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COMMUNICATIONS

WOOLHOUSE (1666-1733-4)

BY

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LONDON

IN an exceedingly kind review of my "Studies in the History of Ophthalmology in England prior to the year 1800," by Dr. Gordon Norrie, which appeared in *Acta Ophthalmologica* in September, 1933, I was gently admonished for not having included accounts of Porterfield and Woolhouse. I plead guilty over Porterfield, but in extenuation I would say that I have always hoped that some Scottish ophthalmic surgeon would contribute to our pages a memoir of this distinguished Edinburgh physician. My reasons for not including Woolhouse were twofold; first, I knew practically nothing about him, and second, I was under the impression that he had practised in Paris and not in England.

The present paper is an attempt to rectify the omission of Woolhouse, not so much by an elaborate account of his published writings, as an excellent notice of him and his works is to be found in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, from the master-hand of Sir D'Arcy Power; but because I have tapped some sources which would appear not to have been used before: *viz.* his will, the large collection of his letters preserved in the Sloane MS. at the British Museum and in the Letter-Books of the Royal Society, and the manuscript volume of notes on his lectures which is the property of the Royal Society of Medicine.

In Garrison's *History of Medicine*, Woolhouse is rather summarily dismissed as a quack oculist in company with Sir W. Read, Roger Grant and the Chevalier Taylor. I hope to show that he was very far from deserving to be included in such company.

Woolhouse appears in Venn's *Alumni Cantabrigienses* as "John Woolhouse. Admitted pensioner at Trinity, June 19, 1684 (age 18). Born at Halstead, Essex. School: Westminster. Matric. 1684; Scholar 1684; B.A. 1686-7. Son of Thomas Woolhouse." According to a statement in one of his books, it seems that he was the fourth member of his family to practise as an oculist. In his lectures he constantly speaks of his father, the King's oculist. One of his letters shows (*vide* p. 209) that Woolhouse tried to start a practice in London, but the sea-coal atmosphere brought on consumption, for which reason he moved to Paris, where he was in practice certainly from before 1700 to 1728.

He is noted in the *Dict. Nat. Biog.* as having been Groom of the Chamber and Oculist to King James the Second. No warrant of appointment was found recorded in the Lord Chamberlain's books at the Public Record Office; and in this connexion I may perhaps state my belief that none of these early royal oculists was ever appointed by a formal warrant.

In Paris he was surgeon to the Hôpital des Quinze-Vingts for many years and he appears to have resided in the "Fauxbourg S. Germain, à l'hôtel Notre Dame, rue S. Benoist, proche les murs de l'Abbaye de S. Germain des Prez."

Woolhouse is said to have had a large practice in Paris and it is evident from his correspondence that he conducted a large class in ophthalmology, his pupils coming from all parts of the continent. Benedict Duddell was certainly his pupil. He was elected F.R.S. in 1721, was also a member of the Royal Academy of Berlin (*vide* p. 205), and of the Noble Institute of Bologna.

Woolhouse is credited with the description of iridectomy (or iridotomy) in cases of closed pupil in 1711; *i.e.*, some years before Cheselden propounded his operation of iridotomy; and it would seem that he was a pioneer in the treatment of lacrymal obstruction, especially in cases of lacrymal fistula. But in the burning topic of the true nature of cataract he was old-fashioned; he stuck to the views of the ancients and would have nothing to do with those of Brisseau, Maitre Jân and Heister, against whom he carried on a wordy war, and lost no opportunity in his lectures of making disparaging remarks. The library of the Royal College of Surgeons possesses two quarto volumes which appear to be a complete transcript of his lectures. They are well written, in rather archaic French and by the kindness of Mr. Le Fanu I was given an opportunity of spending an afternoon over their contents. The

first volume is divided into two parts, the first of which contains *Definitiones Ophthalmicae*, dealing with anatomy, gutta serena, hypopyon, amblyopia and strabismus. A sub-section is devoted to fistula lacrimalis, glaucoma and hypopyon. Part II is headed *Morbi Oculorum sine Operatione curabiles*; amaurosis, gutta serena and dislocatio retinae being instanced as incurable. The last half of the first volume is devoted to cataract. The second volume deals with operations; couching, synechia of iris to cornea, ectropion, etc. Under the heading of prosthesis he refers to opinions expressed by "Mr. Tourberville et mon Père." He ends this volume with the subject of scarification; 30 different diseases, most of them with odd names, are to be cured by this, the oldest operation of ophthalmic surgery. One of these diseases he calls trachoma.

I confess that I have found it easier to abstract the MS. volume in the library of the Royal Society of Medicine. This runs to 336 pages of closely written matter. For the most part it is quite easy to read, though the writing is somewhat cramped and the lines are written very close together.

The lectures were delivered in the year 1721, and each section is as a rule dated for the day on which it was delivered. It is headed:—"A Treatise of ye Cataract & Glaucoma. Dictated by Mons. Woolhouse, Occulist to ye French King, begun April 29, 1721."

The contents are of extraordinary interest to anyone who takes a fancy to the history of ophthalmology. I fear that I may have been led to make a fuller abstract than the state of ophthalmology at that date warrants; I can only say that I have probably omitted as many interesting facts as I have recorded. It is most noticeable that Woolhouse was extremely well read in his subject. He reverences the works of Hippocrates, Galen, Celsus, Paulus Aegineta and the ancient fathers generally; in fact, his remarks are founded to a large extent on the teaching of Hippocrates. He has little use for the English writers; Briggs' work is spoken of as not bad for the date of publication; he has very little good to say for Coward's book, and he treats Banister with scant respect.

Early in the cataract lecture he refers to Geister, one of his pupils, and "surgeon to ye hospital of St. Esprit at Nurenbergh, who, since his return home hase open'd six eyes consecutively wherein cataracts had been coucht as well by him as another oculist and in two of ye said eyes yt recovered not their sight, ye crystalline humours were found yellow and altogether opake, but membranous cataracts deprest at ye bottom of ye eye, between ye inward part of ye iris and ye processus ciliaris, according as I had instructed ye sd. Mr. Geister, conformably to wt I had allways learnt, in my family; and to one only experience that I made thereof at St.

Germaines en Lay, in Madame Mountespan's Hospitall, where one Gabriel Cox of above 60 years old, recovered his sight by couching. I open'd his eye at his death and found ye crystalline humour transparent and in ye natural place and ye cataract coucht as aforesaid."

"One Maitre Jan abt 16 years ago presented to ye Academie of Sciences some remarks he had made concerning cataracts wherein he pretended to be the author of a new discovery, yt all cataracts were nothing else but wt ye schools of Physick and surgery had allways hitherto called glaucomas. I read a refutation . . . wch was read in ye Publick Academy. . . Some months after one Dr. Brisseau Physician of ye King's hospitalls at Tournay chopt upon much what ye same system and sent his remarks to Mr. Doddard. Yt is known ye King's physician here to be approved of; Mons. Brisseau was my antient friend and acquaintance and had seen me couch several cataracts at Tournay. . . This obliged me likewise to publish my answer to their system, wch was printed by one of my eleves in Germany at Offenbach in frankfort upon ye main ye first edition in French, and after in Latin."

He refers to Gassendus and Rohault who opened a couched eye before the Academy of Sciences and found no crystalline humour therein, by which they were persuaded "to believe yt ye crystalline humour was deprest in ye operation by ye needle, and that there was no other cataract, but ye opaque crystalline." He goes on:—"an illfounded tradition caused by ye sophistry and cherelattanery or quackery, of oculists of all ages, whose interest it was, to confound glaucomas and cataracts together, 'twas but ye prick of a needle and they gained their money right or wrong."

He expresses surprise, considering the amount of attention bestowed on this subject on the Continent, that the Royal Society of London has not paid any attention to it, in spite of the fact that Maitre Jân's book had been translated into English. "The translator was some very ignorant fellow in anatomy and surgery, not understanding ye common terms of art in either language . . . so if any Englishman pretends to form himself a sort of oculist by yt model he will certainly prove as great and as ignorant a quack as ye late Mr. Read of London was, who from a heelmaker, became ye King's oculist since ye Revolution without being able to write or read, and is succeeded by Mr. Grant." He notes that Mr. Kennedy seems inclined to espouse the new theory but that Dr. Coward does not mention it. Soft eyes are notoriously "unfructuous" to operation. Couching is the only operation, though Turberville practised paracentesis in some cases. He pours scorn on the medical treatment of cataract as practised in his day, mentioning the eating of millepedes, woodlice, etc.

"A gentleman playing at bowls with an Irish officer called flanigen, whose glaucoma I was to depress for ye palliative cure

only, he felt a pain in his eye, as he was bowling and desiring me to look what was ye matter wth his eye I found ye glaucoma altogether sunk and could discern only its rim by looking down into ye apple of ye eye." In this respect of dislocated lens he refers to Tobit's miraculous cure, the "fishes gaul applied by Toby" and thinks that this case may have been of a similar nature. This, he says, induced Heister "blindly" to prescribe this remedy.

Woolhouse emphasises the importance of operating on congenital cataracts early. He had undertaken many cases, the youngest only eight months old, without any accident. At this date it was usual to bleed the patient before the operation, but he preferred to leave this till afterwards.

"All people yt have been born Mope eyed wch wee call purblind or blinck ey'd, when they come to have cataracts happily coucht they see ten times further than ever they did before, without ye use of any manner of spectacles. Madame Prudout at St. Germain's, is yet a living instance. 'Tis now 18 years since I coucht both her eyes of cataracts, she now writes and reads wthout spectacles & knows everybody and everything at some hundred paces distant . . . whereas she was born purblind as wee call it, and touched ye book wth her nose when she read."

Later he speaks of having seen his father couch cataracts. He accuses Heister of mistaking the meaning of a passage in Celsus, and says that he moistens his needle "with ye spittle, as some barbers do their razors, which is a great impediment to its quick passage."

He gives a whole page of out of the way causes for glaucoma; makes no reference to Banister's discovery of hardness of the globe, but says "and then ye feeling is ye only way to have a true knowledge thereof . . . and ye forepart of ye eye will feel harder to ye finger." He acknowledges that "nothing is more difficult for an oculist yn a critical distinction between ye real cataract and glaucoma;" and he advises seeing the patient many times at different hours of the day and making the patient draw the various entoptic phenomena he may have observed. "Ye oculist must keep an exact account and journal of all patients yt offer 'emselves wth any of these distempers."

