

**THE HARVEIAN ORATION,  
DELIVERED BEFORE THE ROYAL  
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF  
LONDON, ON OCTOBER 18, 1901**

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The Harveian Oration, Delivered Before the Royal College of Physicians of London, on October 18, 1901 by Norman Moore

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**NORMAN MOORE**

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## THE HARVEIAN ORATION

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THE  
HARVELIAN ORATION

DELIVERED BEFORE  
THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS  
OF LONDON  
ON OCTOBER 18, 1901

NEW YORK  
BY  
NORMAN MOORE, M.D.

FELLOW OF THE COLLEGE, ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN AND LECTURER  
ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE  
TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL

LONDON  
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET  
1901  
1-v.-0-

MR. PRESIDENT, FELLOWS OF THE COLLEGE,  
AND GENTLEMEN HONOURING US BY YOUR  
PRESENCE TO-DAY.

IT has long been the custom in the several ancient colleges of our universities to commemorate the founder and the benefactors on some particular day. The members of the College are assembled, the history of the Foundation is related with due solemnity, and the names of the benefactors are mentioned with honour and gratitude. Dr. William Harvey, the illustrious man by whose injunction we are assembled to-day, was familiar with this custom, for it was enjoined by the founder of his College at Cambridge, Dr. John Caius, a physician who not only possessed learning, but venerated it, and had considered those ceremonies and decorations which are as appropriate to learned societies as the fine paper, well-formed type, and beautiful bindings, in which great scholars and great readers such as Aldus and Grolier and Thuanus and Bentley delighted to see good literature clothed. It was

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Caius who gave us the silver rod which our President carries at every meeting of the College. He desired that we should be ruled with the mildness and clemency which a silver sceptre typifies, while the four serpents which ornament the sceptre are to remind the President that wisdom is to govern his conduct.

Dr. Caius, when in London, lived within the enclosure of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the first College feast was held there in 1556, exactly a hundred years before the delivery of the first Harveian Oration. There Dr. Caius died in 1573, a benefactor of the study of medicine in which he was the first Englishman to write an original description of a disease,\* to learning in general by the foundation of his College at Cambridge, to the poor of London by a gift to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and to this College in several ways. In his annals of Caius College a resolution is recorded under the date October 6, 1531,† urging the duty of gratitude and of the remembrance and record of benefactors.

Thus it was early in life, at Caius, that Harvey learned the value of such acts of public gratitude

\* A Boke, or Counsell against the disease commonly called The Sweate or Sweatyng Sicknesse; made by Ihon Caius, doctour in Phisicke. 1552.

† Information kindly given by Dr. J. Venn of Caius College.



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as that which, on his institution, we keep to-day. Sir George Paget, a former Fellow of Caius and of this College, Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Cambridge, and an example there of all that a physician should be, has shown that it was probably the teaching of anatomy, instituted in his College by Caius, which led Harvey to those studies in which his fame is immortal. There, too, he was imbued with the spirit of good fellowship in learning which was then prevalent in the University, and has ever since pervaded its atmosphere. Caius had fostered this spirit in the College he founded, which, robed in the architectural garb of the Renaissance, appropriately comes into the view of a visitor to Cambridge immediately after the foundation of King Henry VI., refulgent with the last glorious rays of mediæval learning.

The poets who knew Cambridge have told in verse what every man, worthy of a liberal education, has felt. Milton of Christ's, disposed as he was to resist the natural effect of religious art, was nevertheless profoundly affected by great architecture, and has left the world the better by the impression which he received as an undergraduate from the Chapel of King's:

But let my due feet never fail  
To walk the studious cloisters pale,

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And love the high embowed roof,  
With antic pillars massy proof,  
And storied windows richly dight,  
Casting a dim religious light.

Wordsworth of St. John's, trying to study the depths of his own mind, found himself deeply affected by his surroundings :

I could not print  
Ground where the grass had yielded to the steps  
Of generations of illustrious men,  
Unmoved. I could not always lightly pass  
Through the same gateways, sleep where they had slept,  
Wake where they waked, range that enclosure old,  
That garden of great intellects, undisturbed.

Cowley of Trinity, a lesser poet than these, seems by the power with which he expressed another of the feelings of University life almost to justify Clarendon's remark that in his time he had in poesy "made a flight beyond all men."

Ye fields of Cambridge, our dear Cambridge, say  
Have ye not seen us walking every day,  
Was there a tree about which did not know  
The love betwixt us two.

The introduction into the family of great minds, the permanent association with a venerable collegiate home and its usages, the ties of

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friendship: by all these Harvey had been influenced during his residence at Cambridge from 1593 to 1598. When he migrated to this College in the midst of a busy world,

*Fumum et opes strepitumque Romæ,*

yet devoted to one of the highest branches of learning, he was kindly received. Two physicians deserve commemoration for their early kindness to him: one was Dr. Ralph Wilkinson of Trinity College, Cambridge, in relation to whom he occupied at St. Bartholomew's the position which, Mr. President, I now have the honour with infinite advantage and satisfaction to myself to occupy towards you. The other was Dr. Lancelot Browne of Pembroke College, Cambridge, who had been one of the proctors in 1573, the year in which Edmund Spenser of that College took his degree. Perhaps Browne was one of the learned wits of whom the poet was thinking when he celebrated the Cam in the Fairie Queen:

*My mother Cambridge whom as with a crown,  
He doth adorne and is adorned of it,  
With many a gentle muse, and many a learned wit.*

It was Dr. Browne's daughter Elizabeth\* whom Harvey married in 1604.

\* We know little about her, but her portrait at Burley-on-