HENRY PARK, SURGEON, AND HIS REGISTER.

By F. C. Beazley, F.S.A.

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HENRY PARK, surgeon, was the son of Edward Park of Water Street, Liverpool, apothecary, by his wife, Mary, daughter of John Lyon of Liverpool, mariner, and grandson of John Park of Liverpool, mariner, and Ellen, his second wife, widow of John Birch of Dale Street. He was born in Water Street, Liverpool, 2 March 1744–5, and educated under the Rev. Henry Wolstenholme. In 1766 he settled in his native town, and married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of John Ranicar, of West Leigh Hall, Leigh, Lancashire, by whom he had eight daughters and a son, John Ranicar Park, born at Liverpool in 1778, M.B. Jesus College, Cambridge, 1813, M.D. 1818, F.R.C.S. 1819; who died at Cheltenham 14 December 1847.[1] In the year 1767 Dr. Park was appointed surgeon to the Liverpool Infirmary, a position which he held for thirty-one years. Dr. Park lived in Basnett Street, then on the outskirts of Liverpool, but in 1788 removed to Bold Street. He retired, aged seventy-one, with the deserved reputation of a bold, original, and successful practitioner. Park died, according to tradition, when away from home, on 28 January 1831. Contemporaneously there was in Liverpool a family of Parke sprung from a successful captain in the West India trade,[2] but whether the two families were in any way connected I am not aware, the *Memoir* however calls Dr. Park's family "Park (or Parke)."

[1] The foregoing is taken from a pedigree in my *Collections*, x, 76, 78, sent me many years ago by Mr. R. T. Berthon, from the *Dictionary of National Biography*, and from the *Memoir*. . . .?

[2] John Hughes, *Liverpool Banks and Bankers*, 1760–1837. 1906.

Dr. Park is noted [1] as the surgeon in attendance at the duel between Major Edward Brooks, brother of the Venerable Archdeacon Brooks, whose statue fills a niche in St. George's Hall, and his patron, Major Bolton, which took place in 1805 in a field near Fairclough Lane, then a quiet rural road leading from the top of Pembroke Place to Low Hill.

A portrait and autograph, "H. Park," of Dr. Park engraved by Geo. T. Doo from a drawing by T. Hargreaves and published by Townsend & Wood, Liverpool, June 1832, is in the Binn's Collection,[2] and *A Memoir of the late Henry Park, Surgeon, of Liverpool*, anonymous, but by John Ranicar, was printed by D. Marples, Lord Street, Liverpool, in 1840, with the same portrait.

A tablet to Dr. Park's memory at St. James's Cemetery is given in a manuscript of Liverpool monuments at the Liverpool Free Library as well as an inscription to members of his family.[3] According to the *Dictionary of National Biography* Dr. Park *died* 28 January 1831, while the *Memoir* states that he was *buried* on that date. The tablet, which is in the chapel, gives the date of death as "XI Kal. Febr." i.e. 22 January. It is of an ornamental character and bears the following inscription :—

M.S.
Henrici Park
Coll. Reg. Chirurg. Soc.
Hic. qvamdiv. vixit. AD. (*sic*) annum. scil. LXXXVI
Artem. svam. feliciter. factitavit
Prœceptis. illustravit. indentis. avxit
Idem et beneficiis
Et ivcvndissima consvetudine
Permultos. devinxit. sibi
Obiit. XI Kal. Febr. A.S. MDCCCXXXI

[1] Picton, *Memorials of Liverpool*, ii, 136–7.
[2] Liverpool Free Library, Reference Department (Binns 16:48) (FF69).
[3] Reference is–Fq 737, vi, 23 and 155.

Dr. Park kept a Register of the cases, or some of the cases, he attended. Its existence is known to few though its author in his day occupied a prominent professional position in Liverpool. It seems only right therefore, that some notice of both should be published.

