LORD LUMLEY’S BENEFACTION TO THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

by

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John, sixth Baron Lumley, was born about 1533 and educated at Queens’ College, Cambridge. He was the son of George Lumley (son of John, fifth Baron) who was executed on 2 June 1537 after being found guilty of high treason and thereby forfeiting the descent of the family honours. John, the sixth Baron, petitioned for and obtained an Act of Parliament in 1547 restoring him in blood, and he was summoned to Parliament by writs (1553–1605) directed Johanni Lumley de Lumley, chevaler; a barony by writ ought, strictly speaking, to be regarded as a new creation.

Lord Lumley’s career was a spectacular one. His attendance at the funeral of Edward VI and at the Coronation and marriage of Mary Tudor were to be expected of one of his rank; he sat as a judge at the trial of the Duke of Suffolk for high treason, and took part in other State trials, including that of Mary Queen of Scots. He was, for half a century, High Steward of the University of Oxford, and a commissioner on the claims to do service at the Coronations of Elizabeth I and James I. Lumley’s first wife was Jane (or Joan), the elder daughter and coheir of Henry FitzAlan, twelfth Earl of Arundel (1512–79/80) by Catharine (Grey), daughter of the Marquess of Dorset. As a result of Lumley becoming involved with his father-in-law in the Ridolfi conspiracy for the restoration of the Catholic religion and in the marriage of Mary Queen of Scots with the Duke of Norfolk, he was arrested in September 1569, and imprisoned in the Tower until April 1573.

On the death of the Earl of Arundel in February 1579/80, Lumley became his sole executor and legatee; he received vast possessions as a reward ‘of his great travaile and paines’ taken on the Earl’s behalf. Jane Lumley had died in 1576 and was buried at Cheam where her elaborate memorial may be seen in the Lumley Chapel. In 1582, John Lumley married Elizabeth Darcy, daughter of John, second Baron Darcy of Chiche; she died in February 1616/17, having survived her husband since April 1609. Both are buried at Cheam. With John’s death, the title became extinct, but in 1628 one of his cousins, Richard Lumley, was created Viscount Lumley of Waterford, and from him has descended the present Earl of Scarbrough.
JOHN, LORD LUMLEY
(before 1538–1609)
by Steven van der Meulen, 1563
From a portrait at Lumley Castle. Reproduced by courtesy of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Scarbrough, K.G.
Lumley Chapel of St. Dunstan's, Cheam, Surrey, showing (right) monument to John, Lord Lumley, and tomb of his second wife, Elizabeth Darcy (centre).

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Lord Lumley’s Benefaction to the College of Physicians

Among the estates which Henry, Earl of Arundel, settled on Lord Lumley and his wife Jane about 1566 was the manor of Westbourne and with it Stansted Park in Sussex, the home of the present Earl of Bessborough. Stansted, remained in the Lumley family until 1721 when it was bequeathed by Richard, Earl of Scarbrough to his younger son James (died 1766), who left it to his nephew George Montague-Dunk, Earl of Halifax. Lumley entertained Queen Elizabeth I at Stansted in August 1591; there is every reason to suppose that she also visited his town house at Chichester which still stands. The Queen must have clearly forgiven (and, we hope, forgotten) Lumley’s offences of 1569, and conveniently overlooked his Catholic sympathies, for he was never convicted as a recusant. Elizabeth recognized Lumley as ‘a person of entire virtue, integrity and innocence, and now in his old age a complete pattern of nobility’.8

Lumley was the owner of a splendid library which was eventually bought by James I and is now in the British Museum. He was a benefactor to the University of Cambridge and a collector of pictures and other works of art. On the death of Henry, Earl of Arundel, he also became possessed of Nonsuch Park and all its treasures, and although he exchanged that estate with the Queen in 1590, he continued to live there, in the capacity of tenant or even keeper, at intervals until his death in 1609.9

Lumley was one of the many outstanding figures in that colourful reign of the first Elizabeth. He was good-looking with a serious expression, long square-cut beard, prominent nose, well-spaced eyes, and long tapering fingers. One of his benefactions—in fact, that by which he will be best remembered—is his endowment, jointly with Dr. Richard Caldwell, of a lecture on surgery to be given to the College of Physicians of London. The story is told in several places, and William Munk in vol. iii of The Roll of the Royal College of Physicians of London (1878), p.l. 352-4, gives the broad outline and a list of the Lumleian orators which includes the name of William Harvey who commenced his series in April 1616, ‘and is generally supposed to have expounded on that occasion those original and complete views of the circulation of the blood which have made him the glory and honour of English physicians’.

