

lay upon straw. A Parliamentary Inquiry in 1815 led to the adoption of more humane methods.

The Clergy Emergency Committee of the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, have issued a strong appeal on behalf of this institution, which must raise £4,000 before the 31st inst. if half of the beds in the hospital are not to be closed at the beginning of the New Year. Those who know the locality, its poverty and its needs, and the excellent work done by the hospital know that it would be calamitous were the Committee compelled to adopt this course. We hope this disaster may be avoided by generous gifts on the part of some who believe that the possession and use of wealth is a responsible trust for which they will one day have to render account.

Mr. Fred Reynolds, of Leeds, seems much in demand as a designer of title pages for the menu of medical dinners. We have frequently had the pleasure of inspecting very clever pen and ink sketches designed by him. The latest is that for the Barnsley and District Medico-Ethical Society, and is reminiscent of the truth "*Vanitas, vanitatum; omnia vanitas.*"

The eleventh annual meeting of the Ladies' Working Association in connection with the Royal United Hospital was held recently at the Bath Assembly Rooms, the Rector of Bath and Chaplain of the hospital presiding over a large attendance. A very interesting and gratifying report was read, and the balance-sheet showed a balance in hand of over £40. A sum of £22 16s. 2d. was handed to the chairman on behalf of the Hospital Committee, a presentation gift towards the maintenance of a cot in the Wales Ward. The various articles made by the members of the association during the year were exhibited. They made an excellent display and showed the usefulness of the association, which supplies the hospital with a full supply of linen, blankets, and garments for the sick.

The Mayor of Windsor has issued an appeal for funds to purchase a site for a new hospital in Windsor to replace the present Royal Dispensary and Infirmary, which is in a crowded street, and is not at all adequate to the demands made on it. A site committee was appointed by the governors some time ago to secure a suitable position. The Mayor appeals for £4,000 to purchase a desirable site and wall it in, and towards this he has received £2,200, including 100 guineas each from the King and Queen, a further grant of 400 guineas from the State Apartments Fund at Windsor Castle, and £50 from the Prince of Wales.

Three hospital ships moored in the Thames at Long Reach, and used for years for the reception of persons suffering from small-pox within the area of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, have been offered for sale by auction and bought. It is a pity they were not burnt.

An international conference concerning the status of hospital ships in war will meet in the Hague on the 13th inst. The majority of the Powers will be represented by their respective Ministers in the city. Russia will send Professor de Martens, accompanied by a naval officer.

The Medical Man in Ancient Rome.

It is interesting to note the curious results which a close study of the classics may lead to in certain minds—results naturally depending on the natural bent of the student. With the schoolmaster, Eugene Aram, for example, painstaking poring over the ancient authors made him hit on the fact, unsuspected till his day, of the close connection existing between the Celtic languages and other European tongues. Indeed, if the skeleton of his victim had never come to light, Aram's name would have been handed down as one of the greatest scholars of his age. In the case of Dr. P. Menière, who, for a considerable period under the Second Empire, was head of the Imperial Institute for the Deaf and Dumb, this ardent pursuit of the classics led to the somewhat original idea of a medical commentary on the Latin authors, which after the lapse of half a century since its publication in French at Paris is now, for the first time, about to appear in English form.

Whilst recognising the debt that Greece owed to Egypt, it may be said that Athens and Rome were the cradles of all human knowledge; for if this ignores the older learning of India and that brought to Barbary and Spain by the Sephardim Jews long before the time of Christ, the assertion is in the main correct, at all events, with regard to the subject in hand.

It was, in short, the Greek nation that popularised science among the Romans, and the evolution of medicine may be traced through poets who flourished before Hippocrates, and told of maladies and their remedies.

The works of the Latin authors contain a mass of medical ideas, such as accounts of mysterious epidemics which devastated Italy and of various diseases of man and beast, which in their nature and treatment offer interesting reading in the light of modern research. Then, too, there is much to be gleaned as to the hygiene and habits of the people and the duties of the medical man among them. The earliest of these authors is, of course, "Father" Ennius, whose works were rescued from the oblivion of fifteen centuries by the passionate devotion of Geronimo Columna, who consoled himself in his grief for the loss of his wife by collecting for the benefit of a beloved son every relic of the forgotten poet, and printing the work at Naples in 1590.

Ennius served as centurion in the campaigns in Sardinia and Corsica, and like a Conan Doyle of his day, described, albeit with poetical exaggeration, the ghastly wounds he had witnessed on many a hard-fought field. In a striking passage he pictures the horrors of decapitation and "the fainting eyes which still glitter, asking the light of day in vain."

In another famous line on the death of a trumpeter in battle, "*At tuba terribili sonitu tarantava dixit,*" he describes the trumpet still urging on the warriors after the trumpeter's head had been lopped off. In grappling with another phrase occurring elsewhere, "*Saxo cere comminuit brum*" (he split the skull with a stone), a young student might be pardoned for not recognising *cerebrum* in its divided particles, for the sentence has caused trouble to many, including Menière, who failed to appreciate the oldest pun on record.

But Lucillius, the Roman knight who, a century

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