I think that it will be conceded by those who have studied
the rise of ophthalmology in this country, that the eighteenth
century par excellence was the heyday of ophthalmic quackery.
The names of Sir William Read, of Roger Grant, and of the
Chevalier Taylor will occur to all; the first two, unblushing
humbugs, with no education of any sort and no medical qualifica-
tion of any kind; and Taylor, a prince of humbugs, albeit bred
a surgeon; no fool, with a good deal of special knowledge, but
a charlatan and a pastmaster in the art of self-advertisement.

This paper deals with a man who belongs to an earlier age, the
seventeenth century, when medicine generally was only just
emerging from the astrological period. It is a remarkable fact
that he was not only a properly qualified medical man, but also
a member of an ancient English family; records of which go back
to the days of King John, if not earlier still; branches of which
were settled in various counties. The name would appear to have
been adapted by Thomas Hardy in his "Tess of the D'Urber-
villes." John Durbeyfield boasting of his ancestors in the church
at Kingsbere in saying: "There's not a man in the county of South-Wessex that's got grander and nobler skillentons in his family than I," is presumably referring to the Turbervilles of Bere Regis in Dorset. Mr. Hardy is in error in making Parson Tringham state that "their names appear in the Pipe rolls in the time of King Stephen," for there is a sad break in the series of these rolls from the last of Henry the First to the second of Henry the Second; and the rolls for Stephen's reign, if they ever existed, are no longer among the Public Records of the Kingdom.

Dawbigney Turberville was a son of George Turberville, gent, of Wayford, County Somerset. In Collinson's History of that county will be found quite a number of early references to the Turberville family; thus, William de Turberville was Sheriff of the county in 1256-57; Sir Richard de Turberville, Sheriff, 1356-57; Sir John de Turberville, Sheriff, 1487; while Henry de Turberville, in the seventeenth of King John, had wardship of Nicholas Fitz-Martin of Chewton; and William de Turberville, in the fifteenth of Henry the Sixth, was holding a third part of the manor of Moreton in the same county. In the forty-seventh of Edward the Third, Cicely Beauchamp of Shepton-Beauchamp married as her second husband, Richard Turberville of Bere Regis, and bore on her seal "checky," the arms of Turberville. In the Testa de Nevill the name will be found in connection with the counties of Hereford, Warwick and Leicester, and Berkshire. Dawbigney was of Oriel College, Oxford, matriculating November 7, 1634, aged 19 years. He took his B.A., October 19, 1635; his M.A., July 17, 1640; and his M.D., August 7, 1660.[n]

We next hear of him serving as a combatant for the King at the siege of Exeter in 1646. When the city was captured by Fairfax he quitted the military life and settled at Wayford.

The chief account of Dr. Turberville is to be found in Walter Pope's "Life of Seth Ward, Bishop of Salisbury," 1697. In this scarce book a whole chapter (number 16, of Dr. Turberville) is devoted to our Salisbury oculist, and from it I have abstracted most of what follows in a somewhat abridged form. Turberville cured the writer, Pope, who says: "It was he who twice rescued me from blindness, which without his aid had been unavoidable, when both my eyes were so bad, that with the best I could not perceive a letter in a book, not my hand with the other, and grew worse and worse every day."

Turberville was born in 1612 of an old-English family, "there being in the church of Beer only, the tombs of no less than fifteen Knights of that name, as I have been credibly informed, but I confess I have not seen them." His mother was a Dawbigney, and it was upon her advice, according to Pope, that the son took up the study of eye diseases at the University.
While besieged at Exeter he and a friend ran in debt £100 each, "in chalk behind the door; he told me that his landlord came into their chamber, leading his daughter by the hand, and courteously proffered to cancel the debts of either of us who should marry her." Turberville "valiantly resisted this temptation and chose rather to pay his debts in ready money, which he did shortly after; the other accepted the terms, and had his wife's portion presently paid him, *viz.*, his scores wiped out with a wet dishclout."