On 30 June 1582, Queen Elizabeth I gave a licence10 to Sir John Lumley11 and Richard Caldwell12 to grant to the President and College or Commonalty of the Faculty of Medicine of London, an annuity from various properties. The present writer, in the course of cataloguing the archives of His Grace the Duke of Norfolk at Arundel Castle, found a document13 which proves to be a counterpart of the actual grant by Lumley and Caldwell. The document measures 23½ by 25 in. and consists of seventy-nine lines of close writing slightly flaked in parts, but otherwise in good condition; a slit for the seal tongue remains, but the tongue which would have carried an impression of the College seal is unfortunately missing.

In addition to its importance as one of the three original deeds14 establishing the Lumleian Lectures, the document is interesting for its statement about the need for competent surgeons. The preamble to Lumley’s grant is couched in similar terms to that of the Act of 3 Henry VIII, c. 11 (1511), which says:

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Forasmuch as the science and cunning of physick and surgery (to the perfect knowledge whereof be requisite both great learning and ripe experience) is daily within this realm exercised by a great multitude of ignorant persons, of whom the greater part have no manner of insight in the same, nor in any other kind of learning; some also can no letters on the book, so far forth that common artificers, as smiths, weavers, and women, boldly and customably take upon them great cures, and things of great difficulty, in which they partly use sorcery and witchcraft, partly apply such medicines unto the disease as be very noious, and nothing meet therefore, to the high displeasure of God, great infamy to the faculty, and the grievous hurt, damage, and destruction of many of the King's liege people, most especially of them that cannot discern the uncunning from the cunning.

The Act of 14 & 15 Henry VIII, c. 5 (1522–3), confirming and enlarging the privileges and authority of physicians in London and reciting the Charter of Incorporation of their College, also provides:

That no person of the said politick body and commonalty aforesaid, be suffered to exercise and practise physick, but only those persons that be profound, sad, and discreet, groundly learned, and deeply studied in physick.

Any attempt to paraphrase the contents of the Lumley deed would destroy the charm of its Elizabethan English, so the following is a transcript of the major part with all capital letters retained; contracted words have been extended by the inclusion of letters within square brackets where there is no doubt about the spelling; a limited amount of punctuation, also in square brackets, has been introduced to simplify the reading of the document.

