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DOCTOR IN SCIENTIIS

MARIA O'BRIEN

Exercitationes corporis atque artem athleticam in moribus Graecorum reprehendenti viro cuidam haec respondisse traditur Solon, vir sapiens Atheniensis: ἀλλ' ἔχει τινὰ χρεῖαν οὐκ ἀτερπῇ τὸ πρᾶγμα καὶ ἀκμὴν οὐ μικρὰν ἐπάγει τοῖς σώμασιν. Quae exercitationes quam utiles sint, quam honestae, indiciis certissimis probat, ut olim ille philosophus, mulier haec diserta ac peritissima scientiae anatomiae, ut dicitur, pertinentis conformationi, viribus atque virtutibus corporis humani. Nam Aesculapii artes cum disciplinis gymnics feliciter coniunxit MARIA O'BRIEN, custos fida et doctissima bonae salutis valetudinisque athleticae. Puellam primo nutribant orae Malaisianae Australesque ac natandi usum docebant undae utriusque Oceani ingentes, cum necopinam advocant medici docti Regii Collegii Hibernici. Cursu vero studiorum perfeliciter et celerrime confecto, se totam dedit clinicae indagationi et curationi promovendae, plures honores consecuta, quam brevi elogio vix possint enumerari: de his autem fidem faciat liber rerum gestarum locupletissimus. Sed quid ego praeterita laudo? Nam haec medica optima adhuc assidua est et indefatigabilis, quasi ars disciplinaque, septuaginta per annos exercitata, eam corroboraverit. Magistra quoque egregia fuit quinquaginta fere per annos, primo apud illud Regium Collegium, deinde apud nostrum, ubi Professor Anatomiae—quod feminae non antea contigerat—ad cathedram ascendit. Peritia sua liberaliter adhibita tot discipulis quot officiis sanitatis publicae, innumeris indagationum libellis in lucem editis, praesidia magis magisque fortiora omnibus nostrum adduxit, ut quae penitus intellegit quantum scientia medica ad corpus tutius exercitandum conferre possit. Illud laudo elaboratorium, illos item cursus studiorum in Scientiis pertinentibus ad tutelam corporis exercitandi, illa denique consilia ut athletae certationibus magnopere fortificentur; quae omnia condita ipsa dirigebat veloci gressu acie intenta, velut athleta cursu ad metam intendere solet. Non miramur, quod medica honoraria saepissime aderat cohorti iuvenum in ludibus clarissimis certantium, usque ab illis Olympicis in urbe Moscovia apparatis, ne quid detrimenti athletae caperent. Nam quia necesse est aliquando os quoddam frangi in exercitationibus certationibusque, oportet doctorem sapientem praesto adire ut vulneri quam primum subveniat. Nonne optimum illud Hippocratis, 'Τὰ ὀστέα τῷ σώματι στάσις καὶ ὀρθότης καὶ εἶδος παρέχονται'? Ipse vero copiosis dissertationibus hoc affirmat, ossorum naturam penitus esse indagandam ut fracturae possent apte curari—immo omnino vitari, ut docet candidata nostra, si prudenti indagatione auxilioque machinae cuiusdam mirabilis, naturam comprehendimus eius debilitatis, quae Graece dicitur ὀστέων πόρωσις. Tanta est huic feminae prudentia, tanta sanitatis publicae peritia, ut eam, parem victori Olympiae, Doctorem in Scientiis acclamemus epinicio illustri:

φαμὶ καὶ φάσω μέγιστον
κῦδος ἔχειν ἀρετάν.

