

Further Notes on The History of the Life of Thomas Ellwood

Walter Ellwood as Justice of the Peace

IN addition to the two marriages performed by Walter Ellwood noted in Vol. xxxv, I have found two more in the Pyrton Registers (Phillimore, Oxford Parish Registers, 1909).

“ John Yeates, of Pyrton and Dorothy Crook, of Kingstone, were married the 15 of May, 1654, by Walter Ellwood, Esq., there being present John Yeates aforesaid, and William Crook, father of Dorothy, the same marriage having been published three sabbath days in both parishes. Marmaduke Price of Pirton, and Mary Burrows, both of the same parish, were married the 30 of May, 1635, by me, Walter Elwood, Esq., and the said Marmaduke Price and Mary Burrows were published three several days and no objection made against them according to the Act set forth in that behalf.”

There is also a note in these registers under the date 30 May, 1654. “ John Pophlee came before me, Walter Elwood, Esq., this day and hath taken his oath to perform the office of a Register [i.e. Registrar] within the parish of Pirton, in the County of Oxon, and that he will truly and faithfully enter in writing the births of children and burials of all sorts of persons, and the names of every of them, and days of the moneth and year of the publication of marriages and also the solemnization thereof. W. A. Elwood.” [sic.] Walter's name also occurs among the commissioners for Oxford attached to the Ordnance for ejecting scandalous, ignorant and insufficient Ministers & schoolmasters, 28th August, 1654.

Lucatellu's Balsam.

I take the following information about the remedy which Ellwood had with him “ in a little gally-pot ” in Bridewell

from C. J. S. Thompson's *Quacks of Old London*, published by Brentanos, 1928, and from Louis Trenchard More's *Life of Isaac Newton*, published by Scribners, 1934.

Lucatellu's or Lucatelli's Balsam "contained Venice Turpentine, Olive oil and Spanish wine washed in Rosewater, Red Sandal-wood or Dragon's blood" (this is not a mythical ingredient, but *Calamus draco*, still used for colouring medicines), "and Balsam of Peru. It was taken internally in wine and used externally for burns and wounds. Originated by an Italian, it was much in demand in London in the XVIIth century, and was sold by Charles Peter who lived in St. Martin's Lane, over against the sign of the Castle." Its uses were legion. "For the measell, plague or small-pox a half an ounce in a little broth; . . . and against poison and the biting of a mad dog; for the last you must dip lint and lay it upon the wounds beside taking it internally. There are other virtues of it; for wind, cholic, anoint the stomach, and so for bruises." It was also good for lung trouble, and this is probably why Thomas had bought it, as he "soon began to droop" in the city air. On the bad air of London, Arthur Bryant notes in his *England of Charles II*, published by Longmans, 1934, p. 18: "Between (the city) and the sky visitors frequently noted a pall of smoky vapour, arising from the furnaces of the brewers, soap-boilers and dyers, who, unhindered by State or Corporation, carried on their trades in its heart. Evelyn the most fastidious observer of his day, wrote indignantly of the 'horride smoke which obscures our churches and makes our palaces look old, which fouls our clothes and corrupts the waters'. In winter this coal vapour sometimes descended on the streets in a blanket of fog, so that 'horses ran against each other, carts against carts, coaches against coaches.'"

BEATRICE S. SNELL