This indenture tripartite made the Thirde Daye of Julye in the foure and Twentith yeare of the Reigne of oure sov[er]eigne Ladye Elizabeth by the grace of god Quene of England Francce and Ireland defender of the faith & et betwenee the Right honorable John Lumley[,] Lorde Lumley on the firste p[ar]te[,] Richard Caldwell Doctor of phisick on the seconde parte[,] And the president and Collage or Commalitie of the facultie of phisick in London on the thirde parte[,] witneseth that Whereas before this tymne and now p[re]sent the people of this Realme have had and yet have greate wante of learned and skilfull Surgeons for the curinge of theire malleis[,] sores[,] diseases and wounds w[hi]ch somtimes for lack of perfeccte knowledge have eith[er] not bene cured at all[,] or elles very evill[,] in so muche that the noble Science of surgerye hath runne into great contempte and the Surgeons them selves also into such sclander as many wise men have rather chosen to com[m]itt them selves[,] beinge gревously diseassed[,] into the handes of oulde dotinge women haveinge no skil at all but a little blinde experience than [recte, than] into the hands of a com[m]on Surgeon whose science now[th]standinge (of it self) is both so necessarie and so profitable as there is no man almo[t]he be olde or young[,] of what estate so ev[er] he be[,] but that he may have greate neede of it at one tymne or another. And againe[,] the science of Surgerye is of suche excellencye that kinges have not been abashed of the profession thereof but have practised Surgery both in warres in theire owne p[er]sonnes as also at other tymes of necessi[tie][,] as Homer the father of all humane Wisedome and the greateste observer of Comlynes in all persons witnesse in his Ilyades written of the Battell of Troye where he bringeth in Machaon and Podalirius[,] both kinges and the sonnes of the god Esculapius[,] healeinge noble men shotten in w[i]th Arrows[,] peard w[i]th Darters and otherwise wound[ed[,] and in the same place he attributeth so much dignite and hono[ur] to a good Surgeon[,] such as they were[,] that greater can scarcely be given to any mortall man[,] by thees woords[,] He that is a Phisicon renowned [sic] more then a man is esteemed consideringe that he draweth out Darters pernittious and applieth remedies gracious[,] This sentence maye be a notable conforte
to a Connynge Surgeon[,] that he not onely is not an unprofitable person in a com[m]en weale[,] but also that he is worthie to be esteemed and preferred before a greate many others[,] And though the woorde Jutros[,] w[hi]ch the poett useth[,] signifieth more properly a phisicon then a Surgeon[,] yet by the Last twoe verses of the poett it is most evident that here he meaneth a Surgeon whiche thinges[,] well considered[,] the saide John Lorde Lumley and Richarde Caldwell Doctor of phisick have thought good[,] considering howe necessary and honorable a science Surgery is and brought oupe of credit and estima[i]on[,] and in a man contenmed for want of such learninge as ought to be in all Surgeons[,] to restore Surgery (so farre as in them lieth) to her perfection by procureinge an excellent Reader that shall reade openlye in the house of the Colledge of the Phisicons in London in good order[,] all the whole course of the Arte and science of Surgery for ev[er][.] for the better accomplishinghe whereof YT is agreed betweene the saide parties to theis Indentures that their welbeloved frende Richarde Forster Esquier Doctor of Phisick[,] or some other person to be named and appointed by the saide Lorde Lumley and Richard Caldwell[,] or by the Survivor of them[,] or by the executors of the Survivor of them[,] shall by gods permission beginne to reade w[i]thin the saide house of the Colledge of the Phisicons in London[,] the saide Arte or science of Phisic or in the firste Daye of Easter Term w[hi]ch shalbe in the yeare of o[u]r Lorde god one 'Thousande fuy hundred fourescore and Foure[,] yf no resoneable lett by sicknes or oth[er] accident shall give just occasion to the contrary[,] And if any such thinge shall happen then the saide readeinge to beginne as shortly after that as conveniently may be[,] and the same Richarde Forster[,] or some oth[er] person to be named and appointed as aforesaid to be the firste reader of Surgery in the saide Colledge of Phisicons[,] and from theneforth duringe his naturall life to continew the same[,] and all other succeedinge him to continewe the same duringe theire naturall lyves[,] accordinge to such ordin[a]nces and Statutes as are sett downe and agreed upon As