DOCTOR IN SCIENCE

MOIRA O'BRIEN

‘Exercise has a certain usefulness, not unattended by pleasure, and gives much strength to the body’: this was the Athenian philosopher Solon’s reply to someone who criticised the Greek fondness for physical exercise and athletic competition (Lucian, *Anacharsis, or Athletics* 6). In our times, sport has the wisest and most eloquent advocate in our Fellow Emerita and Emerita Professor of Anatomy MOIRA O'BRIEN, world champion in the field of Sports Medicine. She has applied her medical research to promoting well-being through exercise, and to treating and preventing injuries. Sport and medical science have been her two passions since childhood. Growing up in Malaysia and in Australia, she enjoyed swimming in the Ocean. She was only sixteen years of age when she obtained a scholarship to study medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and qualified at twenty two. Since then she has acquired more professional titles and recognitions than I could even begin to enumerate (her incredible curriculum vitae runs to over thirty-two pages). Nearly seventy years later, she is still practising daily as a consultant in the Affidea Clinic in Dundrum. In her academic career she taught for twenty five years in the Royal College of Surgeons and twenty one in Trinity, where she was the first woman to be appointed Professor of Anatomy. Her contribution to Public Health in Ireland and world-wide has been immense, and not only through her 31 books, 120 scientific articles, and more than 650 public presentations. As early as the 1960s she became involved in the Student Sports Clinic at the Royal College of Surgeons and, soon after being appointed to our College in 1984, she transformed the place at race speed. She established the Human Performance Laboratory, the Masters degree in Sports and Exercise Medicine, and the Certificate in Maximising Performance and Monitoring of Training in Sport, directing all these unprecedented programmes until retirement in 2005. She has assisted athletes in national and international championships, most notably at the Olympic Games of Moscow, Los Angeles and Seoul, serving as Chief Medical Officer to the Irish Olympic Council in the years 1979–1989. True to Hippocrates, who wrote extensively *On the Nature of Bones* and *On Fractures*, she knows that ‘the bones give the body rigidity, straightness and form’, and incessantly emphasises the importance of a deep knowledge of anatomy in dealing with trauma; but she also knows that bones break for other reasons. With transformative foresight, this woman was the first to introduce a bone density scanner in Ireland in 1990, establishing herself as a pioneer in the treatment of osteoporosis and remaining a leading authority in the field to this day. Please acclaim this formidable scientist, for she truly deserves the brightest Olympic laurel.

I say and shall say always that
the greatest glory belongs to excellence.

(Bacchylides, *Victory Odes* 5.159–160)

DOCTOR IN LITTERIS

LINDA ERVINE

sluindith folad ind epert.

(Ad Prisciani artem grammaticam adnotatio
vetusti cuiusdam viri Hibernici)

Fingite animis, si vultis, aevo ut dicimus medio viatorem quendam curiosissimum in terra Hibernia peregrinantem. Postquam domum redierat, narrabat se magistros quosdam vidisse sermone patrio colloquentes, dum discipulos docent linguae Latinae elementa, ut sibi videbantur, utilissima; vidisse item librum quendam adnotari litteris perpolititis et inusitatis. Nunc illum librum creditisne, sodales, non solum usque ad nos traditum esse, sed etiam omnibus spectandum in ipso Museo Nationali Hibernico, longo itinere facto a Bibliotheca Helvetica Sangallensi? De eo codice praeclaro loquor, quod in regione Ulidiana veteres docti Hibernici, Prisciani Caesariensis institutionibus grammaticis transcriptis, ad usum discipulorum antiqua lingua Hibernica adnotavere; nec non et labores suos timoresque, facetias, quaecumque denique in mentem venissent lingua patria paginae tradiderunt. Ex quo id cognoscitis, veteres sapientes ubicumque insulae natos sermone patrio usos esse familiariter. ‘Cur non liceat nobis? Si vero verba significant res, si nomina homines, qua re, quaeso, ignorabimus vestigia antiquae linguae communis? Qui cives sumus, nisi memores?’ Talia a civibus suis quaerere solet LINDA ERVINE, patrona patrii sermonis in Hibernia Septentrionali docendi. Belfastii nata et nutrita in civitate versa ad Orientem, ipsa ab infantia carebat rudimentis linguae Hibernicae; adulta autem diligenti studio idiomate Gadelico potita eiusdem recte loquendi consuetudine, id animo percepit, patrium sermonem concordiae fore percommodum. Unde tredecim abhinc annos haec mulier impavida domi aedificavit aedes, ut ita dicam, linguae Hibernicae, quibus nomen dedit ‘Turas’, iter quoddam significans ad patriam communem. Ibi audiuntur voces vitales linguae Hibernicae, ibi fit sermo familiaris; ibi vestigia maiorum Gadelicorum secuti tandem comprehendimus quid valeant vetera locorum nomina; ibi denique exercitantur studia ad concordiam pertinentia, quae discipuli Collegii nostri per vices colunt apud Belfastienses. Nonne magnum fecit femina haec fortissima? Maius etiam nuper, inquam, quod consilium cepit ibidem scholae Gadelicae instituendae; nec contumeliis iniuriisque a proposito deterreatur. Pro meritis iure adscripta est ordini Excellentissimo Imperii Britannici ac nuperrime Academiae Regiae Hibernicae. Sed ut complectar ad principium redeo. Cum vero iter significat verbum Turas in lingua Gadelica utriusque insulae nostrae, id tamen illi magistri veteres, quos supra dixi, non dubitaverint verbo cuidam Latino conferre huiusque exemplum producere ex illo carmine Tibulli de aurea aetate, qua ‘non acies, non ira fuit, non bella’, sed homines una in patria coniuncti vivebant concordēs:

