

NOTES FROM BOOKS

Materia Medica Botanica;
in Qua Symptomata Variorum Morborum G. Knowles.

Londini:

Typis Guil. Bowyer: Prostant apud Guil. Lewis Bibliopolum in
 vico dicto Russel Street, Covent Garden. MDCCXXIII.

W. O.'s Note. (in back of book).

3 Grant Edin.

Portrait missing.

No biographical details in D.M.B. not in S.G.L. not
 in Bodley! It seems scarce. I have not seen an account
 before and I have been on the look out for several years.

Note on Fly leaf by W. O.

Very little known of Knowles. Pultenay on Hist. &
 Biogr. Sketches of the Progress of Botany 1790 I. 282 says
 "In our own country George (sic) Knowles described 400 plants
 of the materia medica in Latin verse, and didactically applied
 them to their use in medicine". Nichols in "Illustrations"
 of the Lit. Hist. of the 18th. cent. Vol. VIII gives the above
 quotation and adds from Noble's Granger III. 305 "I cannot
 discover any traces of this Botanist and Poet either in Cibber's
 "Lives of the Poets" or in Hutchinsons Biographica Medica, or
 indeed in any other of our biographical works. The name Knowles
 is known in Kent, but whether he was of that county I am unable
 to determine".

In Bodley. Letters to Thomas Hearne Vol. 7. p. 137 is:

Proposals for Printing by Subscription a Book entitled
 Materia Medica Botanica, in which the symptoms of the several
 diseases are given and the herbs proper for them both of foreign
 and of our own growth are set down. The foreign plants are
 described, being in number above four hundred. Several episodes
 are interwoven for the embellishment thereof. The whole work
 consists of about 8,000 Latin Hexameters.

This follows the quotation from Virgil which is on the

title page (Scire potestates Herbarum, usumque Medendi
 Maluit & mutas agitare inglorious artes.)
 Virg. Aeneid., 12. V.396.
 and it is signed G. Knowles, and dated at the top, London, Oct.
 10, 1710.

There are 8 large quarto leaves. On p.2. are three state-
 ments about the publication: $\frac{1}{2}$ guinea at time of subs. $\frac{1}{2}$ at
 time of delivery in sheets. Subscribers to six copies to have
 a seventh. No more are to be printed than subscribed for. Names
 of subscribers to be printed. Subs. to be taken by James Woodman,
 Covent Garden.

On margins and bottom of p. 8 a p. letter to Hearne dated
 Nov. 12th. 1720 in which he invites the honour of his subscription
 and refers to H.'s edition of Gualielmus Nerburgenius "which makes
 a glittering show" and says that many eminent physicians have
 subscribed as Mead^r and Freind. The ~~Prose~~^{Latin} together with the
Pestes section and the Epilogue are printed.

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In Botley. Letters to Thomas Hearne Vol. V. p. 137 let

Proposals for printing by subscription a book entitled
 Materia Medica botanica, in which the symptoms of the several
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 and of our own growth are set down. The foreign plants are
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