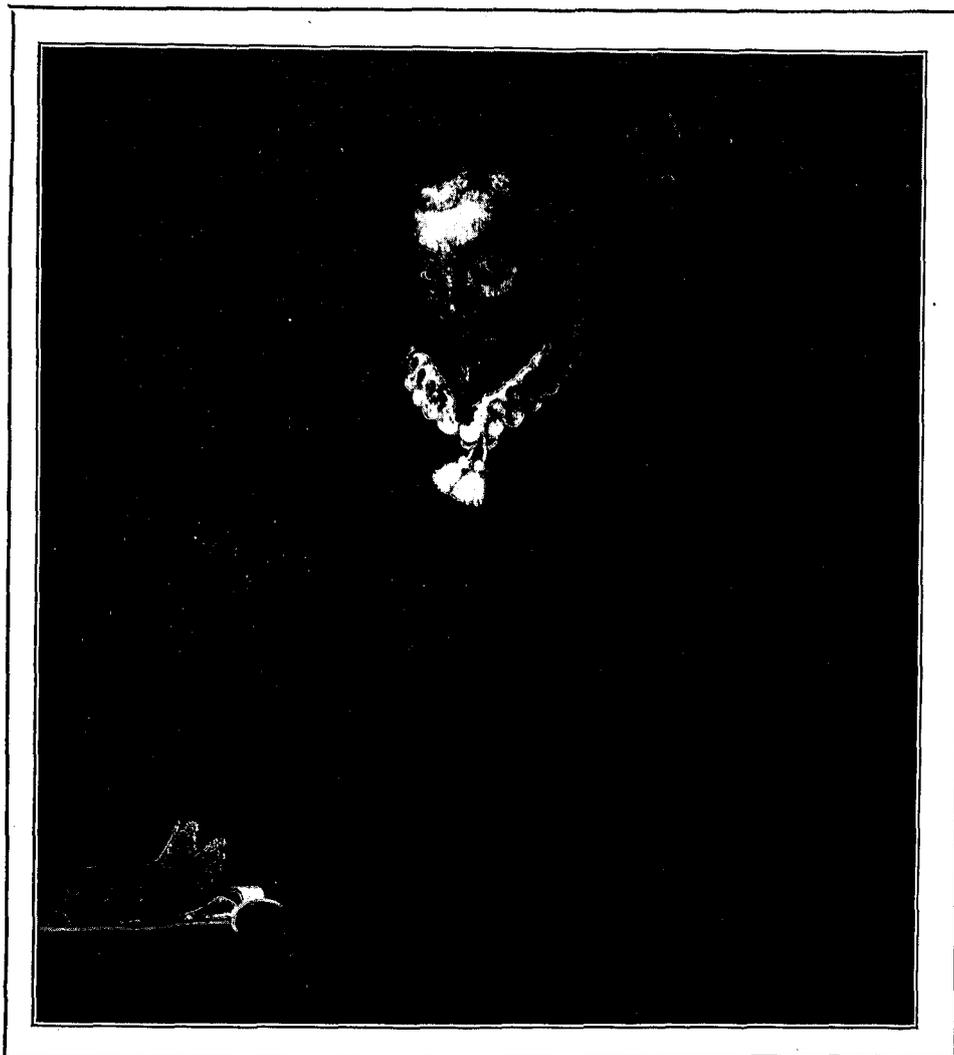


respect." For, wot ye, you might find yourself "at the pillar" merely for lying in the kirkyaird while the sermon was preached, for speaking ill of the dead or for casting up their failings to the living. Had Maister Peter waxed eloquent on the shortcomings of some defunct barber surgeon? Be that as it may, it stands on the session records of the church that the Founder of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow once "did time" at the pillar of the Tron, Burgess of the city though he was. It is probable that Lowe died shortly after the 1612 edition of his famous book was published. His son and grandson were in their turn admitted to the Faculty,

the possession of another of the name of Gray, who subsequently transferred it to the Faculty, by whom it is preserved.

For those who would come into more intimate touch with Peter Lowe, we would recommend a perusal of the Discourse, a somewhat toilsome business for the spelling and lettering are not of our time. You do not cover many pages before you realise that Maister Peter Lowe was a "lad o' pairts," a man far ahead of his age and one who anticipated many "discoveries" of later times. One enjoys too the quaint touches of unconscious humour and the crusty, caustic mood in which he refers to people

who "are only born to find fault" who "will not or cannot understand . . . not ceasing to barke at me . . . yet neither have power to bite nor do better" (than I). Lowe was severely criticised for writing his great work in English in order to bring it more within reach of students of medicine. Sir D'Arcy Power places the Discourse among the six epoch-making books in British Surgery; it is a very comprehensive volume this in its original binding of old parchment. There are dedications to various patrons of learning, to the "Friendlie Reader" and to his brother practitioners; there are poems in praise of the author by other surgeons and men of learning, and then Maister Peter gets to business. Surgery, medicine, gynæcology, midwifery, hygiene, psychology, the versatility of the volume compasses all. When the library of the Faculty was founded years after Lowe's death the first book placed on its shelves was the Discourse; in the Minutes of 1st December, 1746, there is an instruction that the Doctor's book be rebound with proper ornaments and "discharge the same from ever afterwards being lent." Finlayson casts doubt upon whether this last resolution was completely adhered to. The first edition of the book, which was published in 1597, was smaller than the second and did not contain "the Presages" of Hippocrates. Lowe refers to two other books "Infantment" (i.e., Midwifery) and "The Poor Man's Guide," but



MAISTER PETER LOWE, SCOTTISHMAN
(Doctor in the Faculty of Chirurgerie at Paris).

and those are the only occasions upon which men were admitted to its Roll who did not practise medicine or surgery. We read in the records of the Faculty "the rather because he (Peter Lowe) was the principal procurer of this vocation, of the letters of visitation under the Privi Seal they have admitted the said John, Freeman, who has given his oath conforme to order, yis for ye benefit of his children." Lowe intended that his son John should study medicine in Paris, but alas for such castles in the air John became a merchant, his son a Writer to the Signet. After a few generations the family became extinct at last, and the monument to Lowe near the Cathedral passed to

if he ever completed those they have not been discovered. It is believed that Lowe spent about twenty-two years in France and Flanders, he was in London in 1596, and his later years were spent in Glasgow. Apparently he had some sort of annual grant from the city of Glasgow, probably arising out of certain provisions in the Charter of the Faculty; the last payment made to him from the coffers of the town was £40 (Scots) for "bowelling" the Laird of Houston, at one time Provost of Glasgow.

Without doubt the Charter of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons was drafted by Lowe. Its phraseology is archaic, yet very direct, and it leaves no doubt as to its

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