The articles allowed the garrison of Exeter to return to their dwellings; he went to Wayford and married, but had no children. He began practice at Wayford and Crookhorn (Crewkerne), but got so busy that he moved to London. The city air not suiting him he finally settled in Salisbury; "thence he made several journeys to London. Once he was sent for by the Duchess of York to cure the Princess of Denmark (Queen Anne), then a child, labouring under a dangerous inflammation in her eyes, and a breaking out in her face the cure for which had been attempted in vain by the Court fysicians." These despised Turberville, looking on him as a country quack. He had a quarrel with them, refused to meet them in consultation and won the day. The Duke and Duchess asked him to undertake the case, which he did successfully. The Duke ordered him a fee of £600, but he appears to have received only half that amount. "Many years afterwards he was called up again by one of the greatest and ancientest Peers of this Kingdom, to whom, after having attentively inspected his eye, he spoke after this manner: 'My Lord, I might bear you in hand,' a western frase, signifying to delay or keep in expectation, 'and feed you with promises, or at least hopes, that I should cure you in some competent time, and so cause your Lordship to be at great expence to no purpose; I cannot cure you, and I believe no man in England can.' The Earl answered, 'Such and such will undertake it for a hundred pounds.' To which the doctor replied, 'I have so great an honour for your Lordship, and so much wish for your welfare, that I will joyfully give a hundred guineas out of my own purse to the person who shall restore your sight in that eye. I confess I am not able to cure it, but I can reduce it to a better figure.'"

Turberville was no boaster, "he generally prescribed to all, shaving their heads and taking tobacco, which he had often known to do much good, and never any harm to the eyes. Far from covetous, he cured the poor gratis, and received from others what they pleased to give him, never, that I knew, making any bargain for so much in hand, and the rest when the cure is perfected, as some do." Pope could never force anything on him for his medicines and extraordinary care, unless it were a cane, a tobacco-box or some new book. "He has cured several who were born
blind, but I do not look upon that as so great a thing; for the cure of such, if curable, for there are several sorts of cataracts uncurable, consists wholly in this, viz., in knowing when the connate cataract is fit to be couched, in having a steady hand, and skill to perform that operation, to be able to prevent, or at least, remove the pains which usually follow, and sometimes kill the patient; but to reduce fallen and inverted eyelids to their proper place and tone, to cure inveterate ulcers, and inflammations of a blackish colour, requires a consummate artist. *Hic labor, hoc opus est.*

Patients came from all over the country and even from abroad; one is mentioned from Jamacia; she was cured but died of smallpox before she could return to her home. It was good business for the City of Salisbury; his patients "being lodged in inns and private houses through all quarters of the city: one could scarce peep out of doors, but have a prospect of some led by boys or women, others with bandages over one or both eyes, and yet a greater number wearing green silk upon their faces, a stranger might have reported the air of Salisbury to be as pernicious to the eyes as that of Orleans is to the nerves, where almost one-third of the inhabitants are lame."

Tales of two patients are next related. In one, a countryman with a bloodshot eye consulted Turberville, who, after inspection, told the man that the inflamed eye was the best of the two. The man vowed that he could see equally well with either eye, but on the inflamed eye being covered, found that he could see nothing with the other and exclaimed: "I am blind in it, tho' to all the rest who were there, it seemed a good eye." In the second case, a man came with a protuberant eye, which could not be contained within the lids and seemed to be like a piece of raw flesh. Dr. Turberville "placed him in a chair and with a pair of scissors cut large gobbets, the blood trickling down his cheeks in abundance, and yet he seemed no more concerned, than if it had been a barber cutting his hair. I was surprised at his behaviour and said to one of the bystanders, 'without doubt this is a married man otherwise 'twere impossible he should be so patient'; which he overhearing in the midst of his torment burst into a loud laughter, and replied, 'No indeed, I am but a batchelor.'"

Dr. Turberville left his estate between a niece of his wife's and his sister Mary Turberville, "who now practises in London with good reputation and success. She has all her brother's receipts, and having seen his practice during many years knows how to use them. For my part I have so good an opinion of her skill that should I again be afflicted with sore eyes, which God forbid, I would rely upon her advice rather than upon any pretenders or professors in London or elsewhere."
Lest any should be surprised at Mary Turberville taking on the practice I may remind readers that Sir William Read's widow carried on his business after his death at Durham Yard, Strand.\(^{3}\) Pope's chapter ends as follows:

*Adieu my dear friend, a rivederci, till we meet and see one another again with eyes which will never stand in need of a collyrium.* Appended is the following epitaph:

M.S.