at mihi contingat patrios celebrare Penates
reddereque antiquo menstrua tura Lari.

DOCTOR IN LETTERS

LINDA ERVINE

The word expresses substance.

(Old Irish note on Priscian,
St. Gall MS 904, fol. 24b)

Imagine travelling back in time to mid-ninth-century Ireland. You would discover the clearest evidence of our people's commitment to education. You would hear them speaking in the old language of this island, as they sought to impart knowledge of a foreign language that would open the door to scholarship for their pupils. You would behold the earliest signs of the Irish idiom written on the page. If you wish you had a time machine, look no further than the National Museum of Ireland, which currently displays a fabulous book, on loan from the Abbey Library in St Gallen, Switzerland. The Codex Sangallensis 904 was written by Irish people on the island of Ireland, probably in Co. Down, nearly twelve hundred years ago. It contains the authoritative Latin grammar of Priscian. Thousands of notes written in Old Irish explain the difficulties of the text, but also comment on daily hardships, revealing the teachers' wit as well as their fears in a troubled world. Those annotations give us an extraordinary insight into the lives of those who walked this beautiful island a long time before us. The modern-day version of that language is still very much alive: 'It's in our place names, it's in our surnames. It's in the words we use in everyday speech, it's in the structures that we use. If you don't have a knowledge of the language, you don't have knowledge of what is all around you.' These are the words of LINDA ERVINE, fearless promoter of Irish language education in Northern Ireland. Born in East Belfast, she learned Irish as an adult, and was struck by the possibility that language can truly unite people. Her first enterprise was the East Belfast Mission 'Turas', built on the firm belief that 'language belongs to all.' The project, established in 2012, provides Irish language classes and organises tours of East Belfast in search of its Gaelic past, with its landscapes, landmarks, and place names. Turas hosts a student on placement from our Masters in Conflict and Reconciliation. Setting up a Gaelscoil in East Belfast, the first of its kind for primary education, has been the most recent initiative of this intrepid woman, whom not even the unfairest opposition could deter. She has fully deserved high recognitions, decorated MBE for services to the Irish language, and most recently elected a Member of the Royal Irish Academy. 'Turas' means 'journey' in the Irish and Scots Gaelic language. If those old-time Irish teachers of Latin were here today, I have no doubt that they would recall a similar-sounding word as it appears in the poetic vision of a world with 'no enemies, no lust for blood, no battles', in which people live in harmony and grateful sense of belonging to a shared home:

And may I be able to stand before the shrine of my fathers' Penates
and offer the monthly incense to the ancient Lar of my home.

