

Professional Review.

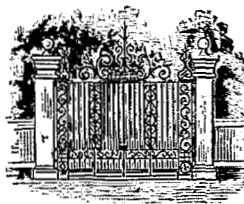
SIR THOMAS BROWNE AND HIS RELIGIO
MEDICI.—AN APPRECIATION
By ALEXANDER WHYTE, D. D.

DR. WHYTE has done the lovers of the *Religio Medici* a kindness by compiling an edition of selections from this comparatively little known, but wholly admirable work. The book is published by Messrs. Oliphant, Anderson and Ferrier, of 21, Paternoster Square, E.C., and as the price is only 2/- it is within the means of most people. The introduction by Dr. Whyte gives us a vivid word picture of Sir Thomas Browne's every day life, and of his strongest characteristics. For instance, he says: "You might read every word of Sir Thomas Browne's writings and never discover that a sword had been unsheathed or a shot fired in England all the time he was living and writing there. It was the half-century of the terrible civil war for political and religious liberty, but Sir Thomas Browne would seem to have possessed all the political and religious liberty he needed. At any rate, he never took open part on either side in the great contest. Sir Thomas Browne was not made of the hot metal and the stern stuff of John Milton. All through those terrible years Browne lived securely in his laboratory, and in his library, and in his closet. Richard Baxter's *Autobiography* is as full of gunpowder as if it had been written in an army-chaplain's tent, as indeed it was. But both Bunyan's *Grace Abounding* and Browne's *Religio Medici* might have been written in the Bedford or Norwich of our own peaceful day." We can picture Sir Thomas Browne, therefore, in those troublous times, absorbed in his medical and his literary pursuits, governing his own household, bringing comfort, and strength, and healing to his patients, but serenely indifferent to all that was going on around him. That he was keenly appreciative of beauty is certain. Amongst his private papers were found his rules for private prayer, and very noteworthy they are. For a busy physician to make a rule of praying seven times a day, was no light undertaking. Yet this habit Sir Thomas Browne says he took up "long ago from the example of David and Daniel, and a compunction and shame that I had omitted it so long when I heedfully read of the custom of the Mahometans, to pray five times in the day." With regard to beautiful people his rule was, "upon sight of beautiful persons, to bless God for all His creatures! to pray for the beauty of their souls, and that he would enrich them with inward grace to be answerable to the outward." With regard to Church going he made a rule, "Since the necessities of the sick, and unavoidable diversion of my profession, keep me often from church; yet to take all possible care that I might never miss sacraments upon their accustomed days." We can understand the atmosphere of quiet confidence and peace which would surround such a man, and which would be communicated from him to his patients, and form no unimportant part of his skill in healing them. Those who desire to increase their acquaintance with Sir Thomas Browne, and his many wise and beautiful sayings, cannot do better than procure Dr. Whyte's admirable book.

The first copy of "The Journal of Tropical Medicine," a monthly journal devoted to Medical, Surgical, and Gynæcological Work in the Tropics, has been issued.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



PRINCESS HENRY OF BAT-
TENBERG, as patron of the
Isle of Wight Branch of
the Mothers' Union, pre-
sided at a largely attended
meeting of members, held at
Ryde last week. Her Royal
Highness was cordially
welcomed on behalf of the
executive by the Rev. J.
Shearme, vicar of Ryde. Mrs. Sumner, wife of Bishop
Sumner, founder and organiser of the union, gave an
earnest address on its objects.

Queen Wilhelmina, whose coronation as Queen
of Holland will take place at Amsterdam on the 9th of
next month will take the following oath:—

"I swear to the Dutch people that I will observe
and always maintain the Constitution.

"I swear that I will defend and guard with all my
power the independence and the territory of the
Empire, that I will protect public and private liberty
and the rights of all my subjects, and that I will use
every means confided to me by the law to foster and
uphold the national and individual well-being, as a
good Queen should do. And may God help me."

After the Queen has taken the oath her enthroniza-
tion at the hands of the States General will follow.
The oath of this body, taken first by the President, and
then by each member individually will close the
ceremony.

Miss Anderson, who has succeeded Mrs. Tennant as
Inspector of Factories, pays a warm and well-merited
tribute to the worth of her predecessor, in the Annual
Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, which has
just been issued. "It is for others in words to
measure the extent of the loss in a public sense." It
is impossible to estimate Mrs. Tennant's work at its
full value in words, but it has made an impression
which will never be effaced.

The five women inspectors, surely all too few, have
been occupied for the most part during the past year
by special inquiries. For instance, it was at one time
Miss Dean's duty to get evidence of systematic pay-
ment of peasant home-workers in Ireland by goods, or
in money to which the condition was attached that it
should be spent in particular shops. In connection
with this quest Miss Dean reports:—"A pair of
thin, elastic-sided boots, which constituted the
'wages' paid to a worker—who, according to the
practice of the country, generally went barefooted—
were, for a long time, objects of longing to me as
articles of evidence. "Sure, and what should the
likes of meself be after with sich-like ilegance? 'tis
a poke of meal or the money to pay the 'cess,' that I'm
after wanting," was the complaint made to me by the
unwilling owner of this splendour."

In the Potteries Miss Dean and Miss Paterson have
also done good work. The greater part of their report
has, says the *Daily Chronicle* been suppressed by the
Home Secretary, but the following fragment is
sufficiently graphic. Discussing the charge of careles-
ness, which is frequently brought against the workers

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)