

# *Very General Practice*

Roger Ridley-Smith, BA MB ChB



*'Les Precieuses Ridicules', a Play by MOLIERE, Little Theatre, Christchurch, 1950*



*Le Malade imaginaire*. Moliere, (1673)





## MOLIERE

(b.1622 d.1673)

*“Writing is like prostitution. First you do it for love, and then for a few close friends, and then for money.”*

*(His perception of doctors:*

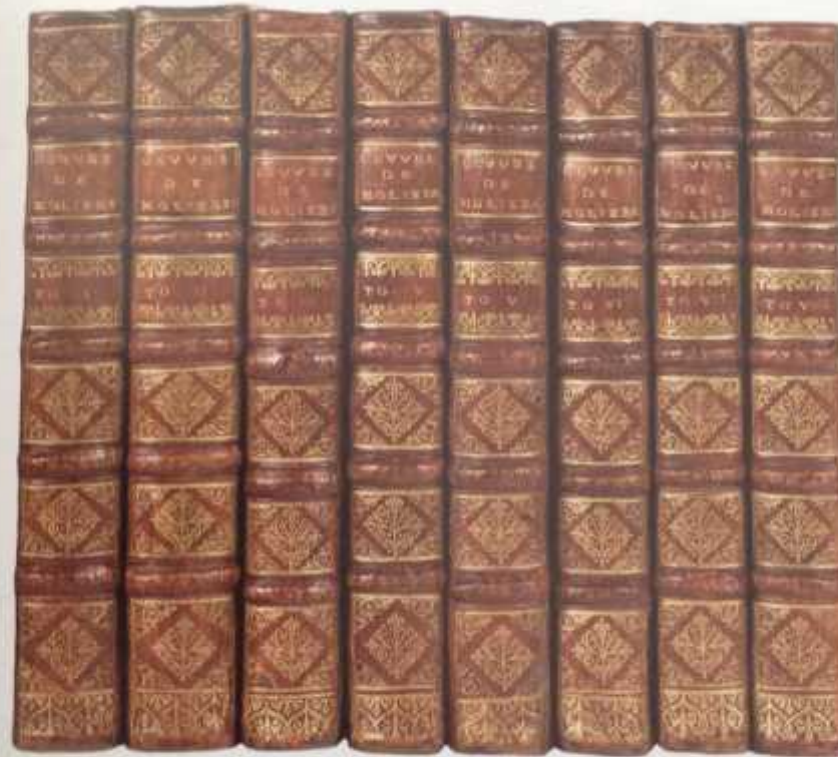
*Closed minds; closed shop.)*



# The works of Moliere

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Edition of 1682, in eight  
volumes, currently  
offered for sale by  
*Laurent Coulet* (Paris) for  
22,000 euros =  
\$NZ36,000

