

Unfortunately, he carried his assumptions too far, and fell into the serious error of considering that the veins carried air and the arteries blood. One of his most important discoveries was that of the lacteals, and with this knowledge he did his best to explain digestion and absorption in a scientific way.

These two professors were assisted in the university by Diokles of Karystus, and lectured to large classes. By the royal decree of Ptolemy they were allowed any number of dead bodies for dissection, and were also permitted to practise vivisection, not only on animals, but upon criminals convicted of capital offences. This led to as spirited an anti-vivisection controversy as has been witnessed among people in this country who would set themselves above the ancients as more "civilised." Celsus and Tertullian have chronicled the discussion. The vivisectionists of Alexandria said "they could study the particular organs during life in regard to position, colour, form, size, disposition, hardness, softness, smoothness, and superficial extent, their projections, and their curvatures," and they justified themselves by asserting that "it must be permitted to sacrifice the lives of a few criminals if by doing so a permanent advantage accrues to the lives and health of many worthy men." Their opponents replied "That it is not only a cruel practice and degrades the healing art, which should serve as a blessing to mankind, not as a torture, but it is also superfluous, since people whose abdomens have been ripped up, diaphragms exposed, and thoracic cavities opened, die before it is possible to make scientific experiments upon them." Historians do not say whether the ancient anti-vivisectionists were as conspicuous as their modern representatives in their disregard for truth, and there is no mention of any high priest with sufficient zeal (?) to stigmatise the medical profession as "human devils." Celsus, in deprecating the cruelty of vivisection, suggests that physicians should attend the gladiatorial combats and watch for wounds that exposed internal parts.

With such able teachers as Herophilus and Erasistratus, the students of the Alexandrian University had golden opportunities of learning, just as the mathematicians had similar advantages from the wisdom of Euclid, Appolonius, and Archimedes. But they soon found the road to scientific surgery and medicine as hard and thorny as the path of honour, leading, as it did and does now, through anatomy and physiology. Consequently, they preferred, as others have done since and will do again, the broader and easier ways of speculation. Some left Alexandria and founded schools elsewhere, as did Zeuxis in Laodicea, and Hikesios in Smyrna. There are always to be found, however, some steadfast spirits who recognise the right way and follow it whithersoever it may lead, and thus

there were exceptions to these backsliders, notably Endemos, an anatomist; Bacchios of Tanagra, and Mantias, who were both versed in *materia medica*; Demetrios of Apamea, and Andreas of Karystus, obstetricians, who wrote an exposition of the causes of difficult labour; and Philoxenos, a surgeon.

(To be continued.)

## Professional Review.

### INSTRUCTION PROFESSIONNELLE ET SITUATION DU PERSONNEL SECONDAIRE DES HOPITAUX.

Dr. Anna Hamilton, who is doing such excellent pioneer work in placing the training of nurses on an adequate footing in France, is presenting an interesting report on the subject at the third Congress of the Assistance Publique et Bienfaisance Privée, to be held in Bordeaux from June 1st to 7th, and a pamphlet containing extracts from this report can be obtained from G. Gounouilhou, 9-11, Rue Guirande, Bordeaux. Dr. Hamilton is resident medical officer and directress of the Nursing School of the Maison de Santé Protestante, Bordeaux, and under her direction it has attained the position of being the only nurse-training school in France to realise the Ministerial circular on nursing schools issued in October, 1902.

It only admits as pupils those who hold scholarships, or who pay for the training they receive.

All the pupils must be well-educated girls.

They undertake entirely the different branches of work of a hospital school, including the care of men as well as of women and children. A two years' course under a woman as Superintendent, who is also technically competent, is obligatory.

The pupils are required to wear a hygienic uniform.

The diploma of the school is awarded after proof of satisfactory practical and theoretical work during the whole of the pupil's hospital career.

#### PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTION.

Dr. Hamilton has formed the conclusion, shared by many Superintendents of Nursing in this country, that a nursing pupil, if the professional instruction given is to produce satisfactory results, must present certain guarantees, one of the most important being evidence of good education. Without this, the delicate work of the nurse, notwithstanding that the teaching given is excellent, will degenerate into coarseness, acting prejudicially not only upon the quality of the nursing care given to the sick, but also upon the class of pupils applying for training.

Thus we are told that the nursing schools of Paris are recruited from the servant class, whilst in the north of Europe the pupils are of the same social standing as doctors.

Dr. Bourneville, founder and director of Municipal Nursing Schools in Paris, is strongly impressed with the importance of recruiting probationers from an educated grade of women, and points out that the moral qualities so eminently desirable cannot be acquired entirely during the professional course, or conferred with the diploma of a training-school.

Dr. Hamilton maintains that pupils in training must be prepared to devote themselves entirely to their duties, and should, therefore, be unmarried or

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