

his best. In addition to these he wrote a very good violincello sonata, three orchestral overtures, and two operas. One of the latter, "Sylvia," was set down for performance at Drury Lane, and was even rehearsed, but it was never performed. The other was never even published.

SYLVESTER O'HALLORAN.

Sylvester O'Halloran, surgeon and Irish Historian and antiquary, was born in Limerick on 31st December, 1728, the son of Michael O'Halloran and Mary MacDonnell, a relative of Seán Clarach O'Donnell, the Irish poet.

He studied medicine and surgery, paying particular attention to diseases of the eye, at the Universities of Paris, and Leyden. Before he reached the age of twenty he wrote "A new treatise on the Glaucoma or Cataract," and its publication in Dublin in 1750 attracted much attention in medical circles. He settled in his native city where he had a very large practice, and restored the sight to many people who would otherwise have been doomed to total blindness.

In 1752 he read a paper to the Royal Society on a new operation for cataract, and in 1788 he read a paper on the same subject to the Royal Irish Academy.

He was largely responsible for the establishment of the Limerick County Infirmary, and here he specialised in brain diseases. He published the result of his work in several volumes, one of which was published by Andrew Welsh of Limerick.

In addition to O'Halloran's great work for science and medicine he devoted all his spare time to antiquarian researches. He knew Irish extremely well, and his histories are remarkably free of the romanticism of other Irish historians of

the period. He also founded a Literary Society in Limerick which depended so much on its founder's labours, that it was dissolved on his death.

His first literary work was "Insula Sacra," published in 1770, to encourage the preservation of Ireland's ancient manuscripts and records. "Terne Defended," in which he defended the authenticity of the ancient Irish histories against the calumnies of Cambrensis and other English historians, was published in 1774. In 1772 he published "An Introduction to the study of the History and Antiquities of Ireland," and in 1774 his greatest work, a "General History of Ireland from the earliest accounts to the close of the 12th century," appeared.

O'Halloran married Mary O'Casey in 1752 and had three sons and one daughter. His youngest son, Sir Joseph O'Halloran, became a Major-General in the East India Company's Service.

Thomas O'Meehan, a contemporary Clare poet, wrote a poem in Irish in his praise. Another contemporary describes him 'the tall thin doctor in his quaint French dress, with his gold-headed cane, beautiful Parisian wig and cocked hat.' He died in his eightieth year on the 11th August, 1807, and is buried in Killeely graveyard, where no stone marks his grave.

O'Halloran's pride in his ancestry led him to revive the old family motto—Lothaim agus marb-haim—I destroy and I kill—a not too suitable motto for an eminent surgeon.

PETER WOULFE.

Peter Woulfe mineralogist alchemist and chemist, was born about the year 1727 at Tircullane, near Limerick City, where he received his early education. When fifteen years old he went to Madrid, where his brothers resided, and later to