

## CENTENARIES

## Baker, George (1540-1600)

GEORGE BAKER, an English surgeon, was born in 1540. He was a member of the Barber Surgeon's Company and was elected its master in 1597. He had considerable practice in London and was the family physician of the Earl of Oxford.

## HIS PUBLICATIONS

His first book, the *Composition or making of the most excellent precious oil called oleum magistrale and the third book of Galen; a method of curing wounds and of the errors of surgeons* saw a second edition in 1599. His *Antidotarie of select medicine* was published in 1579.

## ADVOCACY OF THE MOTHER-TONGUE

Baker was an enthusiastic defender of the use of the mother-tongue for writing books on learned subjects. He translated many treatises from Latin. He advocated free translation. "If it were not permitted to translate but word for word, then I say, away with all translations".

## TECHNICAL TERMS

At the same time he insisted on the adoption of Latin technical terms, a fact which must be of value to the controversy that now prevails in our land over the "coining" of technical terms in the mother-tongue. "As for the names of the simples, I thought it good to write them as they were."

## Walter, Thomas (1740-1789)

THOMAS WALTER, an early American botanist, was born in Hampshire, England, in 1740. He was a man of considerable education. As a young man he emigrated to South Carolina and lived throughout the revolutionary period and its turbulent internecine local warfare the life of a gentleman farmer on the banks of the Santee River.

## FLORA OF CAROLINE

Throughout his short life, botany was his absorbing avocation. It has been stated that it was his "devotion to the cause of science (that) led him to the wilds of Carolina". It explains his assiduous study of the flora of Carolina, his painstaking analysis of a majority of the species sought out, his laborious preparation of an erudite flora of the region and the formation of a botanical garden upon his estate.

## FLORA CAROLINIANA

Walter's *Flora* (1788) is a volume of 263 pages, describing more than 1,000 species distributed among 435 genera. More than 200 of the species and 32 of the genera were described as new. It was based upon studies of specimens collected within a radius of fifty miles from his plantation. The nomenclature follows the binomial system.

## WALTER HERBARIUM

It was John Fraser that published the *Flora*. Fraser carried to England not only the manu-

script of the *Flora* but also the Walter Herbarium. The herbarium remained in the hands of the Fraser family till 1849, when it was presented to the Linnean Society of London. In 1863 it was purchased by the Natural History Section of the British Museum for 15 shillings.

Walter died at his home, January 17, 1789.

## Haygarth, John (1740-1822)

JOHN HAYGARTH, an English physician, was born at Garsdate, Yorkshire, in 1740. He graduated M.B. at Cambridge in 1766 and immediately thereafter became physician to the Chester Infirmary. In 1798 he retired from this occupation and established practice at Bath.

## FIRST ADVOCATE OF ISOLATION HOSPITALS

Haygarth devoted considerable thought to fevers and was one of the first to distinguish them by their periods of incubation. In a paper entitled *Observations on the population and diseases of Chester in 1774*, published in the "Philosophical transactions" of 1778 he advocated the removal of persons seized with fever to separate fever-wards, spacious and dry. His rules for such fever-wards and for preventing the spread of infection in private houses were of a pioneer nature.

## ADVOCATES INOCULATION

In 1784, that is, even before Jenner's discovery of vaccination, he published *An enquiry how to prevent smallpox* and in 1793 he published in two volumes *A sketch of a plan to exterminate the causal smallpox, and to introduce general inoculation*.

## HIS PUBLICATIONS

Haygarth was a prolific writer; he wrote many other books and contributed several papers to scientific journals. His *Synopsis pharmacopœia Londoniensis* (1810) and his tract *On the imagination as a cause and as a cure of disorders of the body* (1880) are of particular interest.

Haygarth died at Bath, June 10, 1822.

## Cleland, James (1770-1840)

JAMES CLELAND, a Scottish statistician, was a native of Glasgow. He began life as a cabinet-maker and became superintendent of public works in London. His name is of interest to-day as that of one who was the first official Census Commissioner in the United Kingdom. In 1819 he took the first census of Glasgow and repeated the work in 1821 and 1831. This gave him an intimate knowledge of Glasgow and led to his writing several books on the city. The two of them which are of historical interest to a student of statistics are the *Enumeration of the inhabitants of Glasgow* (1832) and the *Historical account of bills of mortality and the probability of human life in Glasgow and other large towns* (1836).

S. R. RANGANATHAN,