In dealing with fistula lacrymalis he gives a good description of the anatomy of the parts and is scornful of Anel's work. The writer spells the name *Annel* throughout. Woolhouse says "but Annel hase not been ye first chere lattan yt usurped to himself this discovery, since Byrrhus,* yt notorious whipster,† pretended to have

* Burrus, the notorious Italian quack oculist.

† Whipster, a nimble fellow. *Johnson's Dictionary*.

discovered ye way of curing ye dullness of ye eyesight by colyries introduced thro' ye nose." Woolhouse thinks that the dullness of sight in this case was due to the mucoïd fluids backflowing from the sac into the conjunctiva and obscuring the sight.

His own treatment was to incise the sac, pierce the *os unguis* and insert a little leaden drain in the hole; "at ye conclusion of ye treatment when we are ready to shutt up all and cicatrize ye part, . . . this operation has never " failed me or any of my evels for above 20 years." He notes that some cases need the application of the actual cautery.

The third lecture deals with the scarifier and ulcers. Hippocrates used a piece of thistle called *atracton*. All subsequent authors translated this word in Latin as *fusus*, which caused the loss of the operation till Woolhouse recovered it " about 30 years ago in my perusal of Hippocrates." He tried thistle and then a bunch of fine needles tied together; until an Irish pilgrim from Jerusalem (name of Harris), told him that the Tartars, for their sore eyes, scarified the lids with a beard of corn.

In dealing with hypopyon Woolhouse trusted to a paracentesis; a speculum was essential and several assistants to restrain the patient's arms and legs. The lecture on ectropion contains nothing of interest. That on *unguis* appears to deal with a very severe form of corneal ulcer, possibly *ulcus serpens*.

In his lecture entitled " Diarphosis, or ye curing of Squint Eyes," he notes that no animal except man squints; it is hardly ever congenital, and is mostly due to the carelessness of the nurse in placing the cradle so that the child looks constantly sideways to the light. Looking at things in the distance is to be encouraged and reading and near work avoided. In girls, who lead more confined lives than boys, a hole is to be bored in half a walnut shell and this is to be bound over the eye with tapes in the hope that the squinting eye may learn to see through the hole. No operation is mentioned; but he notes that his father used to order " smoaking " tho' the children were ever so young.

Lectures follow on *ungula*, which is pterygium and on prosthesis and the next is on " ye fistula in ye cornea and the operation of ye *Bothrystomia*." *Bothryon* was "an ulcer in ye horny coat known even to Hippocrates." It must not be confounded with *Bothyron* which would seem to be either a staphyloma or cancer. The former (*Bothryon*) is a small ulcer which perforates and is hard to cure. He says it is called *fawcet* (facet) in England. His treatment was to try and bring about " a gentle suppuration " in the ulcer, and he says that if it heals the English call the resulting scar a pin. He operated in the morning when the chamber was formed and used a needle, sharp on each side but blunt at the extremity, which he inserted into the ulcer and twisted

round once or twice. Balm of Gilead was then applied on a pin's head and a patch of gold-beater's bladder covered with the best ointment of tutty was placed over the spot and the eye bandaged.

Woolhouse's lecture on glasses to assist ye sight is quite interesting. They appear to be not very ancient. He does not seem to have heard of Roger Bacon, though he mentions Euclid; the first author to recommend them being "Guyde de Cauliaco, ye reformer of surgery." Isaac Newton would seem to have been the first to advise tinted spectacles, "but I practically knew ye excellency of those coloured spectacles long before Sir Isaac Newton published his optics . . . and I remember very well to have seen in ye library of Trinity College, Cambridge, and in Bennet College of ye same University & ye King's library at St. James's several bibles and other books of devotion & Church use . . . printed on green and on yellow paper and others on blew paper with white letters long before ye use of spectacles was known in England." He refers to Xenophon's account of snow blindness in "Cheiro-podia" and to the fact that he was himself consulted about blindness amongst the troops in Savoy. He advised a "black silk shade sewed to the hatt, to hang before the eyes when the men were on the march, for which he got much credit and 200 pistols" (pistoles). He also remarks on a case of eclipse blindness which occurred in a man after the peace of "Riswick." He points towards telescopic glasses in some cases. Too much light is harmful to the eyes and he had been informed by his German pupils that cataract and glaucoma were far less frequent in Germany than in Paris. He was inclined to put this down to the German stoves hiding the glare of the fire from the eyes. And he thought that this might account for the universal habit in England for men to stand with their backs to the fire.

There is a long lecture on the Eye waters now in use in England. He starts with a verbal passage at arms with a Mr. Fountain, son of an Edinburgh dancing master who invented a famous eye water. The son came over to Paris, selling the water at a high price. Woolhouse affirmed that he knew the composition of it and offered to wager, but his adversary refused to come up to scratch. It appeared that the water in question contained "rose water, crude tutty, Succotrine aloes, white sugar, crocus, saffron and old white wine." Copperas water is highly extolled in the London journals in May, 1721, by one Dr. Clark. "He calls himself oculist to King Charles ye Second, wch is downright false, he says likewise to other crowned heads, wthout naming them, Mr. Read and Mr. Grant having been ye only oculists since my father to ye crowns of England." Mr. Grant "is much more sincere . . . for he pretends to nothing but couching of cataracts." Read, on

the other hand, Woolhouse thinks is worthy of corporal punishment, "for couching black cataracts, for lucre, which are cases of gutta serena. Bannister, in his Breviary, favours not the cheat."

A prescription, brought by a French missionary from China, contained "vitriol of Cyprus, ye purest to be got, rock allom, ye finest, and salt petre, equal parts of each." This is very violent and is nearly always ineffectual as a cure for cataract, but Woolhouse relates a case of his own that would not have the operation and was persuaded to try the water in question. She had so much pain that she sent for Woolhouse, who found the eye highly inflamed. He ordered soothing applications and at his next visit found the eye quieter and to his amazement the cataract had disappeared.

Other mountebank remedies are swallow stones, which are sold very dear; a catt's tail in pruriginous ophthalmia, a gold ring applied, an amber bead, a piece of rubbed crystal and a new laid egg, warm from the body of the hen. He approves of setons, issues and the boring of the lobes of the ear.

One of his last lectures is on the operation called *apokalypsis* in abscess of the orbit; this is common in children. Some of the cases read like panophthalmitis, but others may have been cases of glioma, for one at least fungated.

Woolhouse does not anywhere refer specifically to his operation of iridotomy, but the following passage would appear to come to something of that sort.

"Ye fenestration or boring a hole in ye cataract is never practised but when ye cataract is closely and inseparably adherent to ye inward borders of ye pupil, hindring its alternative opening and shutting and is by no means to be separated, then ye oculist must with his needle pierce ye cataract just in ye middle of ye apple of ye eye and having made as it were but ye prick of his needle pierce ye cataract he must little by little prick as it were thro' a parchment as many holes as he can well make close as it were one to another and in ye best rank and order he can linealy, then placing ye point of his needle in ye uppermost draw it gently downwards and so consecutively ye second and third rank by this means he will open a good large hole in ye cataract, by wch ye patient will see moderately well all manner of objects, this operation must be done in ye best light ye oculist can procure, but allways a side light."

Woolhouse died in England on January 15, 1733 (O.S.).

The following is his will :—

(P. C. C., Ockham, 230.) In the Name of God Amen. The fifteenth day of November, 1730, I, John Thomas Woolhouse, Esq., late of the City of Paris, in the Kingdome of France, now

dwelling and residing in the parish of St. Martin's in the Fields, Westminster, being weake of body but in memory and understanding sound, do make this my last will and testament in manner and forme following (that is to say), and First, I committ my soule to the care of Almighty God and my body to the earth to be decently interred by my executor hereafter named and as for such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me, I give and bequeath and devise unto Stephen de Beaumont of the City of Paris in the Kingdome of France gent., all my freehold estate situate lying and being in Wapping in the County of Middlesex, or elsewhere in the Kingdome of Great Brittain to him and his heires for ever. Item I give and bequeath unto the said Stephen de Beaumont all my goods chattels money and personal estate, as well in Great Brittain as in France, as I shall be possesst of att the time of my decease. And I do hereby make and ordaine the said Stephen de Beaumont whole and sole executor and residuary legatee of all my estates reall and personall in Great Brittain or elsewhere. Item my true intent and meaning is that I do by these presents publish and declare this to be my last will and testament, and I do hereby revoke and make void all will and wills, testament and testaments heretofore made or declared to be made. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale the day and yeare first above written. (Signed.) John Thomas Woolhouse. Signed, sealed, published and declared by the Testator in the presence of us who at his request and in his presence have subscribed our names as witnesses hereunto. Sarah Cantrell, George Campbell, William Cooper. Proved at London, 12, Jan. 1733-4 before John Andrew, LL.D. and Surrogate.

I have not been able to find a portrait of Woolhouse either at the British Museum or at the Royal Society of Medicine, and his name is not included in Wadd's *Nugae Chirurgicae*.

The following publications of his are listed in the *Dict. Nat. Biog.*—

(1) *Catalogue des Instrumentes pour les Opérations des Yeux.* 8vo. Paris, 1696.

(2) *Expériences des différentes opérations manuelles et des Guérisons spécifiques.* 12mo. Paris, 1711. (Translated into German, 1715. Jena.)

(3) *Observations sur le mémoire Académique de Mons. Moraud.* 12mo. Paris, 1726. (Said to have been published anonymously.)

(4) *Dissertations scavantes et critiques . . . sur la cataracte et le glaucome,* par M. C. le Cerf, Offenbach-on-the-Main. (N.d.)

(5) *Dissertationes ophthalmicae de cataracta et glaucomate . . . e gallica in Latinam linguam translatae*, 12mo. Frankfort-on-the-Main. 1719.

There are copies of the first and fourth in the library of the Royal College of Surgeons, and a copy of the fourth in that of the Royal Society of Medicine.

