

## John Crosby

**Born:** Unknown

**President:** 1687-1690 (acting President as election never confirmed – see text)

**Died:** [1692]

Nothing is known of Crosby's origins, he first appears in the records of the College when he was elected a Fellow in April 1674. He was Treasurer from 1676 to 1677, and among the archives of the College is a small book bound in vellum, marked on the cover *No 7, some old accounts*. This record is evidently in the handwriting of Crosby, and among the entries are a series of payments dated 15 March 1676 for the costs associated with a dissection carried out by the College:

It. to ye Joyner for ye dissecting table, the 15 <sup>th</sup> of March, 1676,	6s.	0d
It. to ye Cutler for cleaning ye instrumts. belonging to ye College,	5s.	5d
It. to ye Carpenter for altering ye window shutts,	2s.	0d
It. to ye Sexton of St. Andrewes for keeping the dogg, Sixpence,		6d
It. for a Warrant for ye body it was dissected,	1s.	3d
It. to ye Souldiers who kept ye body,	4s.	6d
It. for ye Coffin for ye sd. body,	4s.	6d
It. to ye Souldiers who watched,	9s.	0d
For the said Souldiers in drinke,	3s	10d

The whole sum spent on ye same body being £2 4s. 10d, I delivered upon ye President's note unto his man.

In October 1687 a crisis occurred which, for a short time, created dissension between Trinity College and the College of Physicians. In October 1687, Crosby was elected President of the College of Physicians but the Provost and Senior Fellows of Trinity refused to confirm the election because he was not a Protestant of the Church of Ireland and because the election had not been notified by the Registrar of the Physicians' College in the proper form. Even if there had not been a definite agreement, the Provost and Fellows would have been reluctant to approve a Catholic. The Catholic King James II had shown that he intended to introduce his co-religionists into offices from which they had been excluded by statute. His interference in the universities of Oxford and Cambridge would, no doubt, have made that of Dublin wary of creating a precedent dangerous to themselves.

The physicians quickly proposed that the agreement which gave the physicians the right to use Trinity Hall, and Trinity the right to approve Presidential selection should be cancelled. This was



accepted by Trinity provided that the physicians would deliver up all the documents in their possession relating to Trinity Hall, and an offer was also made by Trinity to make a lease of the Hall for forty years in such terms as might be agreed upon.

Confirmation of the appointment of the President by Trinity College was stipulated by the Royal Charter of 1667 granted to the physicians; so, confirmation was again sought from Trinity on 19 May 1688 and again refused. Nevertheless, Crosby seems to have carried on as President probably until after the Battle of the Boyne on 1 July 1690. His successor, Patrick Dun (qv), a Scotsman, had returned to Ireland with the Williamite army.

During the Williamite Wars Crosby disappeared from the records of the College. A will of a John Crosbie or Crosley MD was proved in Dublin in December 1692, and this is probably the same man.

TC

