

**HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE
CLUB OF THE
ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF LONDON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649182428

History of the College Club of the Royal College of Physicians of London by Joseph Frank
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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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JOSEPH FRANK PAYNE

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PHYSICIANS OF LONDON**



*Sir Lucas Pypys, Bart.
Member of the College Club,
1774-1830*

James Watson del.

HISTORY
OF
THE COLLEGE CLUB
of the
Royal College of Physicians of London

By JOSEPH FRANK PAYNE, M.D.

Fellow and Harveian Librarian to the College

SIT PERPETUA

PRIVATELY PRINTED

LONDON

1909



LONDON :
JOHN BALE, SONS AND DANIELSSON, LTD.,
83-91, GT. TITCHFIELD STREET, W.

PREFACE.

THIS short history, prepared at the request of the College Club, is chiefly founded upon the Minute Books of the Club, so far as they have been preserved. These records are, as will appear from the history, meagre, and have been at certain times very carelessly kept, while some complete volumes have been entirely lost. Still, the earlier volumes sometimes give us, almost by accident, little details which reveal something of the social life of the period, the customs of eating and drinking, the subjects in which members of the Club felt sufficient interest to bet upon them, and so forth. The later Minutes, though, as a rule, more carefully kept than the earlier, are more colourless, and, generally speaking, record little which would convey to posterity any notion of the habits or social life of members of the Club at the time.

The present members would, I think, be interested in looking at the old Minute Books. The earlier volumes are much handsomer in appearance than the later, being good specimens of contemporary bookbinding. Formerly it was the rule that the boxes containing the Minute Books and the Photograph Book should be brought down to every meeting of the Club, and I remember, when I was Treasurer, incurring

a censure for having on one occasion failed to bring them. The increasing bulk of the property of the Club would now make it difficult to enforce this rule, but it certainly seems desirable that the books should be shown to the Club from time to time.

The main part of this sketch—that is, the History of the Club—is of course founded upon the Minute Books, but the tabular statement giving particulars of the lives of members is necessarily drawn from other sources. For Fellows admitted up to 1825 Dr. Munk's Roll is our authority, but after that year it fails us. We have then to depend upon obituary notices in the Medical Journals and other periodicals, or in works of reference. Such notices, even when they are lengthy, sometimes manage to omit or state vaguely the precise details of which we are in search—such, for instance, as the actual date of death. Hence these researches have sometimes involved a good deal of trouble and an expenditure of time which could not be controlled by any fixed limit. As it is, I am afraid these biographical details may appear bald and meagre; but to have given much more, for so large a number of members, would obviously have been impossible; or, if possible, would have greatly increased the cost of the volume.

The chief interest of such a record as this lies, not in the details, but in the perspective; less in the individual lives than in their succession—a succession so continuous, and changing so imperceptibly, that at no point would it be possible to draw a line of demarcation between the old and the new. As it was of old, so it is to-day, and so it always shall be.

Owing to the length of time this little work has been in hand, a few changes not mentioned in the text have occurred. It was intended that the History of the Club should close with the year 1907, comprising 153 members; but afterwards it seemed well to include the two last-elected members, which raised the number to 155.

Since the list of members was printed we have lost our centenarian Emeritus Registrar, Sir Henry Pitman, who died on November 6, 1908, a few months after the completion of his hundredth year. Happily no other deaths have occurred since the list was in type.

I have succeeded in finding the residence of every member of the Club, but it should be remembered that in old days streets were not numbered. Again, physicians both in old and recent times have often changed their address; but I have not thought it necessary to mention every house in which members have lived.

In an Appendix I have given a few documents of interest taken from books in the possession of the Club, other than the Minute Books.

In conclusion I would offer my best thanks to Dr. Liveing, Emeritus Registrar of the College, for having very kindly read the proof sheets and for his valuable advice; and to Dr. Norman Moore, Treasurer, for giving me access to the records of the Club.

I have endeavoured, as faithfully as possible, to discharge the task which I undertook at the request of the Club.

and, with apologies both for the imperfection of the work and for the delay in producing it, now offer, in a brotherly spirit, to the present members of the College Club these records of its past.