And so Woolhouse passes across the ophthalmic stage; a picturesque figure and an interesting man; the product of an English Public School and University (*vide* p. 215). According to his own account he was faithful to his Royal Master, James the Second, in his adversity; and it may be permissible to hint that he was probably a Jacobite, though perhaps his exodus from London may have been tempered by the state of his health. When we consider the state of ophthalmology of his day I cannot in justice call him a quack. He was apparently not an ambulant practitioner, though accounts state that he toured the Continent at the outset of his career; if this be allowed the fact remains that he was resident in Paris for a great many years.

The chief things that one can have against him are that he rode his hobby of scarification too hard and that, in later life at least, he touted his English colleagues in the Royal Society for patients (*vide* correspondence), but here again we must remember that 200 years ago this was not considered such an unethical business as it would be to-day. Sloane himself was, I believe, the vendor of a collyrium the composition of which was a secret.

In some of his views he was ahead of his time, but he was frankly an obstructionist in the matter of the true seat of cataract. His writings are said to border on those of a charlatan, but his will is an absolutely honest document.

Terson, in the *Arch. d'Ophthal.* Vol. XXIX (1909), has printed a letter from Woolhouse to E. F. Geoffroy. It deals with two cases of glaucoma and with the problem of vision after a cataract has been couched and is rather abusive of Saint Yves, who was his contemporary and an eminent French oculist.

The preparation of this paper has entailed considerable research. I am grateful to Mr. Harvey Bloom for the will and the transcripts of the letters at the British Museum. Besides these he spent much time in endeavouring to trace the record of the law suit (see p. 209) without success. The librarians of the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal Society of Medicine have been of great assistance to me and I wish especially to thank the members of the library staff of the Royal Society who went out of their way to help me.

APPENDIX I

Woolhouse Letters at the British Museum

Sloane's MS. 4062, f. 34. (Undated.)

Monsieur, Je viens de recevoir des M. de Lepy medecin du Châtelet, et medecin generale des Hopiteux de Paris cette thèse quil a fait soutenir a Paris, sur le mienne que M. Platner a soutenu a Leipsic, pour la thèse de Professeur quil a emporte, a lamblee? preferablement a sex autres docteurs pour le proffessoriat, le Monsieur le Professeur de chirurgie et de medecine a Leipsic a pris toutes mes operations des yeux icy sous moy qui sont au nombre de soixante et six et il a eu . . . permission de publier ma manier de guerir la fistule en question, vous verres Monsieur par cette thèse imprimee que la principale circonstance de la guerison en question est la destruction du sac lacrimale : soit par superation, soit par extirpation, soit par let cautere actuel par le . . . du quel plusieurs chirurgions ont reussi sans savoir comment vous voyez Monsieur que je suis le premier qui en a denmant sa regle infallible de la guerison radicale de la fistule lacrimale cela est facile. Pour moy que vous avez passé en silence la regle fondamentale de cette operation dans la raport que vous avez fait de ma thèse a la Societe Royal on a perdu ma thèse premordeal de Platner a ce quon Beretent, et il faut que jen passe venir une de Leipsic. En attenda vous aurez la bonté sil vous plaît de retabler cette omission dans une lettre que je irez que d'ecrire soit a Mr. Stone, soit a Mr. Ruty et je la leu feray tenir franche par un message d'etat qui retourne a Londres au commencement de la semain prochain, et si vous quelques choses de leger a envoyer à quelautres de vos amis a Londres je les leur feray tenir aussie grati, et suis de tout mon coeur, Monsieur, votre tres humble et tres obsessant serviteur, de Woolhouse.

Ibid. f. 35. (Undated.)

Rt. Honred. and Worshipfull.—I have never had the honour of hearing from you, neither directly nor indirectly since Dr. Bourrows, in Westminster, apothecary, presented you some books & theses from me. Among which was some for Dr. Rutty: I've since sent you, by Mr. Zolman, some novelties. I hope Dr. Nicol's redress to the mistake he made & the report he gave of my discovery of the infallible cure of the lacrimal fistula by the exsection, extirpation & intire consumption of the lacrimal sack without which there is no radical cure as you may easily see by Dr. Platnar's thesis at lipsick (Leipsic) & Dr. Lapy's thesis sustained at the Physick school of Paris of both which I sent exemplars. Mr. Beaumont that will have the honour of presenting you this letter is my nephew & has a recommendation from Mr. Walpole* our Ambassador to His Rt. Honble brother the Chancelour of the Exchequer about an estate of mine unjustly detained by the connivance & wicked practices of my attorney of which he'll have the honour of giving an account & I hope you will abet him with Mr. Walpole. He'll have the honour of performing the ocular scarrification of Hypocrate, of which I sent yr Honour Dr. Platnar of Leipsick's thesis. 'Tis ye most ancient operation of the eyes & the most salutary in many desperate distempers of that organ; you'll easily see that the misunderstanding of the Greek text was the only occasion of the loss of so great a secret which I have renew'd & amended to the great good of mankind. I am Rt. Honor'd & Worshipful . . . servant. Woolhouse, F.R.S. (Copy.)

Ibid., f. 37.

Right Honred & Worshipfull.—I make bold to send you the second sequel of our mechaniciens invention, with the Journal of Treveux that speaks of this discovery from pag. 1380 to pag. 1388:—There is likewise in this journal some notes of mine upon Dr. Walthier's memoirs concerning ye cataract, which you were pleas'd to order to be inserted in a Philosophical Transaction. I believe I shall find a means to send you all memoirs & theses gratis, the gentleman that brings you this will best acquaint you therewith: however you may easily obtain that gratification by having your paquets address'd to Mr. Walpole. There is also

*The Mr. Walpole of this letter is Horace Walpole, First Baron Walpole, brother of Sir Robert Walpole, First Earl of Orford. He was Ambassador at Paris from 1723 to 1730.

in this journal a defence of Sir Isaack Newton's optics against Signor Rizzetti by Mr. Gauger an old acquaintance of mine *a la pag.* 1233.

I'm informed Sr that there is an impression of the sd Sr Isaack's optical lectures lately publishit & that Mr. Smith, F.R.S. & astronomer of Cambridge, has publishit a new treatise of optick glasses, of wch please to informe Mr. Carter the bearer hereof to procure me. There is an old treatise—Propositions concerning Optick glasses with their natural reasons drawn from experiments—1679, which I humbly beseech you to informe the sd gentleman where it was printed, for all I can do I cant possibly procure an exemplar and as I am composing an ophthalmic Library wherein I give a short account of all authors of all tongues that have any thing relating to Opthalmicks & I have already about 600 authors to account for, if God grant me life and health. On occasion of Georgius Valla *de Natura oculorum* etc I shall not fayt to lett the world know that I should have never seen that book (no more than Mr. Douglass) had you not done me the singular favour to send me an exemplar thereof by Dr. Woodward. I am etc Woolhouse, F.R.S.

Paris, July 31, out of the Great Almonry of France at the Quinze Vingts Hospital.

Ibid., f. 40.

Monsieur.—Jespere qua la fin par l'aide de Mr. Zolman on vous aura porté les 35 theses et petits livres de Medecine qui ont resté en arriere dans la valise du courier qui mourut en chemin en France, et que Mrs. Buckley vous avoir fait tenir la *Dissertation Angloise sur le traite de Guillemeau que Jay ecrite pour etre insertee dans les Transactions de la Societe Royale si on la trouve digne de cet honneur. Jay lhonneur presentment Monsieur de vous envoyer ces dissertions nouvelles de Medecine, Soutenues a Paris. Jam ay lhonneur de vous en envoyez d'autres de teins en tenes mesure que mes amis meu procurement. La longue maladie d Lepouse de Beaumont la retenu icy, et le retient encore par un accouchement laborieux et d'angereux d un infant mort, et Dieu scait si elle seu relevera jamais, et mon age joint a mes infirmities ne me permet pas de passer en Angleterre pendant ce mauvais teins, mais je me fie fert dans votre protection et recommandation a Mr. Walpole craignant fert de derner une procuracion, puis que mon Premier Procureur en a si mal agit avec moy. Mais si vous Monsieur me vouliez recom-mender me, Je ne manqueroay pas tout aussi t'ot de le charger de mes affaires. Jay lhonneur d'etre tres parfaitement monsieur,

votre tres humble etc. Woolhouse S.R.S.

Ibid., f. 41.†

This is a very long, undated letter in French, though unaddressed it is undoubtedly to Sir Hans Sloane.

Woolhouse begins with thanks for the honour of the *votre* (possibly vote), and the favourable consideration anent the *Malades des Elèves*. He hopes to be found not unworthy of the recommendation. He has read with great pleasure the second volume of your History of Jamaica . . . and Mr. L'abbe Crignoz has arranged to take it with him to Versailles to show to the King and Queen before the Court leaves Marly.

There is a young doctor of merit who translates books into the French tongue. The King has granted him letters patent of First Physician at St. Domingo, to which place he must be ready to go next spring, but the air of the country and the pernicious effects of the sun's rays. . . . He has resolved to apply for leave to stay at home. He has translated into French the Natural History of the Earth by Mr. Woodward, but the theologians of the Sorbonne w'ont give permission for its printing as they believe it to be contrary to Holy scripture.

Then comes nearly a page about a Mr. Allen, who is in all probability John Allen, M.D., of Bridgewater, a translation of one of whose books was published in French at Paris in 1728. He next announces the discovery by one of his pupils of the true composition of the grand remedy of which Mr. Geoffroy has written. This seems to have been for the gout and to have contained gold. He offers to send some, if you, Sir, have any *gros seigneurs* in London suffering from this disease. He ends with humble obeisances to Mr. Walpole, our ambassador, and profound respect etc., your humble servant, Woolhouse.

**(Vide p. 210)*

†*Ibid.*, 4048. f. 116. A shorter letter in French to Sir Hans Sloane, dated October 25, 1725, deals with much the same subjects.

Sloane MS. 2046 (14 Aug., 1720-29, May, 1723). To Sir Hans Sloane.

Gr. Coll.,* 27 May, 22.