appeareth in a certaine writinge Indented here unto annexed[,] AND it is further agreed betwene the saide parties to theis pr[esen]ts That the saide Richard Forster[,] or such other person as shalbe in forme aforesaid appointed and named to have the place of the saide Reader[,] for his further and better knowledge in Surgerye shall travell into the partes of beyonde the Seas (that is to saye) into Fran[ce], Jermany and Italy[,] and there shall remayne duringe the space of Twoe whole yeeres to thintent that he may there heare the best and most learned and experte Surgeons reede, and see theire practises[,] whereby he maye be the better able to execute the saide place of readinge in the saide Colledge of Phisicons in London at his returne into Englande[,] AND for the better supportacon and maynten[an]ce of the saide Richard Forster[,] or the saide other person[,] in the saide travell duringe the saide twoe yeeres[,] The saide Richarde Caldwall for himselfe and his heires and executors doth Covenant[,] promise and grannte[,] by theis p[re]sents to and w[i]thin the nowe President and Colledge or Cominaltye of the facultie of Phisick in London aforesaid and theire Successors[,] That he the saide Richard Caldwell[,] his heires or executors[,] shall duringe the saide terme of twoe yeeres paye unto the sayd Richard Forster[,] or to the saide other person to be named as aforesaid towards his maynteyn[an]ce[,] in applienghe his travell for the atteyninge of the highest p[er]fection in Surgery that he can in the partes of beyonde the seas aforesaid[,] the som[m]e of Fourtie pounds of good and Lawfull money of Englande by the yeare:;) To be paide at such tyme and times as is already agreed upon beuynghe the saide Richarde Caldwall and the saide Richard Forster by writing betrwixt them make[,] and for and in consideracon of the maynteyn[an]ce of the saide Readers[,] and of such other Reader and Readers as shalbe chosen hereafter accordinge to the saide Statutes and ordin[a]nces here unto annexed[,] to reade the saide Arte or Science in the saide house or Colledge of the Phisicons in London for ev[er][.] in man[ner] and forme hereafter in theis p[re]sents expresched[,] The saide Lorde Lumley doth by theis p[re]sents for himself[,] his heires and assigns[,] give grannte and confirme to the saide President and Colledge or Cominity of the facultie of Phisick in London aforesaide and to theire Successors for ev[er][.] one Annuity or yeerely rent charge of Twentie pounds of Lawfull money of Englande To be issueinge and goinge out of of [sic] all the Lordshippes[,] Mannors[,] Lands[,] ten[emen]ts and hereditaments of the saide Lorde Lumley Scituate lienge and beinge in the Countie of
Sussex comonly called or known by the names of the Mannor of Avenell[...](1) and of the Rectory or p[ar]sonage of Billingseshurste(2) in man[ner] and forme followinge / that is to saye / Fiftene pounds by yeere percelf of the saide Annuitye of Twentie pounds yeerely goinge out:[:] To be receaved had and taken out of the Manor of Avenells aforesaide and out of ev[e]rye or any parte or percelf thereof now or late in the tenure or occupacon of [S[ir] Thomas Palmer of Angmaringe(3) in the saide Countie of Sussex knight or of his Assignes[.] And other fyve pounds by yeere reasidue of the foresaide Annuitie of Twentie pounds likewise yeerely goinge out to be receyved had and taken out of the Rectorye or personage [sic] of Billingseshurste aforesaide and of the glebe Lands and all oth[er] ten[emen]ts and hereditaments of the saide Rectorye nowe or late beinge in the possession or occupacon of [blank] Barley gentleman or of his Assignes[.] beinge togeith[er] of the cleere yeerely value of Thirtie pounds At the leaste And to be paide yearely to the saide p[re]sident and Colledge or Cominaltye of the facultye of phisicke in London aforesaide to the use of the saide first Reader duringe the tyme of his beinge Reader there and to the use of ev[e]ry such other p[er]son as shalbe in forme aforesaide Reader in the saide Colledge after the decease of the saide firste Reader or his ceasinge from the same Readinge for ev[e]ry[.] at or in the saide house or colledge of the Phisicons in London at twoe feastes or Termes of the year / That is to saye / At the feastes of S[ain]t Michael[.] and Thann[un]ciacon ofoure Ladye S[ain]t Marye the Virgen, or w[i]thin Twentie Dayes next after eith[er] of the same feastes by even porcons upon payne of forfeitute of three pounds six shillings and eight pence (noi[e] pene)(4) for ev[e]ry time wherein defaulte shalbe made. . . .

