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978-1-107-45378-4 - The Endeavour of Jean Fernel: With a List of the Editions of his Writings

Sir Charles Sherrington

Frontmatter

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THE
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Obverse of the Fernel-Paré Medal, struck in the eighteenth century.

[Fig. 11.]

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BY

SIR CHARLES SHERRINGTON, O.M.



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To

E. N. DA C. ANDRADE, F.R.S.

**gratefully for his interest
in this brief study**

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UNIVERSITY PRESS**

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Preface

Prefacing this small volume let me thank those who in one way or another have helped its preparation: Professor E. N. da C. Andrade, Mr Angus and Professor Dean, Master of Trinity Hall, Professor D. Denny-Brown of Harvard University, Professor Munro Fox, F.R.S., Dr John Fulton, Sterling Professor at Yale, Mr E. P. Goldsmidt, Professor Laignel-Lavastine of Paris, Professor Gilbert Murray, Professor F. M. Powicke, Dr V. Scholderer of the British Museum, Professor A. Souter, F.B.A., and not least, Regius Professor W. W. Buckland, Mr Henry Deas, and Mr Eric Blackall, of this College. Professor Andrade has read the text through and given me his comments. In the appended list of editions of Fernel I have had the advantage of consultation with Professor John Fulton and with Dr H. M. Sinclair, bibliographers whose shelves are especially rich in editions of Fernel. I have further consulted a number of librarians whom I would here thank; among them Mr H. M. Adams, Trinity College Library, Cambridge, Mr Thomas Graham, Royal College of Physicians' Library, Edinburgh, Mr Philip Grierson, Librarian of Gonville and Caius College, the Librarian of the Hunterian Collection, University of Glasgow, Mr G. F. Home, Royal Society of Medicine, London, Mr Le Fanu, Royal College of Surgeons of England, Mr H. W. Robinson of the Royal Society Library, Mr Scholfield and his staff of the University Library, Cambridge, Dr W. D. Simpson, University of Aberdeen, Dr H. Thomas, F.B.A., Keeper of Printed Books in the British Museum.

The book had its origin in a Thomas Vicary Lecture I was privileged to give at the Royal College of Surgeons, London. The theme is an old-time reform of Medicine, outstanding in its own sixteenth century, though not one of those commanding developments of knowledge such as were to transform Medicine and Surgery in a later age. Its author was perhaps the most learned and considered physician of his century, but he condemned the self-complacency

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PREFACE

of the orthodox Medicine of the time, and its belief that the Golden Age of Medicine had at last arrived. Not so he. He repudiated two systems of learning which, appealing to magic and the occult, eked out and smoothed over the failures and misadventures of Medicine. He taught that the best assured ground of Medicine is the universality of 'natural law'. In that he was a reformer, and is a factor in the creation of our Medicine of to-day.

C. S. S.

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