I fear Mr. Woolhouse will find it very difficult to find ye books you want. He has search'd Paris, & wrote to Montpellier, Aix, & several other towns, in vain. But he persists, & will procure them, if to be had. The King's Library is all on heaps, but you may be sure of Transcripts thence, after all. He presses much for a catalogue of all the books, in your library relating to ye eye. He is publishing an account of all yt has been wrote of ye organ. There's no date on Georgius Valla, he desires to know where, when, & with what other tracts 'twas set forth. I am with great regard, Sr. your truly faithfull humble servant Woodward. (f.224.)

Ibid.

Honred Sr.—I just now rec'd this packet for you from Zurich from Doctor Scutizer I shall be heartily glad honred Sir of finding a favourable opportunity of being serviceable to you here or elsewhere in any part of Europe or Asia itself, where our correspondence lyes. I writ word frequently to Dr. Woodworth (Woodward) that twas impossible any where any one exemplar of the two books you ordered me to procure you wherefore pray order me some other book in return for Georgius Valla. I think myself obliged honred Sir to acquaint you by this that there is a certain young physician here that has confidently reported in severall notable assemblies that the collection of fossils & minerals etc of Doctor Woodworth's cabinet so much talk'd of in these parts are not his own nor of his collection & purchase but do actually belong to Gressam Colledge you know best honred Sir, how to punish so great a slander, it likewise touches my reputation very sensibly I having told Abbé Bignon & many other noble & learned men quite the contrary to what this Doctor affirms. I am, Honred Sir, your most humble & obedient servant, Woolhouse. Paris, 15 Sept., 1722.

Sloane MS. 4046., f. 341 (copy).

Praeses Propraeses et Directores fundatae Berolini à serenissimo Potentissimoque Borassiae Rege Societatis scientiarum notum testamentumque, facimus; Quam in orbe erudito editis illustribus singularis eruditionis et experientiae; necnon in perscrutandis naturae et medicinae imprimis anatomiae et chirurgiae arcanis eximiae industriae documentis famam sibi comparaverit illustris Vir Johannes Thomas de Woolhouse, nobilis Angliae ophthalmiater Parisiensis christianissimi Regis in Bibliotheca interpres, Societatis Regiae scientiarum Londinensis sodalis, tantum apud valuisse, ut ejure accessionem in commune nobis cum scientiarum promovendarum studium, Rei publicae Literarie profecturam judicaremus. Quamobrem potestate à serenissimo Fundatores in nos callatâ, praedictum Dominum Woolhouse in Regiam Scientiarum societati nostram, vigore praesentiam suscipimus, Eumque; honore, juribus Beneficiis societati, ac singulis ejus membris competentibus vitè ornamus cujus Rei ut plena fides extet ex decreto societatis hasce litteras sigillo publico et subscriptione consuetâ munitas expediri jussimus. Berolini die VIII Aprilis MDCCXXIII.

J. S. de Gundling, Praeses.

Joh. Theod. Jablonsky. R. S. Secretariure.

Sloane MS. 4067., f. 218.

. . . Academie du France 1722 are just distributed, I'll ask the abbe for one for you I pray enquire of Sr Hans Sloane whether or no Dr. Geoffroy is us'd to send him those books yearly, if nott lett him but write a compliment to the abbe wth some literary news, & enclose therein a letter for me, unseal'd, contening his catalogue of ocular books, & asking of me whether or no it is not his due to have yearly the workes of the academy etc. Lett him also desire me to procure him the catalogue of the Royal Garden of Montpellier & the *histoire de Monches qui blessent par la . . .* etc. With what other accessory he pleases & I will do him justice & be his counsel . . . (torn away).

To John Woodward Publick Proffr. of Physick att Gresham College in Bishop's Gate London.

Ibid. 4047., f. 7. (To Sir Hans Sloane.)

Right Honoured Sir.—You were pleas'd to order me by Dr. Woodward to find you out Bellavell's *Hortus Monspegulanus* & Bauhuis history *des Monches* etc I've wrote to all the Booksellers of the King's Library & other my particular correspondents

*Gresham College.

& have left no means untry'd to find you out the sd books, but without success hitherto & lately they sent me from Montpellier this book of plants of ye Kings Garden at Montpellier supposing 'twould stand in lieu of Bellavels wch is not to be had hitherto. I wish 'twere the book you wrot for, but fear you have it already however you'll please to take the will for the deed. I shall not cease inquiry both for one & the other till I've found them.

L'Abbe Bignon most gratefully receives the many new books you're pleas'd to send him. I wish he were not so overcharg'd wth business & that something offer'd worth your acceptance from him, however if you'll please to lett me know what he can oblige be a post extráct & eloge of any of their works of wch they'll please to send me two exemplars, one for the King's library, and one for the use and profit of him that shall make the extract, the same you'll please to intimate to the R.S. I'm told you have already Dr. Helvetius' book of the small pox-or I would have made bold to've sent it you. Dr. Deidier has made several good discoveries in the therapeutick part of several species of the *lues venerea*, but more especially of a distemper that is not venereal very frequently, but proceeds from chastity or *semina retenta* etc called spermatocele by him, of wch I know many persons he cured when he was here at Paris. He proposes to send me the Ms. for you to dispose of etc. & mightily desires that if you find his remedies answer yr expectation, that you'll please to recommend him to yr friends to choose him F. of the Royal Society. I'm certain of the excellency & certitude of the remedy, & have seen several spermatoeles, wch our famous surgeons have call'd pneumatoides, hydroceles etc. & were like to ruin the patients by their applications wch Dr. Deidier's remedy eas'd radically in 5 or 6 & sometimes less applications. I love my country so well that I shall be mighty glad to be instrumental to the good of any of his Majesty's subjects, & for the profit & honour of yr College when e'er you'll please to communicate it, for he makes you the sole disposer & depositarie of the secret.

In expectation of the honour of yr further orders I am Honour'd Sir your most humble most obedient & most faithful servant J. Th. Woolhouse F.R.S. & member of the Royal Academy of Science att Berlin in *Prussia . . . for his most Xtian Majesty in all his libraries.

Paris this 18th of June 1723. De L'Hopital Royal des Quinze vingts (or Typhlo-dochium Regium) dans la . . . Aumonerra de France.

The Bearer Mr. Sanders brings you from Dr. Geoffroy a novelty of Mr. Reamur.

On the back of this letter is the following in Woolhouse's holograph. "Oblige you, I'll undertake to effectuate it for you, by putting him in timely mind thereof. Dr. Scheutzer was like to have sold to the Marquis d'Onz eu Bray (Directeur des Postes here) of the R.A. of S., and his cabinet of curiosities for 30,000 liv. tournois, & he thought yr & Dr. Woodward's certificates necessary to evacuate it, and the same was reported to the Marquis & approved of by Monsr. l'Abbe Bignon. I wrot to Dr. Woodward thereof who reply'd that both you and he thought it an inestimable treasure but that is not what may be of good use to Dr. Scheutzer, 'tis to have a formal certificate under yr hands & seals in latine or in french upon mark't paper, that you do verily believe his said cabinet etc (therein specifying the contents) to be really worth much more than the twenty thousand livres french, this is what the poor doctor repeats frequently to me & hopes you'll favour him so far as to grant him such a certificate. I humbly begg ye favour of you Honour'd Sir to command me in whatsoever you think I can be serviceable to you, or to yr friends. . . ."

Ibid., f. 16 (Holograph to Sir Hans Sloane).

Honoured Sr.—I'm mightily mortified that I've not yet been able to find out the two books I owe you so justly: but I'll not give over till I've found 'em you. I sent you lately by Mr. Saunders (a young surgeon) the new edition of Magnol's *Hortus Mompeliensis*, hoping 'twill supply the place of Richerius till we can procure him for you.

I take the liberty to send you now by Mr. Blean a surgeon (that has served on board his majties Fleet) Dr. Deidier his ms, *de morbis venereis* wch he entrusted me for you (as I intimated in a letter to Dr. Gurin [? Jurin] Mon Dr. Deidier abandons this piece to yr judgement intirely, desiring only that his remedies might

*See p. 205.

be try'd & judged off accordingly. He presents you his most humble service, & offers you in particular, & ye College in General his utmost attention & care to any patient you shall send to Montpellier for consumptions etc, and he will put in execution wth the utmost precision such remedies as you shall prescribe. Monsr. Abbe Bignon is gon to take the waters of Abcourt (wch he has taken for several years past) for the gravel.

Pray Sr be pleased to honour me somewhat wth yr commands here or elsewhere : my correspondence is universal, the Indies, Turkey, Muscovy, etc are not exempt neither from national elevs (of my teaching) in *ophthalmie*, nor from other persons wth whome I have commerce of letters . . . Woolhouse.

Paris the 20th of July, 1723. *Ex Typhlodochio Sti Ludovici*, commonly called the Royal Hospital of ye Quinze-Vingts Aveugles.

Ibid., f. 63. (Holograph to Sir Hans Sloane.)

Paris ce 6th of Octobre, 1723. Att the R. Hospital of the 300 blind.