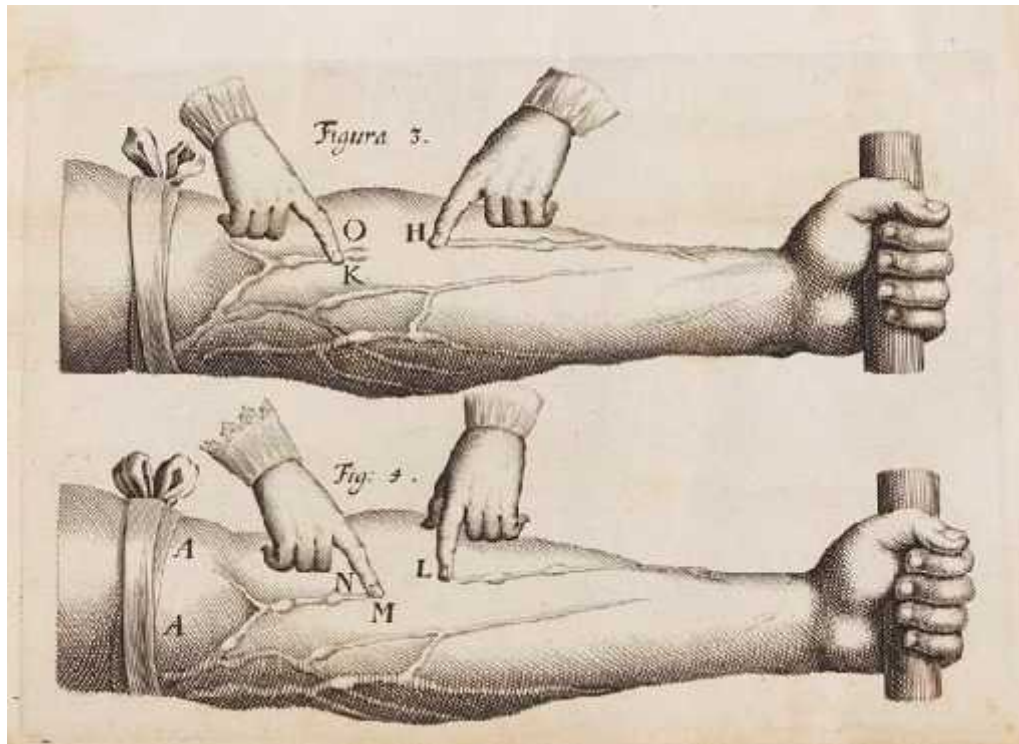


15. MOLIÈRE. Les Œuvres. Revisés, corrigés & augmentés. Enrichies de figures en taille-douce. Paris, Denis Thierry, Claude Barbin, Pierre Trabouillet, 1682. 8 volumes in-12, veau fauve, dos à nerfs ornés et dorés, pièces de titre de maroquin fauve, coupes décorées, tranches dorées sur marbreure (reliures de l'époque). :22 000 €

# Laurent Coulet, Old Books, Paris



# William Harvey, 1628



*From The Gentleman's Magazine, [London] Vol. IX, June, 1739*

*Monthly BILL of Mortality, from May 22, to June 26.*

Christened; Males 723 Females 711 Total 1434

Buried; Males 1129 Females 1150 Total 2279

Died under 2 years old .....907  
    Between 2 and 5.....223  
    Between 5 and 10.....83  
    Between 10 and 20.....95  
    Between 30 and 40.....202  
    Between 40 and 50.....220  
    Between 50 and 60.....165  
    Between 60 and 70.....93  
    Between 70 and 80.....76  
    Between 80 and 90.....41  
    Between 90 and 100.....2  
    108.....1

2279

Buried Within the walls 201 Without the walls 641

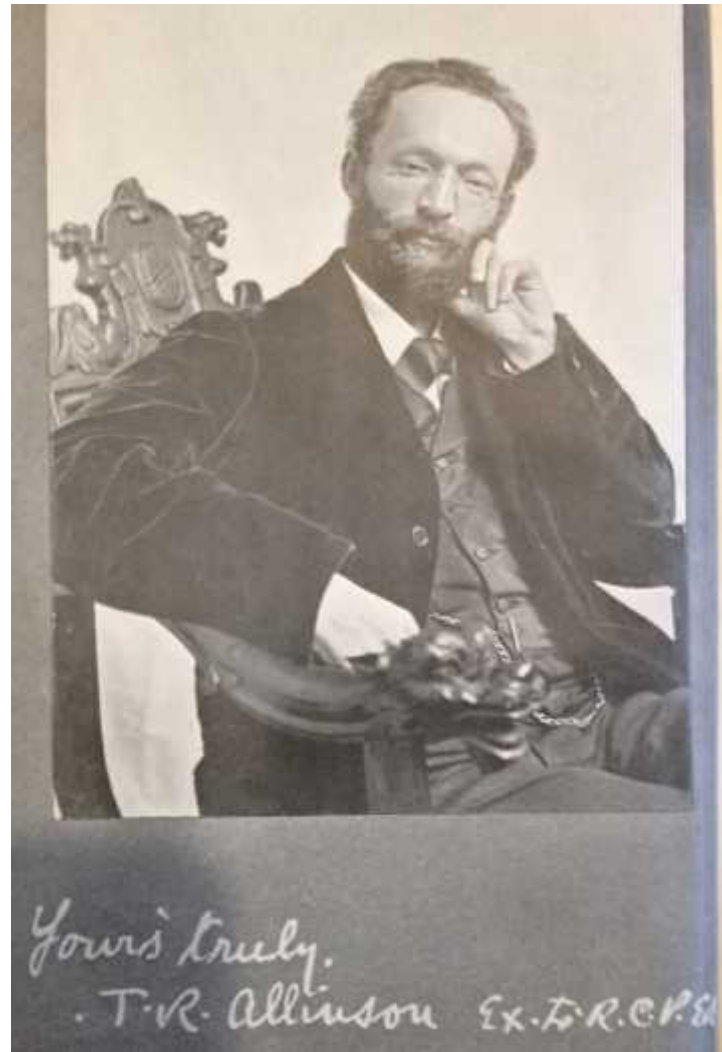
Peck Loaf, Wheat: - 2s.1d. Wheat 27s. *per Quar.* Hay per load 42s. Best Hops 3l. 15s.