(Tibullus, *Elegies* 1.3.34-35)

DOCTOR IN UTROQUE JURE

DONNELL JUSTINUS PATRICIUS DEENY

Quid est libertas? Potestas vivendi ut velis.
Quis igitur vivit ut vult nisi qui recta sequitur?
(Thomas de Hibernia, e Cicerone)

Iustitiae hunc defensorem acerrimum ac disertum, virum doctum, praeditum egregio ingenio, si Cicero coram perspexisset, non deplorasset, credo, eloquentium paucitatem ut olim in libro primo de oratore; nam ille sua quidem sententia, ‘nemo poterit esse omni laude cumulatus orator,’ inquit, ‘nisi erit omnium rerum magnarum atque artium scientiam consecutus; etenim ex rerum cognitione efflorescat et redundet oportet oratio.’ Naturalis enim quidam splendor elocutionis audiebatur intra hos muros, cum discipulus Ardmachensis in certaminibus disserteret tanta facultate dicendi, ut dignus esset qui (mirabile visu) laurea maxima ter ornaretur a commentatoribus de temporibus moribusque Hibernicis. Alumnum praestantem iam novimus principem societatis discipulorum historicae; cuius die sollemni eundem nuper audivimus vehementi eloquentia a periculis defendere libertatem et loquendi et vivendi. Quam vehementius nunc, cum improbi prope totam rem publicam in praeceps dare videntur! Libens ac laeta praesento vobis Praehonorabilem DONNELLUM JUSTINUM PATRICIUM DEENY, Equitem Auratum, virum peritissimum iure et Hibernico et Britannico. Toga virili, ut ita dicam, vix indutus, in advocationem admissus est primo in Hibernia Septentrionali, deinde orator causarum senior factus in cuncta insula Hibernia, undetriginta per annos causas scite perorabat. In iudicia vero promotum memoriae traditur in sellis iudicialibus Hiberniae Septentrionalis arbitrum fuisse omnium iustissimum. At recta sequi videbatur in his quoque, quae extra iudicia aguntur; litteras dico, et artes liberales atque elegantiores, quae omnes magnifice promovit in Hibernia Septentrionali. Ut iam iudiciis, sic sagaciter praefuit Conciliis ludorum musicorum omniumque artium, sic societati deditae architecturae antiquiori, sic cathedrae poesis Hibernicae. Nimirum quia omnium rerum magnarum atque artium scientiam consecutus est, perdifficilem rem agere coepit de aliorum commodis quasi spoliis raptis medio in tumulto tenebrisque bellarum recentium. Quonam modo denique restitui possint quaecumque aliquis detraxerit emolumenti sui gratia? Quod illicitum quidem esse, immo infandum, plane monstravit Cicero ipse in libro quarto actionis secundae in Verrem: ‘Superbum est enim, iudices, et non ferendum dicere praetorem in provincia homini honesto, “Non es dignus tu qui habeas quae tam bene facta sunt, meae dignitatis ista sunt.” Tu dignior, Verres, quam ille?’ Sed temporibus nostris res agenda est consiliis quam prudentissimis; consentaneum est auxilium petisse consules primo Regni Britannici, deinde Rei Publicae nostrae ab hoc propugnatore et custode iustitiae eloquentiae humanitatis. Vale atque salve, praehonorabilis Procancellarie Universitatis Dubliniensis; nunc te Doctorem in utroque jure honoris causa salutemus effusissima gratulatione.

DOCTOR IN LAWS

Sir DONNELL JUSTIN PATRICK DEENY

What is freedom? The power to live as you will.
Who then lives as he wills except one who follows the things that are right?