Honoured Sir.—I've wrote to Dr. Deidier of ye protection you've granted him & ye good acceptance his Disquisitions have found with you & Dr. Guin (? Jurin). I question not but you'll have great satisfaction in receiving him in ye R.S. because of ye good correspondence you may maintain wth ye School of Montpellier where your Physicians send so many persons of Quality, wch you may recommend to Dr. Deidiers care, & have yr prescriptions follow'd precisely, & so partake in ye honour of ye cure thò at a distance. I wonder that I hear not from Mr. Saunders (a surgeon that went hence several months ago) gave you from me a book of plants newly sett forth by Magnof & a book Dr. Geoffroy intrusted him with for you : He has given to Dr. Woodward what I sent him, & ye Dr. can tell you where he is to be found, that you may retrieve ye sd two books, & a letter I did myself the honour of writing you att that time. The inclos'd lets you know what my Physician Dr. Geoffroy has left wth me for you : I'm sorry he sent me not these things before, I would have sent 'em you two moneths ago, either by Counsellor Taylor, or some other that went hence att that time. Dr. Wyntle* (one of Radcliffs travelling physicians) is going hence soon. I'll see whether or no he will charge himself to bring them you safely, however Dr. Woodward has a good friend here, viz Mr. Horner ye Kings' Ministers secretary & chaplain with whome you may easily make an interest to receive and send you forthwith all pacquets, books, etc. I shall send him under yr address. Any of the under secretaries of Ld. Carteret's Office will obtain you this favour. I've made strict search for the books you desir'd me to send you by Dr. Woodward's letter, & I have not mett wth 'em yet in any part of Europe where I have correspondents but I shall not fayl continuing my diligence till I meet with success. Dr. Guin desired me to secure him the Paris bills of mortality for some years past. I've done all in human power but can't procure any such things there not having been any printed for above these 20 years : it seems the policy of the Government approves no longer that conduct. Whatever new book any of ye College of Physicians publishes, or any of ye Fellows of ye R. S., if they send two exemplars thereof, unbound but beaten & well sticht as Dr. Woodward will acquaint you, viz one for the King's Library & ye other for me, they shall have a good account given of their said works in our journals, of wch Abbè Bignon has retaken the care. Since the s'd journal has fayl'd so long by mismanagement of Dr. Andry (?) as for Mr. Smith (Dr. Guins friend) I have not read any news of his book, from his bookseller, whereas he might have sent it by ye post to Abbè Bignon, or to me under Abbè Bignon's cover, & then there should have been a printed account given of his book according to his report wch I've read to Abbè Bignon & 'tis approved off, wee want only to confront it wth the printed books wch my Lord abbot expects according to Mr. Smith's letter. . . . I've heard of great cures perform'd by a collyere of yr invention & composition : I should be very (glad) to have a samplar thereof, with an account of what distempers of ye eye 'tis good for. I shall speak thereof in my *bibliotheca ophthalmica* with honour & if you've any particular observations on the diseases of eyes & other cures, to communicate they shall find a leading place among the learned men of this age. I am with respectuous gratitude & attachment, etc. etc. Woolhouse.

* Wyntle, Robert, son of Richard Wyntle, gent., and born at Gloucester. Of Pembroke Coll., Oxon. matriculated 27 March, 1699, aged 16 years, Fellow, Merton Coll. 1705. M.A., 1709. D.Med., 1726. Warden, 1734-50. Radcliffe travelling fellow, July, 1715, from Univ. Coll. Died, 21, Aug. 1750. Buried in Merton Coll. Chapel. Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*.

Ibid., f. 168. Holograph to Sir Hans Sloane.

Honoured Sr.—None of ye Patients you were pleas'd to recommend to Chevalier Deidier ever came to consult him, for the way of that town (is) that the Irish, English or Scotch scholars are lured by ye other Physitians to be their Brokers, & go immediately & gett them the new comers. But C. Deidier allwayes profess physick more nobly nor ever us'd such base & ignoble ways to gett practice The Bp., the Intendant, the Duke of Roquelaur Governour of ye Province & most of ye nobility far & near make use of him only of all the town Physitians & unless you'll please to give a letter for him into ye patients hands, they will be prevented by these Brokers. C. Deidier has had no list, letter or notice of his being elected from any one but me. Dr. Gurin's lists & letters miscarried. Cr. Deidier presents you his most humble service & thanks, & desires you'd pleas'd to send me for him an exemplar of the books he dedicated to you of wch I sent you the original ms. You'll please likewise to do me the same favour for the library, & as I shall gett an extract thereof printed in our *journal des Savants* you'll please to send an exemplar for the Journalists Library there will be notice in that journal concerning ye progress of yr history of Jamaica, yr cabinet, etc. the books you were pleased to charge Mr. Zolman with for me were seiz'd at Calais (I know not why) & abbè Bignon has been oblig'd to write to the *Doceatrier* to send them straight to him for the King's Library. Pray send a list of what & to whom these books were design'd. Dr Deidier desires likewise of you those 2 translations wherein is the manner of making ye Epsom salt. I likewise begg ye favour of you to send me a very little sample of yr collyrium, its vertue, use, etc & for what distempers of the eyes. I ask not the composition, but a little of ye sd remedy to try here, for yr honour & reputation for I shall speak thereof on all convenient occasions, as also in my *Bibliotheca Ophthalmica* wch I've been composing for several years, as my leisure permitted. The memoirs of ye R. Academy for 1722 are finish't, & I shall take care to give them for you to Mr. Zolman who din'd with me yesterday & promist to take care of them. There is I hear a monthly catalogue of ye books printed in London. If you please to send it me constantly for Abbè Bignon's use, acquainting him thereof in a letter, & allwayes sending it by the speediest way of the post, writing only upon the book, Woolhouse—& sealing it up handsomely with this address: *a Monsieur L'Abbe Bignon, Grand Bibliothecaire du Roy tres chretien et un de ses conse.lleurs d'Etat Ordinarie (?) en cour.* I'm sure you will oblige him much, for such catalogues are absolutely necessary for him. Dr. Woodward sends him ye London *Bibliotheca litteraria* as it comes forth. I am, etc Woolhouse.

Paris this last of April, 1724.

Ibid., f. 191. (Holograph to Sir Hans Sloane.)

Paris, June 11th, 1724.

Honour'd & Right Worshipfull Sr.

I take occasion of the bearer Mr. Gebb's* return into England to assure you of my respects, & to lett you know that I rec'd by Mr. Everit's hands the two volumes of Robert of Gloucester's Chronicle wch I shall present from you to my Lord-abbot at his first coming from his Priory of Meulan. I gave him ye other books brought by Mr. Zolman who was mistaken in his account of Sr. Michel Deidier's book, they being found double & so I had the full number of 25. I've plac'd Mr. Everit at ye Surgeon of the Charity's House, who takes Pensioners for anatomy & surgery & the Charity is not so infectious by much as the Hotel Dieu, whither he may resort as often as he pleases. I'll recommend likewise to Gregoire who is ye only man here that teaches the Mid-wife craft: & wee have allwayes common scholars between us. I shall likewise recommend him to ye surgeon that teaches bandages, & if he will name any of our several ocular operations, or the whole art as well pathology, therapeuticks as the ophthalmia trick surgery, I shall serve him effectually & friendly: but as he understands not french & I've no other English men at present, he must learn apart, which is much more painfull to me & the same as if I taught the course to the sett number of a 12 who then pay but 30 french pistols of 10 livres apiece but Mr. Everit may learne 6 or 8 of the most ordinary operations that are necessary in England, such as the cataract, ye lachrymal fistula, the cingula (?) the Hypopyon, the ulcers of ye cornea, the

*Mr. Gebb is Samuel Jebb, M.D., of whom an account will be found in *Munk's Roll*, vol. 2, p. 179. He took the M.D. of Rheims in 1728, and was the father of Sir Richard Jebb, Bart., M.D.

ectropion, etc by wch he may get a good living, & do much good in his Country, where there is wanting ophthalmick Surgeons. When I desired a sample of yr collyrium, I meant that particular secret of yrs wch I've heard so much of. I never meant to desire ye communication of the secret but only a little of the remedy with its uses, & vertues. There are millions of collyriums recommended by Galen & others, but man's life is too short to try them all so that one is happy to light upon an old experienc'd remedy.

Mr. Walpole tells me that he trusts his health to your management, pray Sr. be pleas'd to give me a letter of recommendation to him, to desire him only to recommend a suit I have in Chancery, to my Lord Chancellor, what to do me justice, & to do it expeditiously, that I may not be ruin'd, in my absence. Dr. Woodward can give you an account of this affaire & bring my attorney to acquaint you thoroughly therewith, but it suffices (without giving you further trouble) to recommend me to his Excellency for obtaining the Ld Chancellor's protection in a law suit of importance now depending, wherein an Intestate nephews estate dying a Batchelour, has been embezil'd & fraudulently conceal'd, . . . from me by one Samuel Clayton, defendant, the justice of my cause speaks for itself, but my absence prejudices me, & to quitt my place & business here for God knows how long, would be unreasonable. Besides that the sealcoal air of London gave me a consumption in my youth wch has been the chief cause of my fixing in this city. Mr. Gebb is ye author of the *bibliotheca litteraria* wch is so much lik'd by Abbè Bignon. Mr. Gebb offers you all service, to publish therein whate'er you shall please to desire of him. he has been travelling here, & is a very learned, modest gentleman, that has charm'd all our *beaux Espritts* here, and in the Provinces, & has don our nation .honour by his sweet behaviour & learned conversation.

I am good Sr. etc, etc., Woolhouse.

Du l'Hopital Royal de Quinze Vingts aveugles.

Ibid., f. 176. A letter in French signed by Woolhouse. (The signature is rather a shaky one.)

It is dated May 7, 1724, and contains little of interest. It was sent to Sloane by a young surgeon, Mr. Morlet, who had been attending the author's course on operative surgery. The Abbè Bignon sends thanks for a book and Woolhouse still hankers after a sample of Sloane's collyrium; *une petite fiole bien bouchée* could be sent by Mr. Zolman who appears to be Walpole's secretary. Woolhouse also asks for details of the composition of the *purgatif d'Angleterre*. Some books had been held up at the customs at Calais. Deidier was still waiting for official notification of his election as F.R.S. and at long last we get Dr. Juring's name spelt correctly.

Ibid. 4048, f. 64. (Holograph to Sir Hans Sloane.)

