

**DR. WALTER BAYLEY  
AND HIS WORKS,  
1529-1592, PP. 415-454**

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BY  
D'ARCY POWER, F.S.A.

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# DR. WALTER BAYLEY AND HIS WORKS, 1529-1592

BY  
D'ARCY POWER, F.S.A.

Received December 29th, 1930—Read June 19th, 1937.

THE small book which I hold in my hand long aroused my curiosity. It is entitled 'A Briefe Treatise touching the Preservation of the Eyesight, consisting partly in Good Order of Diet and partly in Use of Medicines.' It bears no author's or printer's name on the title page, but there is a contemporary inscription at the beginning of the preface which runs, "To the righte worshypfull my very good frynde Mr. John Pophame Her Ma[jesty's] attorneye-generall" (Fig. 1, p. 421), and the preface is signed at the end, "your very lovinge frynde Walter Bayley" (Fig. 2, p. 421). The date is 1586. The book was bought in Dublin some years ago by Dr. Aquilla Smith, who seems to have paid one shilling for it. He gave it to my father, who in turn has given it to me. I had also long known a small book, published in 1622, under the title 'Banister on the Eye,' which contains "Banister's Breviary of the Eyes," Jacques Guillemeau's "Worthy Treatise of the Eyes," "A Brief Treatise concerning the Preservation of the Eyesight," which is a

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reprint of Dr. Bayley's book without the preface, and "A Discourse of the Scorby," translated out of 'Wyer's Observations.' At first I thought that Banister was the author of Bayley's work, and he has indeed been credited with it, but I soon discovered that either Banister or his publisher had merely re-issued it to make a volume of moderate size, dealing chiefly with diseases of the eye. I set to work, therefore, to find out more about Dr. Walter Bayley and his works, with results which, I hope, will prove as new and interesting to the Fellows of the Society as they have been to me.

Dr. Walter Bayley, son of Henry Bayley, of Warmwell, Dorsetshire, Esquire, was born at Portisham, eight miles south-west of Dorchester, in that county, in the year 1529, and was educated at Winchester College. He passed from Winchester to New College, Oxford, in 1548, and was elected a Fellow in 1550, probably on the understanding that he would devote himself to the study of medicine, although he was called upon to take orders. He resigned his fellowship of New College in 1560, perhaps on the occasion of his marriage. He was admitted B.A. on October 24th, 1552, and was licensed to proceed M.A. July 6th, 1556. In April, 1558, he was Junior Proctor of the University—Alan Cope, of Magdalen College, who was afterwards a Canon of St. Peter's, at Rome, being the Senior Proctor. Bayley demanded the degree of Bachelor of Physic and supplicated for leave to practise medicine "ad practicandum in re medicâ per totam Angliam," January 28th, 1558—1559. Both were granted him on February 21st, 1558—1559. In 1561 he succeeded Thomas Francis, M.D., of Christ Church, who was afterwards Provost of Queen's College and Physician to Queen Elizabeth, as Queen's Professor of Medicine in the University. This post he retained until 1582, when he resigned, and his place was taken by his son-in-law, Anthony Aylworth, M.D., of New College (p. 438, note). Bayley graduated M.D. July 26th, 1563, and we read that in his capacity as Regius Professor of Medicine on "August 27th, 1566, Dr.



Walter Baylie and Henry Bayly,<sup>1</sup> M.D., conferred the degree of Med. Bac. on Edward Atslow<sup>2</sup> in a room of Dr. Henry Bayly's, next to the highway leading to the Quaterfax, in the presence of William Standishe, Thomas Owen, and Thomas Collyns, notary public: and the degree of Med. Doct. on Robert Barnes<sup>3</sup> and Richard Slithurst."<sup>4</sup> Three days later, on August 30th, 1566, in virtue of a decree of August 29th, Walter Bayly created Roger Gifford<sup>5</sup> Medicinæ Doctor, in the presence of William Standishe, George Caponhurst, M.A., William Gilbert, Superior Bedell of Arts." These irregular creations were made with the connivance of the University to avoid the Comitia and its attendant expense. The ordinary University fee for the degree of Doctor of Medicine was £7 16s. 6d., at a time when money was about fifteen times more valuable than it is at present, but the incepting doctor had also to pay 14s. 8d. *pro vino*, and was obliged to provide "convivia" for the Vice-Chancellor, the Regius Professor of Medicine, the Proctors, the Registrar, and the Bedell of the faculty. He had furthermore to give "gloves" to the Vice-Chancellor, the Regius Professor, the Proctors, the Registrar, and to all Students of

<sup>1</sup> Henry Bayly, Fellow of New College 1534—1552, from Bradford, Wilts. B.A. July 16th, 1538; M.A. April 18th, 1542; Proctor 1547; B.Med. 1547—1548; D.Med. July 20th, 1563. He devised to New College "Le Blew-Bore" in St. Aldates.

<sup>2</sup> A Fellow of New College 1551—1562, afterwards imprisoned for designing the escape of Mary Queen of Scots; physician to the Duke of Norfolk, and racked twice in the Tower on his account; died 1594. His widow received an annuity from the Earl of Arundel.

<sup>3</sup> Robert Barnes, Fellow of Merton College, 1538; Linacre Lecturer, 1558; died 1604.