Near this place, lies interred the most expert and successful oculist that ever was, perhaps that ever will be,

DR. DAWBIGNY TURBERVILLE.

Descended from two families of those names, than which there are few more ancient and noble. During the Civil War he bore arms for the King. After the surrender of Exeter he lived at Wayford and Crookhorn; but those towns not affording conveniences to his numerous patients he removed to London, intending to settle there, but not having his health he left it and lived in Salisbury more than 30 years, doing good to all, and being beloved by all. His great fame caused multitudes to flock to him, not only from all parts of this Kingdom, but also from Scotland, Ireland, France, and America. He died April 21st, 1696, in the 85th year of his age. And left his estate betwixt his only sister and niece, at whose expenses this monument was erected.

Doctor Walter Pope wrote this epitaf to perpetuate his gratitude, and the memory of his friend and benefactor.

The Philosophical Transactions

In the fourteenth volume of the *Philosophical Transactions*, page 81, will be found two letters from that experienced oculist, Dr. Turberville of Salisbury to Mr. William Musgrave, S.P.S., of Oxon, containing several remarkable cases in physic, relating chiefly to the eyes. The first letter, dated London, August 4,
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1684, runs: "The disease which in some late discourse with you I named bursa oculi or the pouch of the eye, was a bag without matter in it, like an empty purse on the white of the eye under the upper lid. It hung flag about the length of a thumb nail. Another person had no visible disease in his eyes, but could not see at all unless he squeezed his nose with his fingers, or saddled it with narrow spectacles, and then saw very well; him I carried to Mr. Boyle as a fit subject for so great a philosopher to make his remarks on.

A maid, 22 or 23 years old, came to me from Banbury, who could see very well but no colour beside black and white. She had such scintillations by night with the appearance of bulls, bears, etc., as terrified her very much; she could see to read sometimes in the greatest darkness for almost a quarter of an hour."

The second letter, dated Sarum, October 5, 1684, runs: "A saddler's daughter of Burford had an imposthume which broke in the corner of one of her eyes, out of which came about thirty stones, splendid, and as large as pearls.

"A person in Salisbury had a piece of iron or steel stuck in the iris of the eye which I endeavoured to push out with a small spatula, but could not; but on applying a loadstone it immediately jumped out.

"Another person had for a long time been troubled with a great pain and convulsions in his cheek; you might cover the place where the pain was with a penny; the convulsions drew his mouth, face, and eye aside: he had used many things prescribed him by physicians and surgeons, but to no purpose. I applied a cupping glass to the place with fired flax in it; then scarified and cupped him again; after which I put on a plaster of diapalma, and he was perfectly cured. I was consulted by a maid who had a pustule broke in her eye out of which there came fine small sand, like chalk, for many weeks together. By the use of purging, fumigation, and some tonics, she recovered her sight in a very great measure."

In volume 15, page 109, will be found some observations on the practice of physic by Dr. Turberville, of Salisbury.

"A gentlewoman was much troubled with falling sickness; in her water I saw a great number of short worms full of legs, and like millepedes; I gave her two or three purges, first with pil. agaric. and rhubarb, but still perceived in every water that was brought to me eight, ten, or more of the worms. They appeared lively and full of motion, and the fits continued daily. At last I gave her half an ounce of oxymel helleboratum in tansy water, which wrought well and was successful, so that she had a complete cure.
Turberville of Salisbury

"About six or seven years since I had a gentm. (Mr. Oyliff) in cure for his eye, which was as large as my fist, black and fleshy, and full of bluish bladders, this I judged to be a cancer. After bleeding and purging I cut out the ball and ulcered flesh by many cuts, which were all insensible to him, till I came to the optic nerve; at the last cut he complained, and bled a little; the wound was healed in about a fortnight; he now wears a black patch over the place. Not long after this a young man had an eye as large as a hen's egg, very fair, without blemish, rheum, or redness, and his sight was pretty tolerable. I judged these symptoms to proceed from thin humours fallen on the eye and distending its coats. I cured this distemper by applying drying medicines to the head and eyes, and making an issue in nucha. Appello morbum oculorum bovinum, sive oculi hydropem."

