

**THE EARLY HISTORY OF
SURGERY IN GREAT
BRITAIN: ITS ORGANIZATION
AND DEVELOPMENT**

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The early history of surgery in Great Britain: its organization and development by G. Parker

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G. PARKER

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AND DEVELOPMENT**



RICHARD WISEMAN,
STUDENT ANNO 20. CAROL. II.

Autograph from an original in the possession of the Royal College of Surgeons.

THE EARLY HISTORY
OF SURGERY
IN GREAT BRITAIN

ITS ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

BY

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PREFACE

IN the following pages I have tried to trace in detail the revival and early surroundings of the surgical art after the end of the dark ages of Europe, and to point out the social movements which influenced its progress.

I had been investigating for some time various questions connected with the ancient therapeutic guilds in this country—which, by the way, turned out to be largely surgical—when the opportunity was offered me of giving in this short volume some account of the early history of surgery. This would of necessity include the effects of these bodies, and of other social and political institutions, on the organization of surgery and the education of students. I hope that I have not been led to allot too much space to this part of my subject, and that other important matters—such as the influence of the three great scientific revivals in Europe and of the lives and work

of the chief surgeons of each period—have been clearly though briefly described.

I am well aware of the errors which, in spite of every care, must occur in an attempt to give an outline of so many centuries in so short a space ; if I have not found it possible to insert in the text my authority for every statement, and always to acknowledge my indebtedness to other writers, I have at least given a list of the authorities at the end, which will also be useful to students.

I have to thank Dr. R. Shingleton Smith and other friends for helping me with the proofs, Dr. Freeland Fergus, President of the Royal Faculty in Glasgow, the Barbers' Company in London, the Corporation of Bristol, Mr. Henry S. Wellcome, Sir D'Arcy Power, and Dr. J. D. Comrie, for the loan of beautiful illustrations.

G. P.

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