Right Honoured and Worshipfull.—My Lord Abbot thanks you heartily for yr kind remembrance & present of ye memoirs litteraries, catalogues, & yr illustrious book of ye history of Jamaica wch is not yet come to his hands by reason of the absence of our ambassador at Fontaineblau. You may be sure that all possible care & pains shall be bestowed to do you justice in an abridgement thereof. I hope your bookseller will send hither to his correspondents some exemplaires of the first of this last part. I know several that would purchase the book, and I amongst others, somebody having stolen from me that wch I bought in the year 1708, when an account was given thereof in the *Journal des Savants*. I fully intend now to gett an extract thereof putt in the *Journal des Trevoux*, published at the Duke of Melin's expense. My Lord Abbot has heard of an history of Phisyck publish't by Dr. Friend (*sic*), wch ye Dr. has nott yet sent him. Dr. Schentchzer's Antidiluvian man has met wth some retardement in our Paris Journall by reason of the cutt: he writes me word that he expects with vast impatience (like an amorous lover) yr 2nd part of ye History of Jamaica. Abbè Bignon's brother (late Provost of the Menchames [?] here) has had an apoplectic fitt which has left him paralitick on one side. Yr sage counsel & advice will comfort much our Prelat in his great affliction, his other brother (late Intendant of Paris) dying two years ago of the same dreadful distemper, wch makes us all very apprehensive for our Patron. Pray Sr. if any people of worthe, fashion, etc be blind of cataracts, or that wanting other operation of the eyes to be performed on them, that will come over here thither for that intent, I pray you to recommend me for that effect and if any person

of Quality will make it worth my while to send for me over, I will go over : or send one of my companions that learnt of me & liv'd with me six years. The young surgeon you recommended to me did not learne of me, any operation of the eyes, his day was but short here, & he learnt nothing at all as I was informed. You may be assur'd Sr. that on all fresh occasions I shall be glad to show how much I am your most humble etc. Woolhouse. Paris the 28 7br., 1725.

Ibid. 4066, f. 60.

A letter in French addressed to Mons, Ruty, M.D., the Secretary of the Royal Society. Begins with the usual compliments. A packet of books sent to Woolhouse had been lost at Rouen. Somebody seems to have been criticising his operation for lacrymal fistula. Woolhouse says that in 63 cases of fistula operated on in Paris he had had no failure, he emphasizes the extirpation, excision and *supuration entiere* and says that if Mr. Chieselden observes all the details recorded in the two theses and will do him the honour to send to Woolhouse the objections he will etc. etc. The date of this letter is September 4, 1728.

Ibid. 4066, f. 86.

An important letter written to be communicated to the Royal Society, enclosed in a letter to Sir Hans Sloane from Paris, dated March 22, 1730. The enclosure is addressed to Dr. Ruty.

Good Sir.—I take the liberty to give you an account of a book little known to most of the learn'd men of our Country, tho' thrice publish'd in our mother tongue. Doctor Douglass in his *Bibliographica Anatomicae Specimen* mentions this book under the title of Banister's Breviary, probably not minding that *Banister* had only lent his name to the *chief work*; for *Richard Banister's Breviary* is but a sorry, illiterate piece, sett before the *Worthy Treatise of 113 Diseases of ye Eyes & Eye Lids*, printed the 2nd time in the year 1622 by *Felix Kingston for Thomas Man, dwelling in Pater-Noster Row, at the sign of the Talbot*. This Richard Banister says, on the last side of his *preface* to the Reader: that the work was dedicated to his kinsman and Master John Banister, in a former edition, but as I have the said edition, I find that R. Banister imposes on us, and tells us this story for by-ends easy to guess at. The title of the last edition runs thus. "*A Treatise of 113 Diseases of the Eyes and Eyelids, the second time publish'd, with some profitable, etc. by Richd. Banister, Mr in chirurgery, oculist and Practitioner in Physick*, after the same Breviary: whose pages are not figured, but are 86 in number, consisting first of his aphorisms, 2ndly of Errors, amongst many that practice for the Eyes, 3rdly a short rehearsal of most medicines which are commonly used for the Eyes, 4thly to form perfect cataracts. At last he sett's down the natural temperature of most simples us'd in several diseases of the Eyes, at the end of which Banister's Breviary is finish'd, and then begins a worthy treatise of the Eyes containing the knowledge and cure of 113 diseases incident to them, and 'Tis worth remarking, that the second edition has not the pages cyphered, tho' the first has, which contains 199 pages including Mr. Jeune's lettr. about the *Ptheriasis*, whereas the original French contains 243 pages to the said letter exclusively. The first edition in its title page contains the following words: *First gather'd and written in French by Jaques Guillemeau, Surgeon to the French Kg, and now translated into English together with a profitable treatise of the Scorbie and an other of the Cancer by A. H. also next to the treatise of the Eyes is adjoyn'd a work touching the preservation of the sight sett forth by W. Bailey Dr. of Physick. Printed by Robert Waldegrave for Thomas Man and Willm Brome*. The first impression is much the best in all respects, but neither the one nor the other is good English; the faults of the translation being infinite & even in common things, but more intolerable in the *Definitions* and *Medicinal Prescriptions*.

Sr. William Read (who I am inform'd could neither read nor write) has outdone R. Banister in plagiarist: for he has not only publish'd in the late Queen Anne's Reign, Guillemeau's for his own work under this title. *A short but an exact account of the Diseases incident to the Eyes with the Causes, Symptoms, and cures, also practical observations upon some extraordinary diseases of the Eyes.* by Sr. William Read, her Majesty's Oculist, and operator in the Eyes in ordinarv. The 2nd. edition corrected. London: printed and sold by J. Baker, at the end of Pater-Noster Row, in 8vo. But pag. 160 says that the following letter was transmitted to London by Mr. Le Jeune, Surgeon in ordinary to the French King.

By comparing this letter with that of the two former editions, one will be sufficiently convinc'd, that *Sr. William Read* had no other view in this 3rd edition, which *Sr. William* calls his second, but to pass for the proper author of a treatise he knew very little of; tho' at the end pag. 3d he has printed *practical observations* of his own, wherein there is nothing new or worth observing: but he has omitted the *silly verses* of *R. Banister* with his illiterate aphorisms, tho they are the most supportable part of *Banister's Breviary*.

'Tis not strange that *Dr. Heister* (formerly *Professor of Physick at Aldtorff* and now at *Helenstadt* in the *Dutchy of Brunswick*, whoseizes immediately on all novelties, good or bad, to please his young Auditors) has announc'd this plagiary edition of *Read* as a new book. In his *Oration de Incremento Anatomiae in hoc saeculo*. 18vo. pag. 67 which passes current with foreigners since our own *countrymen* have not yet taken notice of the *cheat*. *Dr. Heister's* discourse is printed in 8vo *Amstellodami* apud *Joannem Pauli*. 1723 at the end of his *Compendium Anatomiae*, wherein I've observ'd several other errors, and some willfull prevarications. Let us return to *Guillemeau* (the genuine and primordial author of this *Trait of the Eyes (sic)* and its diseases, which has been publish'd thrice in French. viz. 1 *Traité de Maladies de l'oeil* . . . a *Lyon* 1584 in 12mo. 2 a *Paris* in 8vo 1585. 3 a *Paris* chez *Nicolas Biion*, *Rue S Jaques*. I make these remarks chiefly because *Ludiemus Renovatus*, publish'd by *Merklin* & printed 1686 at *Nuremburg*, in 4to., makes no manner of mention of this book, which is much to be wondered at, since he tells us that *Guillemeau* publish'd *Ambrose Paré's* works in Latin, in folio 1582.—All Physicians know that *Guillemeau* was a learned surgeon, and co-temporary with *Ambrose Paré*, and that he dedicated to the said *Paré* his *Treatise of the Diseases of the Eyes*, dwelling then at *Ambrose Paré's* own house. In the year 1597, *Charles Statum* got this book printed at *Dodrecht* in the *Flemish* tongue by *Abraham Caen*, which before had been translated and publish'd at *Amsterdam* in Dutch, by *John Verbrugge* or *Verbrugge* in 12mo and upon this said edition of *Verbrugge* *Dr. Martin Schungen* translated the book into high Dutch, and publish'd it at *Dresden* in 8vo. in the year 1706.—These three translations and editions are all compos'd according to the edition of *Paris* in 8vo with a table of the principal contents. 'Tis a great pity that this work has not been translated into Latin, with good remarks, corrections, and additions.

But I commend to the *Latin Reader* what *Sennertris* has wrote on the eyes, *Who* is the best author we have extant upon that subject—*Georgius Valla* has publish'd something much like this same work of *Guillemeau*, in Latin, at *Strasbourg* in 12mo, join'd with the rest of his works, but *Valla* has copied *Aetius* even to a fault.

Dr. Douglass owns in his *Bibliography* that he never saw *George Valla* but he might have had that satisfaction in *Sr Hans Sloane's* library.

Monavius, de affectibus ocularibus supra *Hecatonladen Jenae* 1711 (publish'd by the care of the late great physician of Germany, *Georgius Wolfgangus Weddelius*) is copied from *Guillemeau*, and is the second edition of this copyist, who gives only a superficial enumeration of the diseases of eyes after *Guillemeau*, whose errors he follows closely: Besides I brought the different distempers of the eyes to the number of three hundred and odd, having observ'd nature exactly in the great multitude of *General Reviews* I have made in the *Royal Hospital* of the *Quinze Vingt*, In the *Hotel Royale des Invalides*, and in the *Hospital General* of *Paris*, for near these forty years last past.

We have a book in French the little 8vo called de la *Martissiere Le Naturaliste Charitable*. That gives a catalogue of the Diseases of the Eyes much what in the same words with . . . but as my exemplar of this author was printed at *Lyons* 1560, probably *Guillemeau* borrowed his definitions verbatim from this author, or both of them imitated *Galen's* Introduction or *Medicus*.

Ibid. 4048., f. 108. Holograph in French to *Sir Hans Sloane*.

This is a short letter dealing for the most part with books. *Mr. Bernard de Jussieu* "Dr. en Medecine de la faculté de Montpellier" is to publish a second edition of the history of the plants which grow in the environs of *Paris* with their uses in medicine. The *Abbé's* brother would seem to have succumbed and the *abbé* was much upset. He began to get better after 2 or 3 days and was cured by a "pedelarium" of warm milk. *Woolhouse* once more touts *Sloane* for patients, particularly operation cases, and ends with best Christmas wishes. The letter is dated Oct. 15, 1725.

Sloane MS. 4050., f. 87. A signed letter to Sir Hans Sloane.

Mr. Nichols sa'ayant . . . plique qui . . . abbrege en Rapport de la These de Leipsick fistule lacrymale de Mr. Platner mon eleve n'avoit pas esté nouveé du gout de Mes Les Chirurgiens de las societé qu'il ny avoit pas reusi j'ai deouvert eu l'examinant qu'il ny avoit aucune mention de la section eu extirpation eu supuration du sac lacrymale . . . Jamais on y a reusi sans l'avoir fait quoiqu' á l'insecté de l'opearateur . . . j'ai deouvert par une infinité d'experiences consecutives; mais comme l'oeil larmoye toujours apres l'exsection de le sac j'ai trouvé le moyen d'empêcher ce pleurement eu suppleant le defaut du sac par un petit trugan de plomb qui s'ag . . . dans l'orifice enterne pour recevoir la lymphe lacrymale qui passe par l'union des deux points lacrymaux.