Here follows the statement that the first payment shall be made on 29 September 1584, and that the President and Comonality of the College shall have power to distrain in the event of payment not being made on that or on any subsequent occasion when it is due.

And for a perfecte seisin(5) of the said Annuitie or yeerely rent of Twentie pounds to be had and enjoyed by the said p[re]sident and Colledge or Cominaltye of the facultye of Phisick in London aforesaide in man[ner] and forme aforesaide[.] The saide Lorde Lumley at the time of thesealinge and deliv[er]ye of thes p[re]sidentnts hath paide and delive[red] to the saide nowe President Twelve pence of Lawfull money of Englande[.] And likewise the saide Richard Caldwell doth for the consideracons aforesaid by thes p[re]sidentnts for him self his heires and assignes geve[.] grannte and confirm unto the saide President and Colledge or Cominaltye of the facultye of Phisick in London and to theire successors for ev[e]ry[.] one Annuitie or yeerely rent chardige of Twentie pounds To be issinge and goinge out of all that mesuage or ten[em]te w[i]th thapp[ur]tenances linge and beinge in Ansley(6) in the County of Stafforde nowe or late in the tenure or occupacon of Alice Bett and Will[ia]m Bett[.] or of either of them[.] or of the Assignes of them or either of them[.] And out of all that Cloase grounde or pasture w[i]th thapp[ur]tenances called the great Cloase linge and beinge in Ansley aforesaide nowe or late in the tenure or occupacon of the saide Alice and Will[ia]m Bett[.] or of either of them[.] or of the assignes of them or either of them[.] And out of all that mesuage or tenement w[i]th thapp[ur]tenances and one Cloase w[i]th a Barne standinge upon the same Scituat linge and beinge in Burton upon Trent in the saide County of Stafforde nowe or Late in the Tenure or occupacon of [gone] wyne [but 'mudwene' in the Letters Patent(7)] Wightman widowe or of her Assignes[.] And out of all that mesuage or ten[em]te w[i]th thapp[ur] tenances and out of all lands ten[em]ts and hereditaments to the same belonginge or app[er]tenings linge and beinge in Willington(8) in the Countye of Derbye nowe or Late in the tenure or occupacon of Richard Boylston or of his assignes[.] And out of all that mesuage or ten[em]te w[i]th thapp[ur]tenances and out of all Lands ten[em]ts and hereditaments to the same belonginge or appertayninge in Willington aforesaide nowe or Late in the tenure or occupacon of John Gisburne or of his assignes[.] and out of all that mesuage or ten[em]te and out of all lands.
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ten[emen]ts and hereditaments w[i]th thapp[ur]tenances in Willington aforesaide nowe or Late in the tenure or occupacon of Henry Johnson or of his assignes[,] and out of all that Mill w[i]th thapp[ur]tenances in Willington aforesaide now or Late in the tenure or occupacon of Will[i]m Caldwell brother of the saide Richarde Caldwell or of his assignes[,] and out of all that messuage or ten[emen]te[,] and mill[,] and out of all Landes tene[men]ts and hereditaments to the same or to either of them belonginge or appertaininge[,] Lyenge and beinge in Repton al[i]as Repindgon in the saide Countie of Derby nowe or late in the tenure of the saide Will[i]m Caldwell or of his assignes[,] And out of all that messuage and ten[emen]te[,] and out of all Landes tene[men]ts and hereditaments to the same belonginge or appertaininge in Repingdon aforesaide[,] now or Late in the tenure or occupacon of Will[i]m [blank but Stouse in the Letters Patent] or of his assignes[,] and out of all oth[er] his Lands ten[emen]ts and hereditaments whatsoe[er] w[i]th there app[ur]tenances in the Villages aforesaide[,] or in eith[er] of them[,] beinge togeith[er] of ye cleere yerely value of Twenty pounds at ye least[,] And to be paide yerely. . . .

as the income from the lands, etc., charged with Lord Lumley's annuity. The payments to be made at the same times of year; power of distraint; penalty of £3 6s. 8d. as forfeit; payment to the President and Commonalty of the College of 12d. by Richard Caldwell. The deed continues

Provided alaways That if it happen at any time hereafter ye saide President & Colledge or Commonalty of ye faculty of Phisick in London or theire Successors not to paye ye saide Fourtie pounds yerely (beinge yerely by them receaved) to ye saide Reeder & his Successors for ev[er] in man[ner] & forme as is aforesaide[,] or do not see as much as in him or them reasonabile shall Lye yt [i.e. that] the Ordin[an]ces & Statutes hereunto annexed of theire p[ar]tes shalbe p[er]formed[,] kepte & observed accordance to ye trewe entent & meaninge thereof[.] Then ye saide Lorde Lumley & Richard Caldwell and either of them most humblie desire the Right Honorable S[i]r Thomas Bromeley knight[,] Lorde Channcellor of England[,] and his Successors yt [i.e. that] it will please him and his Successors to vouchsafe if any Complainte shall come unto his or theire eares of their unfaithfull dealings in the p[re]misses to reforme and correcte all such abuses whatsoe[er] in wittnes whereof the parties aforesaide to theis p[rese]nte Indentures entrechanngeable have put theire Seales The Daye and yeare firste above written. Endorsed: Sealled and d[elivere]d to the [w[i]thin deleted] use of the w[i]thin named Right honorable John Lumley knight Lord Lumley in the p[rese]nce of me Rafe Norrys Scr[ivener].