The book is a thin volume, half bound, boards and calf, 15 inches by 10, unlettered; the leaves of stout paper, unruled, are 60 in number, of which the last 12 are unused. It records about 4,000 births. The first entry is 5 January 1769 and the last 14 June 1830. Up to 29 December 1774 the headings are (1) Attendance, when commenced; (2) Names of patients; (3) Place of abode; (4) Disease; (5) Attendance, when concluded. From 8 January 1775 to the end of the register the headings 1, 3 and 5 change respectively to (1) When delivered; (3) Kind of labour; (5) Number of visits; but these headings are only written in for 1775 and the first half of 1776. The same columns, however, are employed to the end. It will thus be seen that before 8 January 1775 the first date given cannot with certainty be taken as that of delivery though in all probability it was so, and in the case of Mr. Gladstone and his three brothers, and of one other family at least, certainly was. After the first few years Dr. Park apparently ceased general practice and became purely an accoucheur; at least the entries in the register would lead one to suppose so. This however can scarcely be the case. Dr. Park's fame was that of an operative surgeon, especially in cases of the excision of the knee joint.

From the attestation below it appears that the register was given by Dr. Park's daughters to the Liverpool Medical Institution in 1840, to whose Committee the author is indebted for leave to examine it. The writer also is indebted especially to Mr. F. C. Larkin, F.R.C.S., for furthering the matter with the Committee, to Mr. G. F. Home, the Institution's Librarian, for courtesy at

all times shown, and to Mr. G. T. Shaw, M.A., for information afforded.

A transcript of the register has been made by the Liverpool Medical Institution and from it a copy has been taken and subsequently checked with the original and is now in possession of the writer, the entries however being re-arranged alphabetically.

Dr. Park's handwriting is not at all times very clear, the entries being made for his own information, probably after a hard day's work; the writer's reading has not therefore, in some few instances, agreed with the transcript.

The register, as might be expected, contains the names of all classes from the titled to the lowly and includes not a few well known Liverpool names such as those of Gladstone and Earle, and though of course no Christian names are appended to the entries, it is not entirely valueless for the history of Liverpool families. The *Memoirs* state that the Register, which Dr. Park used to call "the book of Genesis," was often referred to even in his lifetime to verify births which had not been entered in the parish registers.

Amongst other entries is the birth of the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone on 29 December 1809 at Rodney Street, and an illustration of the portion of the page in the register containing the entry accompanies this paper. The initial "A" stands of course for Anne, Mr. Gladstone's father, Sir John Gladstone, having married (secondly) Anne, daughter of Andrew Robertson, Esquire, provost of Dingwall, County Ross, and sheriff substitute of that county. The number in the street is not given by Dr. Park, but was undoubtedly the present 62; a subsequent tenant wrote Mr. Gladstone on the matter, with a plan of the house which had been divided and he himself confirmed the accuracy of this statement, marking the room in which he had been born. The birth

PORTION OF A PAGE OF DR. PARK'S REGISTER.

is not announced either in *Billinge's Liverpool Advertiser* or in *Gore's General Advertiser*; few of such announcements, however, were inserted at that time. Mr. Gladstone became President of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire in 1863. A tablet recording the birth was some years ago placed by the Memorial Tablets sub-committee of the Society under the ægis of Mr. G. T. Shaw, then secretary, on the left-hand side of the doorway. The tablet is made of the well-known Della Robbia ware from the factory in Birkenhead founded by Mr. Harold Rathbone and reads :—

HISTORIC SOCIETY
OF
LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE
WILLIAM
EWART
GLADSTONE
BORN IN THIS HOUSE
DEC: 29 1809.

The following is the attestation above referred to:—

That the following register is in the handwriting of the late Henry Park, Surgeon, and that he always spoke of it as a record of all the births he attended in the course of his practice is here attested by his daughters.

ELIZABETH PARK.
CHARLOTTE CATHERINE PARK.

