

the last month he dispensed 3,409 prescriptions, and that in the large majority of cases the medicine so prescribed was handed over to children under fourteen years of age. Most of these bottles contained poison, and if all the contents of a bottle were drunk by a child there would be danger of death. He had on one occasion recently declined to hand to a little girl messenger a bottle containing aconite and belladonna. It was resolved to urge the Guardians to change the system.

Two hundred delegates from various parts of the world have arrived at Biarritz to attend an international congress on "Thalassotherapy," or the treatment of disease by sea air, baths, and voyages.

In laying the foundation stones of two hospital pavilions and a nurses' home at Withington in connection with the Chorlton (Manchester) Union, Mr. Ramsden, chairman, mentioned that among the two thousand and odd inmates of Withington Workhouse there were only fifty women and forty men who were really able-bodied. The term "workhouse" was, therefore, a misnomer. The institution was essentially a hospital for physical and mental diseases, and a refuge for the aged poor. To show what an important part such institutions played in healing the sick poor of the country, he stated that there were more sick in the union hospitals in London alone than in all the voluntary hospitals of England and Wales put together.

At the quarterly meeting of the Governors of the Lincoln County Hospital it was stated that the recent additions and improvements had cost £10,959. Canon H. W. Hutton, who presided, said they had been charged with extravagance, but it was not a fair charge to make. Several members of the Board spoke upon the great improvements effected, and a number of donations were promised. The Chairman promised £100, and said Mr. A. Shuttleworth would give £1,000, and Mr. Arthur Leslie-Melville £500. Mr. Bainbridge consented to give £100 a year for the next five years, and Mr. C. Brook said he was ready to enter into negotiations for the erection of a new operating-room to the extent of £1,000.

The Marchioness of Ripon has given £100 towards the furnishing of the new Victoria Nurses' Home at Ripon.

Three millions sterling have been appropriated by Mr. John D. Rockefeller for the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research, an institution which is bound to be of world-wide interest, and the director has just been appointed, although the institute itself will not be ready to be opened for at least a year. He is Dr. Simon Flexner, and is quite a young man for the position, for he is only just forty. Born in Louisville, of Jewish parents, he studied at the Johns Hopkins University, and has been connected with the University of Pennsylvania. He is also a director of the Ayer Clinical Laboratory and Pennsylvania Hospital of Philadelphia. He has written a good deal on bacteriology, as well as on pathological subjects, and is at present working to discover an anti-toxin for rattlesnake bite.

It is reported that a case of sleeping sickness has occurred at Mombasa.

The Medical Knowledge of the Ancient Egyptians.

By MACLEOD YEARSLEY, F.R.C.S.

"Thou unrelenting Past!
Strong are the barriers round thy dark domain
And fetters, sure and fast,
Hold all that enter thy unbreathing reign."
—BRYANT.

Of all the nations of the ancient world the Egyptians stand out prominently as the originators of that culture and civilisation which, after a brief o'ershadowing by the dark clouds of the Middle Ages, influences us to-day. An eminently religious people, the elaborate care with which they tended their dead has furnished us with more reliable information regarding their manners and customs than we possess concerning any other of the races which peopled the earth when it was younger by many centuries than now. Endowed with many of those humaner qualities which are the pride of modern men, they are thus distinguished from their contemporaries, and have left footprints on time's sands which, though they may become lost to sight, will not be effaced so long as the world endures.

Their skill in medicine was renowned far and wide, was much sought after, and, from the numerous references to it in the works of many writers, must have been one of the wonders of the ancient civilised world. Later, when Egypt had become a mere wreck of her former self, and her once unrivalled splendours had been swallowed up in the newer civilisation of her conquerors, she still remained the seat of medical as well as other learning, and the University of Alexandria became the foremost in the world until the advent of the early Christians brought about a period of debasement in culture, science, and art that was not dispelled for several centuries.

Egyptian medicine may therefore be divided into two periods, the *Pharaonic*, from the earliest known times to the termination of the last native dynasty, and the *Alexandrian*, from the foundation of Alexandria to the introduction of Christianity. The two periods require consideration in detail, for both are in great contrast to each other in method and science.

I.—THE PHARAONIC PERIOD.

In Egypt it was the custom often to lay the sick before their houses, so that passers-by might tender advice (a practice more frequently followed in Babylon), but usually a member of the medical faculty was called in to see and prescribe for the sufferer. In the schools of medicine at Heliopolis, Memphis, Sais, and Chennu students lived in houses attached thereto, under the discipline and inspection of their teachers. Chabas thus translates the warning of the professor: "Let not idleness overtake thee else shalt thou be severely chastised. Hang

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