The document does not present any peculiarities beyond those of spelling irregularities often found at this period. For those who are unacquainted with deeds of this character, attention may be drawn to certain common or vernacular forms of spelling, e.g. 'theis' for 'these'; the combination of the word 'the' with another word beginning with a vowel such as 'the executors' written as 'thexecutors', 'the intent' as 'thintent', 'the archangel' as 'tharchangell'. There are inconsistencies in spelling, even of proper names, and the 'con' ending for words now spelt with a 'tion' ending is noticeable.

As a footnote, we may remind ourselves that another Lumley has gone down to posterity in legal and medical circles. William Golden Lumley, Q.C. (1802–78), descended from the same stock as John, Lord Lumley, was the author of that well-known book, Lumley's Public Health, now in its eleventh edition.
Francis W. Steer

REFERENCES


Henry, 13th Earl of Arundel, and the last heir male of = Catharine, dau. of Thomas Grey, the Fitzalans, Earls of Arundel; died 24 Feb. 1579/80 

2nd Marquess of Dorset; 1st wife.

Thomas Howard, = Mary, in her issue sole heir to her father; died 1537.

Jane; = John, Lord Lumley; = Elizabeth, dau. of John, 2nd Baron Darcy of Chiche; died 1616/17.

Henry Fitzalan, = only son and heir; died 1556.

Dukes of Norfolk.


4. See pedigree at end of Milner, op. cit.; and Burke's Peerage.

5. Lord Bessborough's book, A Place in the Forest: being the History of Stansted in Sussex, has recently been published.


7. Victoria County History, Sussex, 1933, iii, 75-8; Steer, F. W., Bishop Edward Story and the Chichester City Cross, Chichester Papers, No. 1, 1955, pp. 5, 6.


11. John, Lord Lumley, had been created a Knight of the Bath, 29 September 1553.


13. Arundel Castle MS. J4/16. I am much indebted to His Grace the Duke of Norfolk for giving me permission to publish this record.

14. The indenture was written in triplicate. Of the two copies sealed by the College, Lord Lumley and Richard Caldwell would have retained one each, while the College would have had the third part signed and sealed by the two benefactors. So far as is known, Lumley's copy is the only one to have survived.

15. See also Munk, W., op. cit., (2nd ed., 1878), iii, 317ff.

i.e. 3 July 1582.


17. Machaon and Podalirius, sons of Æsculapius, physicians in the Greek army, and rulers of Tricca, Ithome, and Oechalia.

18. Cunning, in the sense of being skilful or clever.

19. This word presented difficulty to the man who wrote the indenture; he means λατρευω, like λατρης, a surgeon, and after Homer, a physician.

20. To contemn, to despise or treat as of small value.


22. This second document is missing.

23. Avenells alias East Angmering Manor, now Avenals Farm (so spelt on 6-in. O.S. map) in Angmering, about two miles inland from the Sussex coast; see Dunkin, E. H. W. (ed.), Sussex Manors, Advowsons, etc. recorded in the Feet of Fines Henry VIII to William IV (Sussex Record Society), xix, 15, 138.
25. Billingshurst in the Sussex weald; see Dunkin, op. cit., pp. 9, 204–5.
27. i.e. Nomine pond, a penalty incurred for not paying rent, etc., at the day appointed; for details, see G. Jacob, A New Law Dictionary (10th ed., 1782).
28. Possession. Lord Lumley paid one shilling in 'livery of seisin' as a token of possession of the rent charge.
29. Anslow, 3 miles north-west of Burton on Trent.
30. Willington, on the borders of Staffordshire and Derbyshire, about 4 miles north-east of Burton on Trent and 2 miles north-west of Repton.
31. Sir Thomas Bromley (1530–87; see Dictionary of National Biography), presided over the trial of Mary Queen of Scots, 1586.
32. My old friend, the late L. G. H. Horton-Smith of Lincoln’s Inn, Barrister-at-Law, was descended from the Lumleys and wrote much about them, e.g. The Ancient Northern Family of Lumley and its Northamptonshire Branch (privately published, 1948), ‘The Saunders and the Lumley Families of the County of Northampton in the 16th century’, and ‘The Later Lumleys of Harlestone in the County of Northampton, c. 1545 onwards’ (in the Journal of the Northamptonshire Natural History Society and Field Club, 1941 and 1943 respectively), and ‘A Sussex Lumley in Search of a Father’ (in Sussex Notes & Queries, xi, 1946).