

age of the King?" A. "No, I cannot say that." Q. "Has Dr. Willis ever attended any patients who were blind?" A. "No, I have not."

Dr. Matthew Baillie thinks that, except for a little exacerbation within the last two or three days, his Majesty's bodily health has been little disordered—considers his recovery extremely improbable.

Sir Henry Hallford thinks his Majesty's bodily health by no means good—his mental health extremely disordered; and his recovery very improbable.

Dr. R. D. Willis thinks his Majesty's bodily health better than under all the circumstances of the case might be reasonably expected—the present state of his mental health as bad, or perhaps worse, than at any period of the complaint—considers recovery as extremely improbable—all but impossible—has never attended any patients in a state of mental derangement who were blind.

*Notices and Anecdotes of LITERATI, COLLECTORS, &c. from a MS. by the late MENDES DE COSTA, and collected between 1747 and 1798.*

1. Mr. Baker the Bookseller, in York Street, Covent Garden, informed me that Dr. Mead's Library produced about 5500l.

2. Mr. Buddle's *Horti Sicci* are in the British Museum, also all Petiver's collections, and Mr. Charlton's, alias Courteen, to whom Lister dedicates his "Historia Conchyliorum."

3. Pettyplace Bellers, esq. F. R. S. the remains of his Collection are in the hands of — Ingram, esq. at Northleach, in Gloucestershire, (N. B. MSS. 1747.)

4. The collection of the famous Charles Dubois, esq. remains in the family, viz. in the hands of Peter Uraldo, esq. of Mitcham, in Surrey, (N. B. MSS. about 1760, when I saw it.)

5. Aubrey's Surrey, Vol. II. p. 107, mentions a Mr. Hind, Vicar of Bantstead, in Surrey, who had a collection of Natural and Artificial Curiosities, which his sister sold to Mr. Livingstone, an Apothecary, at Epwaim, for twenty shillings. I enquired about it in 1741, and Mr. Livingstone was dead.

6. Sir Francis St. John, bart. who died in 1756, left his collection by will to his son-in-law Sir John Ber-

nard, Bart. who has not the least taste for virtuosity.

7. Mrs. Kennon (the late Queen Caroline's midwife) died in 1755; her collections were sold at Langford's in 1756.

8. Mr. Sadler died about 1754; all his collections, except his elegant one of coins, were sold at Langford's in April 1757.

The following Collectors and curious Persons are mentioned by Carolus Clusius of Antwerp, in his excellent work "de Exoticis," folio.

ENGLISH.

9. Hugo Morgan, *Serenissimæ Reginae Angliæ Elizabethæ Pharmacopæus*.

10. Richard Garth, *Cancellarius Londinensis Prinerii*.

11. Sir Francis Drake is mentioned; but, what is extremely remarkable, (though Clusius was in England in 1591) neither Sir Walter Raleigh, the great Lord Bacon, or the Tradescants, father and son, (the first Englishmen I know who made professed collections) are any wise noticed by him.

DUTCH.

12. Francis Peninius, Apothecary, at Amsterdam.

13. Emanuel Swerts, citizen of Amsterdam, *diligens in exoticis conquirendis*.

14. Wallichius Syvertz, Apothecary, at Amsterdam.

15. John Rutger, the son, citizen of Amsterdam, *in suo museo variis Conchyliorum generibus ac aliis peregrinis rebus bene instructo*.

16. Peter and Jacobus Garetus, brothers, Apothecaries, at Amsterdam.

17. William Parduy, at Middleburgh.

18. Tobias Roelsius, M. D. at Middleburgh, his museum mentioned.

19. Bernard Paludanus, M. D. of Enckhuysen, *in instructissimo suo museo*.

20. Christian Porretius, Apothecary, at Leyden.

21. Theodore Clutius, Præfect of the Botanic Garden of the University of Leyden.

22. Peter Paaw, head professor of Physick and of Anatomy at Leyden.

23. Henry Hoieri, M. D. of Bergen, Norway.

24. Jacob Plateau, *instructissimo suo museo* of all kinds of curiosities.

25. Simon de Tovar, M. D. a Spaniard, a famous physician.

26. Epho-

26. *Ephemerides Naturæ Curiosorum*, vol. IV. appendix, p. 41, says, that Dr. David Krieg was sent by, and at the expense of, the Royal Society of London, to travel through the British Colonies in America, and make observations.

