Notes from Various Sources on 18th Century Virginia Doctors and Medicine
Prior to the establishment of American medical societies and medical journals—

"A number of communications from American physicians and medical societies in Europe, and others in this transatlantic. Perhaps the most notable paper of this series was...

"An Experimental Inquiry into the Properties of Opium" by John Leigh of Virginia, which obtained the Harrison prize in 1786 and was printed at Edinburgh in the following year. It is worth consulting not only for the facts which it records, but for its method of investigation, pursued, which was unusual at that day, theories."


Also same page—

"In this connection also may be mentioned a now and little-known work, being the medical dissertations of the University of Virginia, in 1782, issued by John James, J. B. J. J., in the Medical School of the French Medical College, the subject of, "Anagnia nostrorum, hic medicis philosophia." It is dedicated to Washington, just whom its author was a personal friend, and makes a volume of 103 pages 8vo; printed at Leyden in 1783."

[Signature]
A Catalogue of old and modern Medical and Scientific Books

A Letter, with Prescription, from Dr. Charles Goodall (1642-1712), President of the Royal College of Physicians. See No. 193

BLIGH & Co. (E.W. BLIGH)
SPECIALISTS IN OLD MEDICAL LITERATURE
29, HALLAM STREET, PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON, W.1.
DR. GOODALL'S ADVICE ON A CASE OF SCURVY

(See No. 193).

One of the first books to be consulted by anyone who wishes to obtain information on the history of the Royal College of Physicians, or, for that matter, on the earlier conditions of medical practice in England, is Dr. Charles Goodall's The Royal College of Physicians of London ... and an Historical Account of the College's Proceedings against Empiricks and Unlicensed Practisers, London, 1684. Its Author, Charles Goodall, was born in 1642, and took his M.D. at Cambridge in 1670. He practised in London, became Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1689, was Gulstonian Lecturer in 1685, delivered the Harveian Oration twice, in 1694 and 1709, was Censor in 1697, 1703, 1705 and 1706, and finally President from 1708 to the time of his death in 1712. From 1691 he was also Physician to the Charterhouse. As is well known, Dr. Goodall was the friend and supporter of Sydenham, and it was to him that Sydenham dedicated his Schedula Monititia, 1686. Throughout his life Dr. Goodall proved himself a lover of learning, of the honour both of his profession and of the Royal College of Physicians. "An entire lover of the College, and indefatigable in studying its prosperity, as appears from his works" is the description of him which was set down in the College Annals at the time of his death. Dr. Goodall's full and typical medical career was rounded off and made perfect, as it were, by Dr. Garth's putting him into his poem The Dispensary, under the character of Stentor.

The Royal College of Physicians possesses manuscripts of Dr. Goodall, and there are seven of his letters preserved amongst the Sloane MSS. in the British Museum. It is doubtful whether there is much else now extant from the actual pen of this scholarly physician, and one might hunt in many a library, many a museum, many a bookshop, for a companion to the letter (a mere stray leaf) of which a reproduction is given on the cover of this catalogue. A world of sentiment attaches to this old yellow sheet of paper. Here is Dr. Goodall sitting in his study in Charterhouse, and considering a case of scurvy, about which the husband of his cousin has written for his advice. We see at work a physician who has lived through half the fascinating seventeenth century, not writing for publication, but to do service privately, to a friend. He takes up his pen, the date is (let me see) March 30th, 1708, and we can feel nearly sure that he takes pleasure in the manipulation of his beautiful intricate handwriting. "Your letter," he writes,

"Your letter of the 25th instant I received & am obliged to yr Good Lady & Brother for the encouragement they gave you to write to me being very ready to do you or any of my Relations or Friends the best service I can.

The Case you wrote to me about seems to be highly scorbutilical & for that reason I should advise premissis universalibus the following viz: bleeding once & purging twice with Extract Rud, & Calomel; then to purge 4 times more at due distances with the purging salts dissolved in 2 quarts of Barley water or else made into Posset drink. After these Evacuations have been duly made: Let the Patient wear a Brimstone shirt for 3 weeks; then shift it & wear a second for 3 weeks longer; we course is both cleanly & seldom falles: If the case proves obstinate use ye following Liniment."

Here he gives two prescriptions; with directions also for a Diet Drink, and for what he terms "Antiscorbutick Juices," in which it is noteworthy that he uses lemon. And then, if all this care of his fails, "Tunbridg or Spaw waters or any mild Chalybeate may be very useful in this case... Give my service to my Cousin (yr good Wife)."

He did not suppose that his letter would still be flying about the world in 1922.

E. W. B.