Cullen, William 1710 - 1790

DEGREE: MD DATE: 1740 PLACE: Glasgow
TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Plummer

held first independent lectureship in chemistry in the British Isles and first at Glasgow to teach in English rather than Latin; discovered the phenomenon of the cold produced by evaporating fluids; first to give symbolic precision to the affinity tables then in vogue; studied various medical phenomena, esp. classification of diseases; suggested analysis of soils for nitrate content to determine soil fertility.

FOOTNOTE: Cullen studied medicine at Edinburgh where the anatomist Alexander Monro (senior) was head, and attended the chemistry lectures of Plummer from 1734-36; these lectures probably turned Cullen's interest to chemistry.