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TO THE

SLOANE MANUSCRIPTS

IN THE

BRITISH MUSEUM

BY

EDWARD J. L. SCOTT, M.A., D.LITT.

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ГОСУДАРСТВЕННАЯ
БИБЛИОТЕКА
СССР
ИМ. В. И. ЛЕНИНА

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P R E F A C E.

THE Manuscripts here indexed formed a part of the extensive scientific and literary collections of Sir Hans Sloane, Bart., M.D. After his death on January 11th, 1753, in accordance with the terms of his will, his entire Museum and Library were offered by his executors to the nation for £20,000, and were ultimately purchased for that sum out of the proceeds of a public lottery under the Act of Parliament 26 Geo. II., cap. 22, from which the British Museum dates its foundation.

In common with the Cotton and Harley MSS., which were dealt with in the same Act, the Sloane MSS. have retained the name of their original collector, with a separate numeration, 1-4100; at the same time they serve for a basis to the great series of subsequent acquisitions known as the Additional MSS., the first of which is numbered 4101, and which have now reached the number 37,000.

As far as No. 5017 the Sloane and Additional MSS. together are included in Samuel Ayscough's *Catalogue of the Manuscripts preserved in the British Museum hitherto undescribed*, 1782, 2 vols. quarto. The descriptions there given do not follow the numerical order, but are roughly classified according to subject. Although useful to a certain extent, they are for the most part inadequate and too often incorrect, while the index is confined to a mere list of the personal names which appear in them. Apart from a new Catalogue, a fuller and more systematic Index, with references, not to Ayscough's pages, but to the manuscripts themselves, has therefore long been required, and, so far as the Sloane MSS. are concerned, it is at length supplied in the present volume.

Besides names of persons and places and particular subjects, it includes a large number of class-headings, a list of the more important of which is prefixed. Volumes and single documents on historical subjects will be found under the name of the country to which they relate, those of a general character being placed at the beginning and the rest following chronologically under the several reigns. With regard to collections of letters, and more particularly

Sloane's own correspondence (4036-4069), the references differ in many cases from those given by Ayscough or since quoted elsewhere. The contents of such volumes were formerly arranged alphabetically under the names of writers. As the disadvantages of this system are obvious, the opportunity has now been taken to change it for an order of date, and it must therefore be understood that the references throughout follow the present arrangement.

Although the numeration extends to 4100, upwards of two hundred and fifty numbers within this limit do not appear in the Index. Most of them were borne by Oriental manuscripts, printed books, maps, and early engravings, which have been transferred to the Departments of the Museum to which they more properly belong. Others were accidentally passed over when the collection was originally numbered, or the volumes bearing them were already missing in Ayscough's time; and there are also cases in which two different numbers were assigned to the same manuscript. The hundred and sixty-eight documents which go by the name of the Sloane Charters, but the provenance of which is somewhat doubtful, are also omitted. They are, however, included in the *Index to the Charters and Rolls in the British Museum*, of which vol. i. (Index Locorum) was published in 1900. Moreover, after the publication of Ayscough's Catalogue, and after the Sloane numeration had been continued for the Additional series, upwards of a hundred more Sloane MSS. were identified. Although they are numbered Additional MSS. 5018-5027, 5214-5308, they ought strictly to have been indexed here with the rest of the Sloane collection; but, as they appear in the *Index to the Additional Manuscripts . . . acquired in the years 1783-1835*, published in 1849, it was not thought necessary to repeat the entries relating to them which are there given.

The present Index was compiled by my predecessor as Keeper of MSS., Dr. Edward Scott, and he is solely responsible for its plan and execution. In passing it through the press he had the help of Dr. Kenyon, Assistant Keeper of MSS., and of Mr. D. T. Wood and Mr. H. I. Bell, Assistants.

GEORGE F. WARNER,
Keeper of MSS.

16th September, 1904.

PRINCIPAL CLASS-HEADINGS.

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| <p> Accompts.
 Alchemy.
 Architecture.
 Arithmetic.
 Arms.
 Army, of England.
 Art.
 Astrology.
 Astronomy. </p> <p> Bibles.
 Bibliography.
 Bindings.
 Bookplates.
 Botany. </p> <p> Catalogues.
 Chemistry.
 Chronology.
 Classics.
 Commonplace Books.
 Companies. </p> <p> Dictionaries.
 Drama.
 Drawings. </p> <p> Epigrams.
 Epistolography.
 Epitaphs.
 Exchequer. </p> <p> Fortification. </p> <p> Geography.
 Geology.
 Geometry.
 Grammars. </p> <p> Heraldry.
 History. </p> <p> Inscriptions.
 Inventories. </p> <p> Kalendar. </p> <p> Law, of England.
 Liturgies. </p> | <p> Magic.
 Manners and Customs.
 Manuscripts, Owners of, etc.
 Maps and Plans.
 Mathematics.
 Medicine.
 Metaphysics.
 Meteorology.
 Military Tactics.
 Mineralogy.
 Mint.
 Moral Philosophy.
 Music. </p> <p> Natural History.
 Natural Philosophy.
 Navigation.
 Navy.
 Numismatics. </p> <p> Orders. </p> <p> Parliament.
 Peerage.
 Philosophy.
 Physiognomy.
 Plague.
 Poetry.
 Prayers.
 Prophecies.
 Proverbs. </p> <p> Receipts.
 Revenue.
 Romances. </p> <p> Sermons.
 Societies.
 Specula.
 Sports and Pastimes. </p> <p> Theology.
 Trade. </p> <p> Visions.
 Voyages and Travels. </p> <p> Zoology. </p> |
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