Turberville deserves to be remembered for his use of the magnet in removing foreign bodies from the eye. Hirschberg points out that the word iris here does not mean that the foreign body was actually in the globe, but that it was embedded in the cornea at the limbus. Of the other cases described in these letters it is impossible to be sure, but the last case would seem to be a case of buphthalmos, while it has been suggested to me that the thirty stones may conceivably have come from a dermoid. The case of total colour blindness is interesting. I surmise that Mr. Oyliff may have had an old staphylomatous eye.

On June 22, 1668, Pepys notes in his diary, "My business was to meet Mr. Boyle, which I did, and discoursed about my eyes: and he did give me the best advice he could, but refers me to one Turberville of Salisbury, lately come to town, who I will go to."

"June 23, to Dr. Turberville about my eyes, whom I met with: and he did discourse, I thought, learnedly about them; and takes time before he did prescribe me anything, to think of it.

"June 29, to Dr. Turberville's, and there did receive a direction for some physic, and also a glass of something to drop into my eyes: he gives me hopes that I may do well.

"July 3, to an alehouse: met Mr. Pierce, the surgeon, and Dr. Clerke, Waldron, Turberville, my physician for the eyes, and Lowe, to dissect several eyes of sheep and oxen, with great pleasure, and to my great information. But strange that this Turberville should be so great a man, and yet to this day had seen no eyes dissected, or but once, but desired this Dr. Lowe to give him the opportunity to see him dissect some.

"July 5, about four in the morning took four pills of Dr. Turberville's prescribing for my eyes, and I did get my wife to spend the morning reading of Wilkins's Reall Character."

*Dr. Ernest Thomson writes to me suggesting that the case of bursa oculi may have been a dacryops or the remains of such a cystic structure.
Turberville married Ann, daughter of the Rev. James Ford of Hawkchurch, Dorsetshire; he lies buried in the nave of Salisbury Cathedral, and has the following inscription on a mural tablet on the west wall; under a shield of arms given below:

S.M.

D'AUBUGNY TURBERVILLE M.D. et Annae uxoris carissimae
Haec Stemmate Religione, spectabili progenata
Jacobi Ford Ecclesie de Hawchurch Dorcestriae Comitatu
Pastoris vigilantissimi filia:
Optimo marito uxor optima,
Cui Pietas, Prudentia, aliaque omnes Virtutes
Pare summeque dilecto.
Ille ex utraque Prosapia illustri pariter et antiqua oriundus,
Weyfordiae agro Somersetensi natus
Dei cultor sincerus & assiduus, Egenis largus, Universis
Amicus facete comis et beneficus;
Denique grande Probitatis exemplar emicuit;
Caeterum OPTHALMIAE Scientia adeo praecelluit,
Ut IPSE, solus ab omni terrarum parte, Pulchre notus fuerit et celebratus
Cujus Fama hoc Marmore perennior nunquam peribit.

The shield of arms is as follows: ermine, a lion rampant gules crowned or, for fesse in chief a greyhound courant and in base an owl within a bordure engrailed argent and sable, all countercharged. (N.B.—The owl has at some time or other been painted wrongly gold.)

His will was proved in London, May 14, 1696. The abstract is as follows:

DAWBENEY TURBERVILLE of the Close of the Canons of the Cathedrall Church of Sarum, co. Wilts. Doctor in Phisicke. (P.C.C., Bond 82). June 24, 1695. To be buried in Cathedrall as near my wife as can bee. To Anne Bragg of New Sarum, widow, £150. To Edmund Turberville living near Apothecaries Hall in London, gent. £100. To Sister-in-law, Mary Minterne of Crewkerne, co. Somersett, widow, £100. To Godson Turberville Bonvile, £100. To the brothers and sisters of said Turberville Bonvile, £10 each. To ——— Bonvile, spinster, aunt to said Turberville Bonvile, £20. To Godson Dawbenev Bentley, £10, and one of my largest silver tankards. To Cosen Anne Davies of City of London spinster, £50. To the eldest daughter of Captain James Bale of Crewkerne, £10. To Cosen Mary Davies...
£10 to buy her mourning. To Robert Sayer, son of Israel Sayer, of the City of London, widow (sic, but it presumably means that Israel was dead) and his heirs for ever my right of presentation and advowson of the Church of Weyford near Crewkerne and if he shall be educated at the University of Oxford then to have £50 towards his expenses. To the servants now living with me, viz.—Christopher Hellyer, Elizabeth Hewlett, and Mary Braden, £10 each if with me when I die. My term of years in a house in Sarum Close leased me by the Vicars Chorall of the Cathedral to my sister Mary Turbervile of the City of London and to Frances Davis of the said Close of Sarum and now living with me, joyntly and to the longest liver of them. But if after my death the said Mary Turbervile shall ever lodge, harbour or in any manner entertain either by day or night one named Catherine Eller (or whatever she may be named) formerly living in the said Close of Sarum, then the said Mary to have no advantage in her moiety of the said house. To the poor of the Parish of Weyford aforesaid £100 to be laid out in lands. To the Poor of the Close of Sarum(?) to be dispersed amongst them by the Dean and Canons Resident. To the Poor of each Parish of New Sarum, £5. Residue to said Mary Turbervile and Frances Davis, and they to be executrixes. My friends Thomas Turbervile of Beer Regis, co. Dorset, esqre., Richard Barnaby the elder of Ambersbury, Wilts., gent, and William (?) Burner of Bemeston, Wilts., gent., to be trustees and supervisors to assist said executrixes and for their trouble to have £10 each.