Ibid., f. 111. Signed only; to Sloane. Paris May 19, 1729.

Je prend' la liberté de vous envoyer une nouvelle thesís sur la scarification de l'oeil (operation de ma d'ecrire est) que Jay . . . ire d'hypocrate et que mon elevé le Docteur Platner a fait soutenir a Leipsic sous sa residence. Je vous envoyer aussi deux autres theses dan lauelles je ne suis pas du tout interessé. Je dois Monsieur envoyer mon fils a Londres pour faire terminer uns procès qui ma duré plus de sept année et donc Mr. Carte doit vois avoir informé du sujet; mon fils est habiles oculiste pour la pratique mais sa petite santé ne mas jamais permis de le faire etudier.

Ibid., f. 134. Holograph. Paris, June 16, 1729.

A letter in French, sent over by the hand of Mr. Wilcocks, who had only just started his ophthalmic course when he was recalled by family affairs. The rest of the letter consists of an exposition of his erroneous views about cataract and glaucoma.

Ibid., f. 143. Holograph. June 4, 1729.

Mr. Wilcocks has returned.

Ibid., f. 158.

Concerns a proposed History of Geneva.

Ibid., f. 230. Holograph to Sloane. June 14, 1729.

Sr.—I had the honour and favour of yrs by young Mr. Burroughs, wherein you're pleas'd to make mention of my son, I've heard since from him that you've been pleas'd to grant him yr protection etc for wch I most humbly thank you. I've been highly abused and derid'd by Pryse the attorney for these seven years last past, not daring to trust my weak breast to the London air wch was always contrary to my health even from my childhood.

The new book of Duddel the surgeon, that denounces (*sic*) a new method of scarifying ye eyes of cataract is all taken from my lessons. D. learnt of me with several other young physicians and surgeons ten or 12 years ago, when Beaumont was in Provence . . .

Ibid., f. 236. Signed letter to Sloane. Paris, 9ber 21, 1729.

Thanks Sloane for the hospitality accorded to Beaumont. The latter had to return to Paris in a hurry on account of his wife's illness (" qui est grotte de son premier enfant ").

Ibid., f. 241 and 254.

Are about books. Beaumont's wife still dangerously ill.

Ibid. Paris, 7, Mars, 1730.

" Et comme l'epouse de Beaumont est morté il se prepare a retourner á Londres en esperance d'avoir votre recommandation á Mr. Walpole dont j'emploie la protection."

Ibid. May 15, 1730.

A French note announcing the departure of Mr. Walpole, whose period of ambassadorship came to an end in this year, with some details of family affairs.

Ibid. 4051b., f. 35. Abstract of a letter to Sloane, dated May 26, 1730.

I return . . . hearty thanks for yr remembrance of Beaumont whose wife's and child's death has almost broken his heart and hinder'd his return to London e're

now to prosecute my two suits in the law . . . having since his return fallen into very bad hands, I mean those of one Howell Heard whose deceit I suppose my cousin Hancock took the liberty to intimate to you.

Ibid., f. 68. Paris, July 1, 1730. Signed.

I am sorry to hear of Dr. Rutty's death. I had sent him a fresh correct copy of an account of an eye-book called Banister's Breviary of which I took the liberty to send you the first draught which I revis'd and corrected and sent to Dr. Rutty and desir'd him to communicate it to the Society. The rest of the letter is concerned with legal matters; it shows that Woolhouse had property in the Strand, but Price, the attorney, never paid off the arrears, though he took the rents. This had been going on for eight years since the death of Woolhouse's nephew Whiston.

Ibid. 4048., f. 178. Holograph to Sloane, dated. Paris, July 12, 1726, in French.

Deals with the election of an associate (probably to the Academy of Sciences). The Abbe Bignon would propose Woodward.

Ibid., f. 247, 260 and 262. *Ibid.* 4049., f. 70, f. 181.

Contain nothing of interest.

A letter of April 20, 1727, sends congratulations to Sloane upon his election as president of the Royal Society and is rather fulsome.

Ibid., f. 295. Dated May 13, 1727.

This deals with a letter in Latin from Dublin in the Philosophical Transactions, in which the writer would seem to have doubted the accuracy of Woolhouse's statements. He is referred to Woolhouse's writings. John Ranby would appear to have been doubtful of the truth of Woolhouse's statements also, for the letter ends: "Jay plusieurs autres experiences du meme sujet et si vous permettez Monsieur Je metterez ce phenomene dans tout son jour avec la response a quelques autres morceaux et experiences imprimees dans les Transactions Philosophique et derniere-ment dans cette no. 281 de l'anne 1724 par Mr. Ranby Chirurgien."

Ibid. 4049., f. 40. Holograph to Sloane. Dated 8ber 1, 1727.

Enclosing a copy of L'observation touchant la Cataracté Membraneuse.

Ibid., f. 52. Holograph to Sloane, dated. Paris, Oct. 20, 1727.

I lately took the liberty to write to you by the post and to send you some curious experiences of anatomy humbly requesting the favour of you to order them to be printed. . . . I have desired my friend Doctour Scheutchzer at Zurich to recommend me to his son (your librarian) whom I will pay all letters and other incidental expenses he shall be att on account of my correspondence. I send your honour by Doctor hook a pacquett of sixty two physicall Theses labelled (?) at the Physicall schools at Paris for taking the degree of Doctour hoping that such a curiosity would be agreable to your Colledge of Physicians . . . We hear here that Doctour Woodward is desperately ill though we know not what is his distemper. Doctor hook who has been here making a choice collection of Physick books is a gentleman that will always endeavour to deserve your honours protection, to which I take the liberty to recommend him as being a Cambridge scholar In which University I performed my studies.

Ibid., f. 109. Dated, Paris, Feb. 13, 1728.

Jay reçu le specimen des Plantes et le petit livre du chirugien Anglois sur la Cataracte. . . . Je prens la liberté aussi . . . annoncer que je viens de Recevoir une patente d'academicien de Bologne ou la Victoire ma' encore eté adjudgée touchant la Realité de la Cataracte membraneux pour la derniere experience de venisse que Jay en L'hameux de vous envoyer et pour mon sistheme Primordial on il y avoit plus de glaucome que de cataracte membraneux. etc.

Ibid., f. 208. Dated, Paris, July 21, 1728. To Sloane.

I formerly was a poet both in Greek and Latine I wish the specimen I made in yr honour may be rightly taken & understood. I sent a copy to Mr. Carter a great chroney of Mr. Buckley att my Lord Secretary's office att Whitehall. As

for our french mechanicien's invention, I sent the sequel thereof to you by the said Mr. Carter (?): it seems of vast use to any maritime Power & I wish that the person to whose judgement you've referr'd it, understand well the french idiome: the author was born a mechanicien & all the Geometricians here fear him. I'm informed Dr. Pemberton that succeeds Dr. Woodward printed somewhat formerly on the sight, wch nobody can find out for me no more that the treatise on optick glasses their uses.

Ibid., f. 243. Dated, Paris, 7ber 22, 1728.

I sent you by another hand a ms I've been lately obliged to make to give an account a cure wch our Jansenists here would fain have a miracle: & wou'd . . . a late honest Priest of their opinion as concurrence with my son who perform'd the cure, wch is as mechanical as the distemper itself. . . . The secret of the gold drops is in very great request, & our first minister has bought the secret for the King, but 'twill not be publisht till after the Polish General's death. My son Beaumont does the operation well & I've taken several ounces of this remedy, & do believe it sav'd myself in a great fluxion I had on my breast. I hope my verses on her Majties coming to see yr museum were rightly taken by friends & well wishers.

Sloane MS.

To the Right Honorable Sr. Robert Walpole Chancellour of his Majties. Exchequer, etc. and to his Excellence Horatio Walpole his Majties Embassadour in ordinary to his most Xtian Majty. This Elegy is humbly dedicated etc.

Roberte Angligenas, Gallos conducis Horâti :
 Sic Gemini Fratres, sidera, utrumque Polum.¹
 Alternis vicibus Castor Pollux'que gubernant.
 Caelicolae at Georgi, numina nostra duo.²
 Vos pacem Domini Populo demittitis aliam :
 Nec Magis Hydra³ mala Religione necat
 Sed floret Britonum, Patriis virtutibus, orbis :
 Nam Lodovix simul, et Georgius arma movent ;
 Nam Batavus junctis conspicit navibus una ;
 Delphinum Gallis nam Dea Juno, tulit ;
 Nam Rex astraeam nobis, cum judice⁴ summo
 Reddidit, et fugiunt mox dolus, atque nefas.
 Ex quo Justitiae lustravit Knigius Arces :
 Corruptis poenas quas meruire docans ;
 Orphanus et Cliens, pauper, viduaeque Misellae,
⁵King nomen magnum nocte dieque canunt.
 Ergo mihi liceat Patrios⁶ intrare Penates
 Rabulae et Attourney vituperare scelus
 Et periuria apocryptia vincere Quakerorum
 Furum et pollutas sacrilegasque manus,⁷
 Quae per septem annos Sacrum elusere Tribunal ;⁸
 Imbellum et faciunt me miserumque senem
 Namque Senatus-Consults lex nullo⁹ supremo,
 Nullaque decreto sanctis facta, Tuo,
 Judex optime maxime Debellare¹⁰ Latrones
 Hos socios valuit, nec cohibere malum :
 Tu vero fraudum mysteria dira recludens,
 Impia verbo uno frangere vota potes.
 Sic in justitia solium firmabitur alte
 Incassum sceptro jura nec ulla ferēs ;
 Sic neque Roberto, Tibi nec delinquet Horati :
 Georgius, ambit ovans, dum diadema caput.

Sic vovet eique Deprecatur Joannes Th. Woolhouse S.R.S., Ophthalmator in Typhlodochio Basilio Pensiorum vulgo vocata l'Hopital Royal del Quinze Vings.