(Thomas of Ireland, *Handful of Flowers*, 1495?, from Cicero)

Unwavering in the pursuit of justice, wide and deep expertise, and true eloquence: these qualities are inextricably intertwined in the character of our next candidate. That is rare brilliance, as Cicero himself observed, for ‘no one can be an orator complete in all points of merit, who has not attained a knowledge of all important subjects and arts, for it is from knowledge that oratory must derive its beauty and fullness’ (*On the Ideal Orator* 1.20). The halls of our University resounded with a unique example of that brilliance from the voice of a student from Co. Armagh, three-times Champion of the Irish Times National Debating Competition. Once Auditor of the College Historical Society, he raised his voice again on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the Hist, reminding us that ‘Now, more than ever before, discourse and debate are crucial in a democratic society and must be preserved and celebrated’. Six years later, these words resonate with us even more. You all know him: he is the Right Honourable Sir DONNELL JUSTIN PATRICK DEENY, Knight Bachelor, preeminent authority in Irish and British legal history. His career has been exceptional. After completing his studies at Trinity, he was called to the Bar of Northern Ireland at the age of twenty-four, and later to the Bar of Ireland as Senior Counsel. He served as a barrister for twenty-nine years, before being appointed a High Court Judge in 2004 and Lord Justice of Appeal in 2017, until retirement in 2020. His judgements have made history; but he is also an immensely influential figure in promoting ‘all things that are right’ in this island. His guidance has extended to Opera Northern Ireland, to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, to the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society; he was the founding Chairman of the Ireland Professorship of Poetry. In the past twenty-five years he has concerned himself with the sensitive issue of restitution of cultural artefacts. In 2000 the British Government appointed him to the Spoliation Advisory Panel, which advises on the repatriation of art plundered in the dark years 1933-1945. While continuing to serve as Chairman on that Panel, he also chairs the Advisory Committee on the Repatriation and Restitution of Cultural Heritage established by the Irish Government in 2023. The issue once outraged Cicero himself: ‘It is indeed arrogance, gentlemen, intolerable arrogance, for a governor in his province to say to a man of character “You are not worthy to have such works of art; they are fit only for people in my high position.”—And are you to be set higher than him?’ (*Against Verres* 2.4.45). In our times, we cannot imagine anyone who would provide better judgement, legal and ethical expertise than this superb champion of justice, formidable orator, and exquisite connoisseur. As we bid him farewell as Pro-Chancellor of our University, let us welcome him into our highest academic ranks with the warmest signal of admiration.

DOCTOR IN UTROQUE JURE

DERMITIUS FRANCISCUS SMURFIT

ἐκόντι τοίνυν πρέπει
νόῳ τὸν εὐεργέταν ὑπαντιάσαι
(Pindar in encomio Arcesilai)