Le Medecin d'autrefois affrontant les caprices du temps

Dr T. R. Allinson, Ex - L. R. C. P. Ed., &c., *Physician and Surgeon (1916)*



## Children in iron lung 1937



"I'll Be  
Right Over!"

...24 hours a day your doctor is "on duty" ...  
guarding health...protecting and prolonging life...

• Physicians... usually... routine patients... that the most imaginative mind could ever  
have been written about the "man in white"  
and his devotion to duty. But in his daily  
routine he lives more drama, and therefore  
more devotion to the work he has chosen,  
than the most imaginative mind could ever  
invent. And he takes no special credit. When  
there's a job to do, he does it. A few weeks  
of sleep... a few pulls of a cigarette... and  
he's back at that job again....



According  
to a recent  
Nationwide  
survey:

**MORE DOCTORS SMOKE CAMELS  
THAN ANY OTHER CIGARETTE!**



Pharmacology and therapeutics (1958): *Just read the book; we don't have any patients.*

(1) Write brief notes on.....(1) Pyaemia.....

(2) Discuss your management of a middle-aged man with duodenal ulcer.

Total patients seen during training in Dunedin with:

pyaemia===== 0

duodenal ulcer=====0

Seen anywhere else later on: pyaemia=====0

duodenal ulcer=====fewer and fewer

Dr King's house in Rangiora, built ca. 1928



Formerly a Residence and Surgery at 87 Church Street, Rangiora, in the 1950s.



## *Who is a doctor? The contemporary situation in the United Kingdom.*

The GMC maintains a register of medical practitioners. However, no law expressly prohibits any unregistered or unqualified person from practicing most types of medicine or even surgery. A criminal offence is committed only when such a person deliberately and falsely represents himself as being a registered practitioner or as having a medical qualification. The rationale of the criminal law is that people should be free to opt for any form of advice or treatment, however bizarre...



### Words that have stuck in my mind.

**Laurie King**, a very experienced GP in Rangiora many years ago. “Before the war, [*World War Two*] we could do nothing.”

**Erin Griffin**, One-time GP in Wellington. “A specialist will crawl through broken glass to get to the public hospital.”

**Retired specialist physician.** “You can suck this place dry in a year.”

**Harold Bourne**, specialist psychiatrist, Dunedin. “Doctors are only interested in things they think they can cure.”

**C.T. Hand-Newton**, specialist physician, and School Doctor to Christ’s College in 1948, (speaking wearily), having routinely examined a long row of wriggling naked small boys, looking for hernias and undescended testicles, “You do get so sick of it.” (R. R-S was holding the clipboard).

**Psychiatric Nurse**, temporarily working in a general practice (and needing psychiatric help). “GPs don’t know anything”.

**Casual acquaintance at a party**, “Are you a specialist, or just a general practitioner?”

**Wife of a former Wellington Hospital Consultant**, “ The hospital has to fix the mistakes made by the GPs”.

**Dr W. E. Minty, family friend**. Sole GP at Oxford in North Canterbury in the 1920s and 1930s, (later removing to Christchurch), “It was a waste of time”.

