

when his disease was great he sought not the Lord, but his physicians."

Specialization, which we are apt to think of only as a growing tendency in our own day, is shown to have been carried to excess centuries before Hippocrates: "Those who treated fractured bones were not permitted to deal with diseases of the joints other than fractures; physicians for stomach complaints were by law debarred from treating diseases of the heart and so on; a surgeon could not treat a patient with disease of the intestines, though he should have a first-rate knowledge of internal complaints. Fancy how galling it must have been to the surgeons of those days to have been obliged by law to hand over their appendicitis cases to the physician whose speciality was the right iliac fossa!" He then expands again on the subject of occultism, illustrating his subject with anecdotes, and including homœopathy in his denunciation of frauds.

Coming down the centuries he gives us a sketch of the great leaders in the evolution of medical science: "Philenus, who founded the School of Empirics; anatomy and physiology were dismissed as useless, and in the treatment of disease experience and observation (necessary adjuncts to anatomy and physiology) were alone depended upon"; Aristotle, the founder of comparative anatomy, who actually practised dissections on men and the lower animals. Then turning from the Greeks to the Romans we hear of "Cornelius Celsus, who flourished about the commencement of the Christian era," and who has left behind him a valuable summary of the medical practice of his time. Claudius Galen (born A.D. 131) appears to have written a great number of treatises, "and his additions to knowledge were so valuable that he may be said to have brought about the dawn of medicine."

THE OATH OF HIPPOCRATES.

"I swear by Apollo the physician, by Æsculapius, by his daughters Hygeia and Panacea, and by all the gods and goddesses, that to the best of my power and judgment I will faithfully observe this oath and obligation. The master that has instructed me in the art I will esteem as my parent, and supply, as occasion may require, with the comforts or necessaries of life. His children I will regard as my own brothers; and if they desire to learn I will instruct them in the same art without any reward or obligation. The precepts, the obligations, or whatever else belongs to the art, I will communicate to my own children, to the children of my master, to such other pupils as have subscribed to the physician's oath, and to no other persons. My patients shall be treated by me to the best of my power and judgment, in the most salutary manner, without any injury or violence; I will neither be prevailed upon by any others to administer pernicious physics, or to be the author of such advice myself. Cutting for the stone I will not meddle with, but leave it to the operators in that way. To whatsoever house I am sent for, I will always make the patient's good my principal aim; avoiding as much as possible all voluntary injury or corruption. And whatever I hear or see in the course of a cure, or otherwise, relating to the affairs of life, nobody shall ever know it, if it ought to remain a secret. May I be prosperous in life and business, and for ever honoured and esteemed by all men as I observe this solemn oath; and may the reverse of all this be my portion if I violate it, and forswear myself."

HIPPOCRATES.

Professional Review.

ST. JOHN'S HOUSE NEWS.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the first number of *St. John's House News*, the organ of the League of St. John's House Nurses. In its pretty blue cover, bearing an engraving of the medal worn by all the nurses of the House, it at once arrests our attention, and the contents promise well for the success of the *News* in the future.

The editorial notes tell us that it is hoped the *News* may prove a link to keep all members of the League in touch with one another, and prove a real and lasting bond of union, and concludes: "Let this new century see us combine in the formation of a fresh social tie, the desire for which is innate in the soul of man, for it springs from a great truth, the real unity of the human race. We seek each other because we need each other, and we need each other because our true existence is not as individuals, but as members of one body. We are not solitary units in the world, but parts of a great whole. True, with many men there must be many minds, and our League is to help us to enlarge our opinions and to widen our sympathies, and carry out the old words, which still ring true:—

"In things essential unity;
In things indifferent, liberty;
In all things, charity."

Very welcome is the letter from the Chaplain of St. John's House, the Rev. E. F. Russell, who says:—

"The feeling after a closer fellowship with one another, the desire to come into more effective touch and secure opportunities for the interchange of thought and experience and aspiration—these are evidences of a reality of awakened life which could not but command my heartiest sympathy."

These words of welcome to the League will, we are sure, be deeply valued by the members, for the chaplain of St. John's House is, with good reason, well beloved by all its members.

After giving a full account of the Inaugural Meeting the *News* launches out into various departments. Many interesting items are given of the movements of members of the House past and present, and as the *News* becomes better known this section should be increasingly attractive.

We notice that three weddings have taken place amongst the members of the staff during the last six months. Miss Emily Barron has been married to the Rev. Evelyn Muschamp, Miss Emilie A. Gross to Mr. George Kneen, Miss Harriet Lewis to Mr. Eynon Williams. All happiness to them in their new lives.

The St. John's House Debating Society has an excellent synopsis of subjects for discussion in the coming year. The Debating Society is starting on a new basis, and amalgamating with the League, which is no doubt on all counts desirable, but none the less should we remember that for nearly seven years this Society, founded on the initiative of members of the staff, has done excellent work, and it has our warmest wishes for its continued prosperity.

The *News* contains some interesting letters from members of the Staff, a notice in Memoriam Nurse Whitbread, who was trained by St. John's House, and for the last nine years has done valuable nursing work in connection with the Universities Mission to Central Africa, and lastly a List of the Members of the League. We heartily commend this newest publication: "by nurses, for nurses," to the nursing world.

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