Witnesses: Hampton Jay, Anne Haskett, Mary Davis, John Wells.

The amount at which the estate was sworn is not given; at this date it very rarely is.

Frances Davis married a man named Blackborow, of the Close. She died October 11, 1716, aged 55 years.

Dr. Turbervile occupied a house near the St. Anne Street Gate, the third house on the north side of the road from it. One of the Canons of Salisbury lives there now; it has a very fine ceiling in the drawing-room with the crest of the Cecils: it is supposed to be the crest of Lord Burleigh.

I cannot offer any probable explanation of the old man’s rooted antipathy to Catherine Eller; let us hope that she was only one of his dissatisfied patients. Nor can I account for the two different coats of arms, checky in the reign of Edward the Third and as given on the monument. Burke’s General Armory gives: Ford, of Chagford, Ashburton, Bagtor and Nutwell, co., Devon, supposed by Prince to be descended from Forde of Fordemore in Moreton-Hampstead. Per fesse argent and sable, within a bordure engrailed, in chief, a greyhound courant, in base an owl, all countercharged; while from Papworth’s Ordinary of Armorials we get: Argent, a lion rampant, gules (among many others). Hugh de Torbervile (A) Harl. MSS. 6137. Turevil (D) Turbervile, (E) de Turbervile, (F) Vandernot, co. Lincoln. The
A. D. E. F. refer to the rolls in the Harleian MSS. in which the coats are found.

I like to imagine the old man "when the bell till'd, to use the Salisbury frase, to evening prayers," sitting in his seat in the Cathedral—

"Where through the long-drawn aisle and fretted vault
The pealing anthem swells the note of praise."

listening to the longwinded sermons of perhaps his friend Bishop Seth Ward, and pondering maybe on some of the illustrious figures of the past connected with the City and Cathedral. Of William of the Long Sword, the warrior Earl of Salisbury; and Bishop Roger, the Grand Justiciar, who, on the authority of Bishop Stubbs, owed his rise to favour and his place in the confidence of Henry the First, to the expeditious way in which he got through divine service; and wishing probably that his successors in the throne at Salisbury had followed his example in this respect.

In conclusion I must express my best thanks to Miss Targett of Salisbury and to Mr. J. J. Hammond, Clerk to the Dean and Chapter for much assistance, particularly to Mr. Hammond for references and much local help; to my brother, the hon. Librarian of Southwell Cathedral, for the heraldic notes and to Mr. Gibbons for the abstract of the will.

REFERENCES


REPORT ON THE CASES OF GLIOMA RETINAE TREATED AT THE ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL DURING THE YEARS 1915-1924

by

R. C. DAVENPORT
MOORFIELDS RESEARCH SCHOLAR

In 1890 Lawford and Collins published in the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital Reports (Volume XIII) a review of the cases of glioma retinae treated in the hospital from the year 1871. This record has been kept up by Marshall (Volume XIV), Owen (Volume XVI), Berrisford (Volume XX) bringing it to the year 1915. The following paper brings it up to 1924.

During the 10 years, 1915-1924, there were 27 cases of glioma retinae treated in the hospital. All these were proved by microscopic examination, and they bring the total since 1871 to 163.