27. Dr. Isaac Lawson, Physician General to the Army, published, and indeed wrote the greatest part of Cramer's *Ars Docimastica*, and was the first patron and introducer of the celebrated Linné to the learned world, for by his means Linné, as it were, emerged from obscurity, being little countenanced. Dr. Lawson was extremely well skilled in fossils, had an extensive correspondence, especially in Germany, and had made large and elegant collections of fossils. In 1767 I bought a large parcel of his collection, and numbers of specimens his brother gave away and were lost, (MSS. 1 Number 1775.)

28. Counsellor William Franckcombe, an accurate and learned fossilologist, chiefly in *petrefacta*, and had a numerous and well-chosen collection of fossils, was born at Bristol, on the 6th August 1734, and died of an over-fatness, asthma, &c. on the 3d of September 1767. His collections of books, fossils, &c. were sold immediately after his death by Samuel Paterson; Mr. Ingham Foster bought his diary or catalogue and observations on his fossils, a MS.

29. Mr. Richard Guy, Surgeon, (famous for his cure of cancers) died on Sunday 27th September, 1767, of a sudden stroke of the gout in his breast. He was well in the morning, and dead in the evening. He was buried 4th October, 1767. His collections were sold about 1773 by Paterson.

30. Mr. Mark Catesby, author of the excellent and celebrated work, "The Natural History of Carolina," &c. died in December 1749. I compute he was about 70, tall, meagre, hard favoured, and sullen look, and was extremely grave or sedate, and of a silent disposition; but when he contracted a friendship was communicative, and affable. He left a widow, and a son and daughter. He often told me he believed he was descended from the Catesby of Richard III.

31. John Tradescant; for an account of him, his tomb, &c. &c. see *Philosophical Transactions*, vol.

LXIII. pp. 1. 79, art. 12, by Dr. Andrew Ducarel.

32. Henry Baker, esq. F. R. S. F. S. A. &c. born in Tooke's or Quality Court, Chancery Lane, died on Friday Nov. 25, 1774, of a decay of nature, aged 76. He had been confined to his room in an infantile state about two years. He was buried on Tuesday 29th November, 1774, in the New Church yard, in the Strand, near the iron rails next to the Strand, without any tomb stone or memorial over his grave. He married a daughter of the famous Daniel Defoe, and had two sons, who both died before him, and left the son of the youngest his heir, then about 11, under guardianship of his executors — Roycroft, esq. and Mr. English. He was son of a clerk in the Six Clerks' Office, and bound apprentice to a bookseller in Pall Mall. All his loose papers were burnt without mercy by his executors, even to his correspondence, which, though loose, were laid ready for binding in guard books, and only the bound or guard books were preserved.

33. James Parsons, M. D. F. R. S. F. S. A. &c. author of "The Analogy between Animals and Vegetables," "The Remains of Japhet," &c. and some 4to numbers of "A Theatre of Seeds," with figures, and many papers in the *Philosophical Transactions*. Was undoubtedly (but he always denied it) born in Ireland, and of an Irish family; studied at Trinity college, Dublin, and at the University of Paris or Rouen. He died April 4, 1770, aged 65; and most of his collections were sold at Paterson's soon after. A fine and curious collection of seeds and fruits, scientific and perfect. *Gentleman's Magazine* for December, 1780, p. 566, says he was a native of Ireland, was a learned, communicative, and agreeable man, a good anatomist and man-midwife. His last publication was "The Remains of Japhet," in 1767, in 4to. He was buried at Hendon, 17 days after his decease. A portrait of him, by Mr. Wilson, is now in the British Museum; another, left unfinished, is possessed by his widow. He was married many years, had only a boy, who died young, *i. e.* six or seven years old, to the great grief of the Dr. and his Lady.

