

and as he was no servant of Stansby, he therefore did not come under the act of the Assembly, and was adjudged to be free (pp. 182, 368-9). Sharpe was a prominent Quaker, the marriage certificate of whose daughter is elsewhere entered in these records (p. 502).

The name of Dr. Richard Tilghman of the Hermitage, Talbot County, who appears variously as "doctor of physick" or "chirurgion", and was during part of this period High Sheriff of Talbot, occurs very frequently in the record especially in his official capacity. Tilghman's bill against the estate of Thomas Hynson, Senior, of Kent County for 4661 pounds of tobacco "for divers meanes and medicines administred to him and his family in his lityme" for which he sued Hynson's sons, Thomas and John, at the June, 1669, court, although a large fee for the time was not disputed, the administrators confessing judgment (pp. 458-459). Tilghman's numerous difficulties as sheriff and the charges brought against him are referred to in another section (pp. xxii, xxxiii-xxxiv).

There is an interesting reference in these pages to the great plague of London which raged in 1665. Humphrey Warren, a Maryland planter of Charles County, who was in London at that time, brought an action at the February, 1668-9, session of the Provincial Court to have set aside a deed and a bond for £1562 which Warren had given to William Barrett in London to secure the performance of certain agreements then entered into which Warren had since refused to carry out. The latter sought to evade the payment on the bond on the ground that Barrett "att the time of the making of said Obligacon in the City of London in the Kingdome of England in the time of the great pestilence or Visitacon in the said City did him the said Humphery Threaten to Cast into Prison and did likewise impose upon the said Humphery such and soe great threats of his life, and of maime of his members to be brought upon him, unless the said Humphery would make and Seale the aforesaid Obligacon att London aforesaid in the time of the pestilence aforesaid, That hee the said Humphery for feare of the imprisonment and those threats aforesaid, the aforesaid Obligacon to the said William did then and there make". Warren evidently felt, and with good reason, that at that time incarceration in a London prison was equivalent to a sentence of death. But the Provincial Court took a different view of the matter and found that as Warren was at liberty and without any constraint when he signed the deed and bond, gave judgment for 125,000 pounds of tobacco in favor of Barrett, and a little later ordered the sheriff to seize for the payment of this debt Warren's stock, goods, and chattels, and the moiety of his plantation at Hatton's Point (pp. 421, 456, 485-486).

The casual mention in the Maryland records of this period of a number of men who were styled physicians or chirurgions does not necessarily imply that many of them had had a real professional training. In addition to Morecroft, Tilghman, Champ, and Stansby already mentioned, we find mention of a number of others. In 1666 John Peerce was called "Chirurgion of the good ship called the Adventure of Hull" England, and a few years later is mentioned as of Talbot County, and is styled either "Dr." or