<sup>4</sup> Richard Slithurst, Demy of Magdalen College, 1537; Fellow of Brasenose College.

<sup>5</sup> Roger Gifford, of Christchurch, B.A. 1556; Fellow of Merton College 1557; Proctor 1562 and 1563; Fellow of All Souls' College 1663; Junior Linacre Lecturer; Physician to Queen Elizabeth; President of College of Physicians 1581—1584; M.P. for Old Sarum 1585—1586; Precentor of St. David's and Prebend of Llanbedr-pont-Stephen 1592. Died January 27th, 1596—1597; buried in St. Bride's, Fleet Street.

Medicine and Bedells who accompanied him to church at the ceremony of presentation.

On September 5th, 1566, when Queen Elizabeth visited Oxford, Dr. Walter Bayley, with his relative, Dr. Henry Bayley, and Dr. Huicke<sup>1</sup> opposed these two questions in physick: (1) *Vita potest prorogari arte medica?* (2) *Cibi tardae concoctionis præferendi sunt cibis facillioris concoctionis?* The official record of the visit states: "This day, being Thursday, were disputations in Physick and Divinity in St. Mary's, the University Church, from two of the clock, or thereabout, untill seaven, before the Queen's Majesty; who gave very attent care unto them, and tarried till the full end thereof. Dr. Francis<sup>2</sup> was respondent in Physick, and Dr. Masters<sup>3</sup> was Determiner. Dr. Bayle jun. gratias egit Principi, et Acad. nomine et suo, quod Regius Professor in Med. erat, egitque hac ratione. *Ars Med. non potest retardare senectutem: Ergo nec mortem. Quod*

<sup>1</sup> Robert Huicke, B.A. 1528; Fellow of Merton College, 1530; Doct. Med. from Cambridge 1538; incorporated 1566; Principal of St. Alban Hall; President of College of Physicians 1552—1564; Physician to King Henry VIII and Queen Katherine Parr; Physician Extraordinary to King Edward VI, and Physician to Queen Elizabeth; M.P. for Wootton Bassett 1547—1552. He took part in the Physic Act, kept at Cambridge, in the presence of Queen Elizabeth, August 7th, 1564. The Privy Council reported to Mr. Secretary Petre after an examination of the dispute between Dr. Huicke and Elizabeth his wife, on May 11th and 12th, 1546, that "we never in all our lifes harde matter that more pitied us: so much crueltie and circumvencion appered in the man, so little cause ministred by the woman." On November 2nd, 1575, he was licensed to marry Mary Woodcocke, spinster, of the City of London.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Francis, of Christ Church, B.A. 1540; M.A. 1544; B. and D. Med. 1553—1554; Provest of Queen's College 1561—1563; Regius Professor of Physic 1554—1561; President College of Physicians 1568; Physician to Queen Elizabeth. Died 1574.

<sup>3</sup> Richard Masters, Fellow of All Soules' College 1533; of Christchurch 1547; incorporated at Cambridge 1571; President College of Physicians 1561; Physician to Queen Elizabeth 1559; Prebendary of Friday Thorpe, in the Cathedral of York, 1503; had a grant of the reversion of the site of the late Monastery of Cirencester with lands in fifteen counties, dated January 6th. 1564—1565. Died about 1587 (see *Lancet*, vol. ii, 1880, p. 987).

probavit quoniam solidæ partes non poterant humec-  
tari."

Dr. Bayley was collated Prebend of Dulcote in the Church of Wells on August 30th, 1572, and resigned his prebendship in 1579. Thomas Bayley, also from Portisham, Dorset, and a Fellow of New College from 1534 until 1552, was Treasurer of Bath and Wells in 1560, and again in 1564. A search at the Record Office shows that Dr. Walter Bayley was appointed "medicus ordinarius ad vitam" to Queen Elizabeth on December 1st, 1581 (xxiii Eliz.). In 1578 a lease of Stanlake, in the County of Oxford, was granted him by the Queen for twenty-one years. In the following year he was negotiating leases with the crown, in which Corpus, Lincoln, and Magdalen Colleges at Oxford were also interested. On June 28th, 1590, there is an entry of "purchase by Dr. Bailie, one of Her Majesty's Physicians in Ordinary, of lands of the yearly value of £27 8s. 0½d., for which he is to pay £715 9s. 4½d. to Her Majesty."

Bayley was elected a Fellow of the College of Physicians of London about the year 1581. He was named an Elect June 10th, 1584, and Consiliarius 1588. He died March 3rd, 1592, and was buried in the antechapel of New College, Oxford, where, under a brass in the floor representing an old man in a gown with hands erect, he is commemorated in the following lines:

"Gualterus tumulo dormit Baileus in isto,  
Cui Doricastrensis patria fundus erat.  
Wicchamicis didicit juvenis quam sumptibus artem,  
Grandior hanc lector regius edocuit.  
Fama virum evexit, Regina secivit ad Aulam  
Jungeret ut Medicis Elizabetha suis:  
Hæc tria lustra egit longe illustrissimus, amplo  
Et celebri, quantum dat medicina loco.  
Charus erat multis, dum vita manebat, et idem  
Defendus multis vita ubi fugit erat.  
Obiit 30 Martii anno salutis  
Humanæ MCCCCCLXXXII ætatis suæ 63.  
Posuit Gulihelmus Bailey filius  
Amoris et pietatis monumentum."