**.....and the last word rests with Peter Anyon**, Hutt GP and paediatrician. “Well, you can’t go broke in this job”.

BAPTISMS solemnised in the Parish of St JAMES, Clerkenwell, in the County of  
MIDDLESEX, in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty One

When baptised	Child's Christian Name	Parent's Name		Abode	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
		Christian	Surname			
7 Aug 18 No. 3129	Thomas	Thomas & Susannah	Lapton	St James Walk	Engraver	S. Figgott
No. 3130	Daniel Wills	Malachi & Mary	Page	Wood St	Clerk	"
No. 3131	Susannah	George William & Mary Ann	Sweetser	St John St	Druggist	"
No. 3132	Asher Bedford William	Asher & Sarah	Jones	Margaret St	Gentle	"
No. 3133	Hannah Ann	Joshua & Harriet	Hartley	Westminster	Shopkeeper	"
No. 3134	John Edward	John & Frances	Peacock	Margaret St	Masson	"
No. 3135	Harry	Thomas & Hannah Ann	Blake	St Lukes	Porter	"
No. 3136	Lucy Caroline	Edward & Sarah	Ridley	St James Walk	Tea Dealer	"

J M W Turner (1816) "*Dumblane Abbey.*" Engraved by the famous engraver, Thomas Lupton, of Clerkenwell.





**SUICIDE**  
**AND ITS ANTIDOTES,**  
**A SERIES OF**  
**ANECDOTES AND ACTUAL NARRATIVES,**  
**WITH**  
**SUGGESTIONS ON MENTAL DISTRESS.**

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**BY THE**  
**REV. SOLOMON PIGGOTT, A. M. OF OXFORD.**

## THE POWER OF FICTION

For a glimpse of London Hospitals in the early Twentieth Century, read ***Riceyman Steps***, by Arnold Bennet.

*(Bennett died from typhoid fever. Ignoring a warning, he drank water from a tap in a restaurant in Paris, in 1931.)*

For the management of tuberculosis in European sanatoria before the amazing antimicrobials arrived, read ***The Magic Mountain***, by Thomas Mann.

For an account of the management of typhoid fever in the 19C, read George Eliot' s masterpiece, ***Middlemarch***.

# *General Practice today*

**Dr Amanda T\*\*\*\*\*n**

**MBBS; FRNZCGP; BSC.**( Physiology and Pharmacology).

Amanda grew up in Queensland, Australia, and completed her medical degree at the University of Queensland in 2003. She completed her rural GP training in north Queensland before moving to R\*\*\*\*\* and commencing work at Medical Corner Doctors in 2011. She is interested in all aspects of general practice and family medicine. She also enjoys teaching and is actively involved in small group learning with GP colleagues.

**Family life keeps her busy outside of work**

**hours.** She lives in R\*\*\*\*\* with her husband and two preschool aged children.

**AMANDA'S HOURS**

**MONDAY and FRIDAY. 10.00am - 3.00 pm.**

## ***General Practice Today***

**“Introducing our Staff.....**

.  
We encourage you to develop a relationship (*sic*) with one doctor in the interest of **continuity of care**.....

**STEPHEN**.....Stephen is an avid flyer and gets into the sky at every opportunity.

He is married to Sue and they have a large extended family.

Stephen's regular hours are as follows however he often does additional hours when required:

**Wednesday 12pm - 7pm Thursday 11am - 6pm Friday: 9am-5pm.”**

**HENRICO PEDIATRICS, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, (sic).**

AUTHORIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT. *(JUST WHO IS **HERBY**?)*

I **HERBY** AUTHORIZE HENRICO PEDIATRICS, P.C. TO FURNISH INFORMATION TO INSURANCE CARRIERS CONCERNING MY ILLNESS AND TREATMENTS AND I **HERBY** ASSIGN TO THE PHYSICIAN ALL PAYMENTS FOR MEDICAL SERVICES RENDERED TO MY DEPENDENTS. I UNDERSTAND THAT I, THE PARENT / GUARDIAN AM RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AMOUNT NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE. I FURTHER AGREE TO PAY ALL COSTS OF COLLECTION, INCLUDING ATTORNEY FEES, COURT FEES, WHETHER SUIT IS BROUGHT OR NOT, IN THE EVENT THAT PAYMENT FOR SERVICES RENDERED IS NOT MADE WHEN BILLED.



Moa Point: seventy million litres per day