34. Mr. Peter Collinson died in August

August 1768, aged 75. Dr. Fothergill wrote a tract of his life, and gave a print of him. London Magazine for January 1776, has a very good portrait, and like him; says (and I have made additions) he was great grandson of Peter Collinson, who lived on his paternal estate called Hugal Hall, near Windermere Lake, ten miles from Kendal in Westmoreland, born in 1693. Dr. Derham, Dr. Woodward, Mr. Dale, Sir Hans Sloane, Mr. Catesby, Mr. Dubois, &c. &c. were his acquaintance. Elected F. R. S. December 12, 1728. A mercer by trade, at the Red Lion, in Gracechurch Street. F. S. A. from its first institution. Died at Lord Petre's, at Thorndon, of a total suppression of urine.

35. Mr. Charles Dubois died between 1735 and 1740, very aged. His heirs were Mr. Waldo, who married his niece, and her sister. Was a great and celebrated botanist, and had an excellent botanic garden to his house on the upper green, where the fair is kept, at Mitcham, in Surrey. He had collections of shells, fossils, &c. of which I saw some at Mr. Waldo's, junior, about 1760.

36. Mr. George Edwards died about 1778.

37. Cromwell Mortimer, M. D. died January 1752 of a dropsy. Many years secretary to the R. S. and was succeeded on the 5th February following, by ballot, by the Rev. Thomas Birch, D. D. (against Gawin Knight, M. B.) and held it till 1765.

38. Mr. Salter, founder of Saltero's Coffee House at Chelsea, and of the collections there. Notice of him is taken by Sir Richard Steele, in his *Tatlers*; viz. No. 34, in vol. I. His Daughter, Mrs. Hall, continued in it till about 1758 or 1759, when others took it, who made a catalogue, and still keep the curiosities carefully. 1781.

39. John Hill died about 1776, well known for his many voluminous and mostly incorrect writings; there is a fine and good folio print of him.

(To be continued.)

MR. URBAN, March 3.

THERE cannot be a doubt that in a country where the descent of real and personal property is governed

by established rules of legal consanguinity, the faithful preservation of records of baptisms, marriages, and burials, ought to be held as an object of the highest importance in the contemplation of the Legislature; and the neglect with which such records have been treated, and the mischiefs consequent on that negligence, are so notorious and evident; that there are few persons who have seriously turned their thoughts to the subject, who will doubt the necessity of a speedy and vigorous remedy. And I must confess I am astonished to find a Clergyman of the Church of England (p. 149) speaking of the obligation of an oath, to verify the fidelity of his discharge of his duty in the office of registrar, as a degradation of the Clerical character, and levelled him with lower orders of persons on whom oaths are necessary to be imposed; for this would imply that oaths are fit only to bind the vicious and ignorant, and are an insult to the virtuous, the intelligent, and enlightened. But I heartily agree with him that it would be an affront not only to the Church Establishment, but to common sense, to make the bare declaration of a Dissenting minister an equal legal test of veracity with the oath of a minister of the Church of England; for it is in direct hostility to the true principles of toleration to establish such a distinction; and however salutary might be the general provisions of a bill for better regulating parish registers, I must confess, I should wish to see it perish if it must inevitably be loaded with an enactment so invidious.

As one proof, however, that something is really wanting for the better preservation of parochial registers, I send for insertion in your Magazine a part of the pedigree of the family of South\*, of Kelsterne, in Lincolnshire, many of the proofs upon which are taken from the register of Kelsterne (a village about seven miles from Louth), which register, about five or six years ago, I found in the possession of the Rector of Weldon, in Northamptonshire, who told me it came into his hands with the registers of the parish of Weldon. T. B.

\* This shall appear in our next. EDIT.