there grew up outside of this profession a body of men practising surgery, who, at some time before 1540, formed a "Company" called "The Surgeons of London" without charter or other incorporation. The members of these two companies went on side by side having "more commonly the daily exercise and experience of the science of surgery than was, had or used within other parts of the Realm," until 1540. Whether because the King, "Bluff King Hal" or Henry VIII, was himself the most notable exponent of the radical treatment for marital infidelity or for some other cause, Parlia-