‘**A**t qui opera, id est virtute et industria, benefici et liberales erunt, primum, quo pluribus profuerint, eo plures ad benigne faciendum adiutores habebunt, dein consuetudine beneficentiae paratiores erunt et tamquam exercitatiores ad bene de multis promerendum.’ Sententia Ciceronis sapientis de officiis disserentis aptissime convenit DERMITIO FRANCISCO SMURFIT. Cuius virtutem optimam et sedulam industriam quis est quin intellegat felicissime profuisse negotiis societatis familiaris? Illud ‘Carpe diem, iam fugit καὶρός’ legebatur inscriptum in aedibus officinae paternae, quam adulescentulus adivit parva quidem mercede, sed magna spe et audaci. Administrandi opera strenue data quadraginta per annos, ut charta et cetera involucra prospere iusteque fabricarentur, adeo divitias amplificabat, in dies societatem augebat, ut nulla huiusmodi nunc inveniri possit in orbe terrarum. Nec pericula usquam sprevit vir ingeniosus, praesertim cum periclitantes a ruina eripere posset, ut decet virum liberalem ac humanissimum. Dixerit sane vir negotiosus liberalitatem atque humanitatem suam ad utile spectare; si verum viri vultum inspexerimus, si gesta lustrarimus, virtutem agnoscimus illam viri iusti praecipuam, quam Socrates dixit φιλανθρωπίαν, id est amorem erga homines. Additur quod tacite ac verecunde beneficia afficere solet, nulla gloria sibi petita: haec est humanitas, haec pietas, ut placet omnibus viris sapientibus. Eius munificentissimae magnanimitatis talia repperi exempla: primum, quod saluti publicae subvenit, cum in Britannia tum in Hibernia, ut praesidia quam maxime valida pararentur feminis virisque, pueris puellisque in obscuritate vel aegritudine laborantibus. Secundum, institutio liberalis ac publica disciplina. Nam ascitus in concilium Praepositae nostrae, consiliis opibusque largiter datis, confirmat virtutes et spes adfirmat Universitatis liberae et iustae. Huius viri auxilio splendide aedificatum est apud nos templum illud studiorum negotialium; huius item auxilio praeservatur longissima aula, decus bibliothecae nostrae, quam ut olim, trecentos paene abhinc annos, magnificam condidit Thomas de Burgh architectus illustris, sic hoc adiutore videbimus non solum refectam in nitorem aetatis prioris, sed iterum sapientiae consecratam, fulgidiori exemplo saeculis futuris. Quid est haec, quaeso, nisi industria benigna et munifica? ‘Immo otium mihi gratum et iucundum,’ hic dicit festiviter ‘nam iuvat quod optima quaeque res feliciter eveniat optimis (quorum in numerum, si quaeris, habeo factionem illam ludicam Novae Angliae)’. Maximas igitur gratias agamus, Academici, viro eximiae virtutis et industriae, quem rogo ut adsensu sonorissimo in coetum nostrum vocemus.

DOCTOR IN LAWS

DERMOT FRANCIS SMURFIT

Therefore, it is fitting to greet one's benefactor
with an eager mind.

(Pindar, *Pythians* 5.43-44)

‘If people are generous and kind in the way of personal service—that is, with their ability and personal effort—various advantages arise: first, the more people they assist, the more helpers they will have in works of kindness; and second, by acquiring the habit of kindness they are better prepared and in better training, as it were, for bestowing favours upon many.’ If Cicero (*On Duties* 2.53), had written these words in our times, we would believe him to have our last candidate in mind. DERMOT FRANCIS SMURFIT has indeed displayed an outstanding ability and invested remarkable personal effort in the world of business, where his family name is synonymous with the right kind of ambition (‘Opportunity comes to pass, not to pause’, was his father’s motto) and well-deserved success: from the day he entered his father’s firm in 1961, earning little more than £2 a week, to the day he retired from a company that is now the largest paper and packaging manufacture in the world, he has always embraced challenges, including the all-important task of saving companies and jobs. This is a man who cares for people and for a just cause. The businessman in him says ‘we’re only as good as the people we surround ourselves with,’ but if we listen carefully to his words and examine his actions, we soon detect the kind of generosity that stem from ‘love for fellow human beings’, or, as the Greeks called it, *philanthropia*. The ancient philosophers all agree that the quality is genuine only if it changes people’s lives quietly and unassumingly. This philanthropist is precisely that kind of man. He was the Vice-President of the Royal National Institute of Blind People. He is a Patron of Great Ormond Street Hospital in London and a donor to Our Lady’s Children Hospital in Crumlin. To us, he is an invaluable benefactor and advisor of our University, a member of the Provost’s Council, and the generous and vocal supporter, at home and abroad, of the University’s commitment to inspire future generations. He is a Founding Patron of Trinity Business School and a munificent Benefactor of the Long Room in the Old Library. As we approach the tercentenary anniversary of the opening of Thomas Burgh’s architectural masterpiece, we look forward to the Old Library being restored to its full grandeur and more, in a majestic vision for a temple of research and culture in the 21st century. And yet, when he, rarely, speaks of his benefactions, he merely includes them in the list of pastimes that give him joy, mentioning his transformative investments of time and money in the same breath as his passion for the New England Patriots! I ask you, members of the Senate, to admit this man among your highest ranks, for he truly is ‘generous and kind in the way of personal service.’