

Richard Hoyle

Born: 1681
President: 1715-1716, 1724-1725
Died: 1730

Richard Hoyle, first Anatomy and Chirurgery Lecturer in Trinity College Dublin was born in Dublin, the son of John Hoyle. He matriculated in Trinity in November 1696 at the age of 15 and graduated nine years later BA and MB in spring 1705. Whether he also studied for a period elsewhere during this time is unknown.

His early professional interest in anatomy is demonstrated in the College of Physician's records when, in August 1706, the College gave him a warrant to undertake a dissection of the body of a criminal executed at Kilmainham. In January 1710, he was given leave to apply to be examined for the degree of Doctor in Physic but he apparently did not apply in time, or in the correct format, and was not examined. However, a further note in the records in February 1710 shows that, after he made a late application, the College of Physicians recommended him to Trinity for the MD degree which was awarded in the summer of 1710.

In April 1710, Hoyle was proposed as a candidate for Fellowship of the College of Physicians. His rise in the College was rapid as having being admitted a Fellow on 12 June, he was then made Registrar on 21 October 1710. One of his early tasks assigned by the College was to go with Sir Patrick Dun's (qv) nephew, Patrick Mitchell (qv), to the late Ralph Howard's (qv) house to try to catalogue and retrieve books belonging to the College. He served again as Registrar in 1711 and became Vice President in 1714 and President in 1715 when Edward Worth declined the office.

Hoyle was appointed Lecturer in Anatomy and Chirurgery in the new Medical School in Trinity and gave a lecture on anatomy at the formal opening of the new Anatomy House on 16 August 1711. For unknown reasons, he was replaced by Bryan Robinson (qv) in 1716, but Robinson's appointment was overturned in the following year and Hoyle remained lecturer until his death.

During his presidency in 1724, the College decided to restrict candidature for Fellowship to those who had successfully submitted themselves for MD degrees from Trinity, or had an MD from Oxford or Cambridge. This therefore excluded Dissenters and Catholics who had degrees from Edinburgh or Leiden from Fellowship and although a petition from existing Candidates was received in April 1725, presumably reflecting their concerns, there is no evidence that this was discussed.



LIVES OF THE PRESIDENTS



Hoyle's attendance at College meetings was good in earlier years but in the last two years of his life he was often absent through illness, dying in August 1730.

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