Mrs Fleming's accounts was ultimately settled by Newbery; but, though this might in itself go far to clear her from the imputation of the arrest, the suspicion above expressed in connection with Newbery himself leaves the matter still in doubt, and the Newbery payments strengthen the belief of a private understanding existing between her and the bookseller (Forster).

Kill Only Your Enemies*

MRS GWYN

He [Goldsmith] had been called in to a Mrs Sidebotham, an acquaintance, labouring under illness, and having examined and considered the case, wrote his prescription. The quality or quantity of the medicine ordered, exciting the notice of the apothecary in attendance, he demurred to administer it to the patient; an argument ensued, which had no effect in convincing either party of error, and some heat being produced by the contention, an appeal was at length made to the patient, to know by whose opinion and practice she chose to abide. She, deeming the apothecary the better judge of the two from being longer in attendance, decided for him; and Goldsmith quitted the house highly indignant, declaring to Sir Joshua he would leave off prescribing for friends. 'Do so, my dear Doctor,' replied Topham Beauclerk, when he heard the story, and afterwards jested with him on the subject: 'whenever you undertake to kill, let it be only your enemies.'

NOTE

In 1756 Goldsmith, prompted by the uncertainty of his finances, again attempted to earn a livelihood as a physician. This step is said to have been recommended by Sir Joshua Reynolds, Mrs Montagu, and other friends. We hear of one patient, whose story is told by Prior as he had received it from Mrs Gwyn [née Mary Horneck], to whom Reynolds had related it.

* In James Prior, *The Life of Oliver Goldsmith, M.B., from a Variety of Original Sources*, vol. 2 (London: John Murray, 1837) p. 105. Editor's title.