(1) . . . St. George and ye late King of blessed memory. (2) Traytors of all sects that conspired against the late King. (3) The late King's maxims. (4) The present Ld. Chancellor. (5) Meaning ye King's Maj: and my Ld. High Chancellor at one and the same time, in the same syllable. (6) My land of inheritance, freehold in Wapping. (7) Hand that gives or receives bribes. (8) The High Court of Chancery or justice. (9) Act of Parliament. (10) Defeat them.

APPENDIX II

Woolhouse Letters preserved in the Letter-Books
of the Royal Society

I have to thank the Council of the Royal Society for permission to examine and abstract the collection of letters by Woolhouse at Burlington House. They number 27. My thanks are also due to the Librarian and the members of the library staff for the trouble they took. With the exception of the last three letters all are addressed to Dr. Jurin, the Secretary of the Royal Society.

Royal Society, Letter-Book, W.3. No. 97 et seq.

Nov. 4, 1712. Holograph to Secretary, Royal Society. This is mostly concerned with "powder of vipers." He ends as follows:—"if yr candour admitts you to remember me an old English man born and bred up in ye family of ye Stewarts, & unhappily involved in ye revolution by following my master, I say if you remember me you'll highly oblige." Later he says he was bred up at Westminster School with Mr. Prior and later at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Ibid. 98.

Returns thanks for his election as F.R.S.; he says that the present King of Prussia offered him "a pension of 4,000 florins, lodging att Court and 500 florins of each physician and surgeon that His Majesty would oblige to learn my art." This offer was refused on account of ill health. The Czar of Muscovy came to see him couch a cataract, and he also had an offer from Rome. He asks that letters may be sent to him under care of the Abbe Bignon, "so that they will be no charge to me."

Ibid. 99. Holograph. To the learned and worthy James Guring, Dr. of Physick and Secretary Royal Society, April 8, 1723

This letter deals mostly with books. He mentions Dr. Wyntle and speaks of Dr. Deidier's treatment of the spermatocetes in cases of chastity (*vide* p. 206) and puts in a good word for Deidier to be elected F.R.S.

Ibid. 100. Holograph to James Jurin. 8 July, 1723.

Complains that Mr. Prof. Smith has misunderstood him over a notice of his book. A copy should have been sent to the Jesuit's Library (undoubtedly one of the best in Europe), because they are the masters or directors of the *Journal des Trevoux*. He compliments Jurin on his book about inoculation and announces that Douglas's *lithotomia* is translated into French. The diseases "raging here at present are the small-pox, feavers, fluxions on the breast, & erysipelas. I labour under one on my arm, which has been in danger of gangreening, but am now out of danger, tho' suffer mightily thereby."

Ibid. 101. Holograph to Dr. Jurin. 30 July, 1723.

Asks if Deidier's MS. has been received. "Here is a fellow of yr College here, Mr. Walker. . . . I've got Douglas's *lithotomia* translated into french by Dr. Nogues, a young man without practice but very learned."

Ibid. 102. Holograph to Jurin., 11 Aug., 1723.

Announces that the MS. by Deidier was sent by one Blow, a surgeon. The rest of the letter deals with books.

Ibid. 103. Holograph to Jurin., 9 Sept., 1723.

Has not heard of the arrival of Deidier's MS. "Mr. de la Cosse a physician (he says of yr College) that tries hard to practise inoculation. . . . There is likewise an Irish surgeon (that calls himself Master Surgeon of London) for whom Mr. John Law obtained His Majesty's leave, that has been long solliciting to practise the sd operation."

Ibid. 104. Holograph to Jurin. Paris, 20 Oct., 1723.

No mortuary bills are to be had here for above these 20 years past.

Ibid. 105.

"Dr. de la Costa has played us a dirty trick." Apparently he borrowed some books from the translator and walked off with them. "He is no physician of yr Faculty, (as he pretended) at the best a Judaizing Christian or good Deist, that he is a french refugier, recusant, that he has abandoned his wife & numerous family in London, that he was a Huguenot Preacher in London, and was dismissed for false doctrine."

Ibid., 106. Holograph to Jurin. Paris, 28 Jan., 1724.

This letter is sealed with a fine coat-of-arms, the blazon of which would appear to be:—per pale, Dexter, azure, a chevron engrailed ermine between three pellets. Sinister, azure, a fleur-de-lis. This is surmounted by an esquire's helmet, and the crest would seem to be a bird's head and neck, erased.

The letter announces that La Costa's book on inoculation had been sent off, and asks if Deidier has been elected F.R.S.

Ibid. 107, undated.

No news of Deidier's election. Deidier much surprised and scandalised thereat. Bignon's brother, the Intendant of the Generality of Paris is dead. "Mr. Degg of ye Royal Society has been here some moneths. He is lately returned. Signed de Woolhouse.

P.S. "Who is Sr. Deerham, and how came he to recommend Signor Benevoli Chirurgion of Florence, his observations of ye glaucomes or cataracts?"

Ibid. 108. Signed only. 26 April, 1724.

A letter in French to Jurin, dealing with books and asking for a bottle of Sloane's collyrium well corked.

Ibid. 109. Holograph to Jurin in French, 27 May, 1724.

Deals with books and the Epsom salts.

Ibid. 110. Holograph in French to Jurin, 19 June, 1724.

Deals with books.

Ibid. 111A. Holograph of Dr. Noguez. Paris, 27 April, 1725.

This deals with a copy of the translation of the work on inoculation. You have found several faults for which the translator is sorry; over page is a holograph of Woolhouse, announcing the notice of Smith's book in the journal de Trevoux. He goes on:—"As I have taught ophthalmiatis for above 32 years, and show 300 different ocular distempers in the living, for which I do 68 different operations of surgery, and have learnt . . . many foreign universities that have . . . scholars, I hope that you, Sir Hans Sloane, Dr. Friend, etc., will find me subjects, whether for the cataract, lacrymal fistula or any other manual operation in Persons of Quality, or make me come over to London for the purpose in . . . or send me scholars here to learn that art so neglected by Honest Physicians & Surgeons & practiced chiefly by Ramblers and Mountebanks. The present King of Denmark, the late Czar, many ambassadors of Crowned Heads have don me the honour to come see my different instruments, and to assist at some of my General Reviews I make once a moneth, & whereat ye understanding man may learne more than in 100 years reading. . . ."

Ibid. 112. Signed only, in French, 27 September, 1725.

A long letter mostly about books and inoculation. His promising translator had been appointed to St. Domingo. Signed, de Woolhouse.

Ibid. 113. Signed, de Woolhouse. Dated 15 Oct., 1725, in French.

About books.

Ibid. 114. Signed, de Woolhouse, 21 Mars., 1726, in French.

Makes mention of Chevalier Newton on longitude. The translator's name is given as Noguait; mentions Sloane's History of Jamaica.

Ibid. 115. Signed, de Woolhouse. Paris, 9 April, 1726.

The journal containing the review of Smith's book has been sent by Mr. Bourows.

Ibid. 116. Holograph to Jurin. Paris, 14 May, 1726.

"I'm as much surprised as mortified and aggrieved that what I intended for yr service and satisfaction; turns quite to the contrary, as to Cotes's book." A Jesuit father had been removed from the Directorship of the journal de Trevoux, on account of his great age, and Perè Honguent putt in his place. Father Castel had been criticising Sir Isaac Newton's book, which was a presentation copy to the library of the journal. Abbé Bignon was much offended by this insult to Sir Isaac.

Ibid. 117. Holograph. Paris, 18 May, 1726.

Woolhouse's complaint of the injustice of Father Castel's critique has produced this letter. "wrot with his own hand." Woolhouse explains how he disposes of copies of books sent to him. "I never profitt my self of any one exemplaire that comes from any Fellow of ye (blot) S."

Ibid. Signed, in French to Jurin. Paris, 10 Sept., 1726.

Deals with reviews.

Ibid. 119. Holograph to Jurin. Paris, 26, July, 1727.

The Paris doctors are much against inoculation. There had been an election (? to the Academy of Sciences) and Mynheer Ruysch, the Dutch anatomist, was elected. Halley and Woodward seem to have been considered. "I'm told there was printed last year a book of the eyes and its diseases, announct in Mr. Swift's journal, if you do me the favour to write to me pray lett me know the author's and printer's name that I may send for it."

Ibid. 120. Holograph to Dr. Rutty, 22 March, 1728.

Announces Dr. Gebb's return, charged with a thesis on the lacrymal fistula, 2nd with a piece of my . . . on ye cataract, 3rd the journal des Savants de Paris and the Journal des Trevoux. "'Tis now 16 years since I light on the discovery you mention lately found out by Mr. Chiselden, and I have scholars in France, Germany, Denmark, Sueda, Italy, Savoyes, Switserland, and in England to whom I've given the sd discovery in my dictates on the cataract, which has 7 different wayes of being operated. . . ."

Ibid. 121. Signed, in French to Rutty, May 7, 1729.

Deals with books.

Ibid. 122. Signed to Rutty, undated. Sealed with a Roman emperor's head.

Dr. Nichol's report of my operation of the lachrymal fistule was erroneous "where he utterly made an oversight of the excision or extraction of the lachrymal sack, which is indispensably necessary for the success of this operation as is very precisely specified in Mr. Platner Profssor of Leipsick (formerly my scholar) his thesis sustained at Leipsick. . . ."

Dr. Sherard's *Phil. Letters*, vol. V., not ascribed to Woolhouse, but undoubtedly by him.

No. 46. A letter in French, dated July 6, 1726.

Gives information about Demostenes. "Il faut scavoir que ce Demostenes etait un fameux medecin oculiste de Marseille, sous le Regne de l'empereur Neron." He wrote two large books in Greek on the diseases of the eye.

This letter is addressed in unmistakable Woolhouse script: "To William Sherard LL.D. & Fellow of the Royal Society of England, to be given to Dr. Jacobeuſ, of Denmark, F.R. Society at the sd Dr. Sherard's att London, angleterre, W."

The revised draft of his communication regarding Banister's Breviary (*vide* p. 210) is, I regret to say, not preserved among the archives of the Royal Society.