OLIVEBANK COTTAGE.
June 17th 1840.

The following are abstracts of documents kindly lent me by Mr. R. T. Bailey, F.R.C.S., bearing upon the family:—

WILL OF HENRY BIRCH OF LIVERPOOL, Co. Lanc: Marriner, dated 24 June 1735. I give all my estate whatsoever unto my loving sister Margarett Marshall & I appoint her Executrix. Witnesses—THO. STOKES, RD. ECCLESTON. Admõn. granted to the sole executrix. Chester 8 Aug: 1737.

WILL OF JOHN PARKE OF LIVERPOOL. Co. Lanc: Marriner, aged and infirme, dated 21 Nov: 1715. Unto loving wife Ellen

Parke household goods & personal estate and house &c teñt. in Toxteth Park called Penebrine with the Pafsnips Croft and house thereunto belonging for life while unmarried, remainder to three sons John, Edward & James Parke equally. To wife 50^{s} p.a. out of teñts. in Darby and that called Rough Parke. To five grandchildren £3 each viz :—Nathaniel, John & Jane Woolfall sons & daũr: of John Woolfall and Elizabeth & Ellinor daũrs: of Thos: Rigby of Liverpool. Rest of my teñts. in Darby & Rough Parke to my sons & daũrs: Nathaniel, Thomas, Anne, Mary & Elizabeth equally. Wife Ellen & son Thomas, Thomas Rideing & James Chadwick, both of Liverpool, Executors. In witness whereof (&c) . . . having first surrendered into the hands of the Lord & Lady of the Mannor of Westderby my messuage in West Derby heretofore in the possession of Robert Sussmith and now in my possession.

Witnesses. JOHN SEACOME, Jo^{n} WAINWRIGHT, RA: PETERS.

Admõn: Chester 3 May 1716 to Ellen Park, widow, & James Chadwick, power res. to Thomas Parke & Thomas Rideing.

INDENTURE 24 JANUARY 1739 between Margarett Marshall of Liverpool, Co: Lanc: widow and Edward Parke of Liverpool afs^{d} & Martha Pickering of same, widow, witnesseth that in consideration of 5^{s} paid to Margaret Marshall by said Edward Parke & Martha Pickering said Margarett Marshall hath . . . sold . . . to said Edward Parke & Martha Pickering all that messg̃e: & teñt. now divided into two dwelling houses . . . in Liverpool lately purchased of Henry Birch decd: late brother of said Margarett Marshall . . . & all that seat or pew in St. Nicholas Church in Liverpool in the gallery thereof . . . for one whole year by the rent of one peppercorn.

/s/ MARG^{t} MARSHALL.

(Armorial seal, no horseshoes)

Endorsed. Sealed & delivered in the presence of MARY PARK, RD. ECCLESTON.

INDENTURE. 18 APRIL 1740 between the Rt. Hon Sir Caryl Molyneux, Bart. Lord Viscount Molyneux of Maryborough in the Kdm: of Ireland and Edward Park of Liverpool, co: Lanc: apothecary, WITNESSETH in consideration of surrendering a lease & £28 the said Caryl, Ld. M:, demises leases etc. to said Edward Park messg̃e: & teñt. in Toxteth Park containing 10 acres of land now in possession of him the said Edward Park . . . for the lives of him the said E: P: aged 31 years, Mary

Park aged 25 years and Mary Park aged 7 years wife & daur. of said E: P: . . . yielding yearly 10^{s} . . . & lastly the said Caryl (&c) hath in his stead put John Chadwick & Ralph Crook, Gentlemen, his true & lawful attorneys

/s/ MOLYNEUX. (Seal) Coronet, arms, supporters & motto. Endorsed. ROBT: VOSE, JN^{o} CHADWICK witnesses. Memo N.D. by Ralph Crook that he had entered in & taken seisin. Wit: CHA: PENNINGTON, JOSEPH CLAUGHTON.