

PIONEERS OF MEDICINE.

ST. LUKE.

St. Luke, the first medical missionary, the first medical author of works on Christianity, was born in Antioch, the Capital of Syria. His parents were Greeks, and the name Luke is probably an abbreviation of the name Lucanus. His early education was liberal and it is believed that he studied at the famous medical school of Tarsus, which at that time was a rival of Alexandria and Athens.

When he first met St. Paul, St. Luke was probably a medical student. But it was as a full-fledged physician that he accompanied St. Paul on his many journeys and administered to his physical needs. St. Paul rewarded him, not only by his affection, but by giving him that title which has become historical—"The Beloved Physician."

As well as being a physician and missionary, St. Luke was a distinguished author. He brought to the Gospel associated with his name, and to the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, a first-hand knowledge of the events he described and a polished style reflecting his literary education. Both the Gospel and the Book of the Acts are full of technical medical terms which no layman would have used. When he describes the condition of St. Paul's hand after he had been bitten by a viper, he uses the word "oedema," which would be familiar only to doctors. Much of the clarity of his narrative is assuredly due to his early scientific training which had taught him simplicity and directness.

It is supposed that St. Luke was already about sixty-five years old when he wrote his two classical works, and he is believed to have lived to the age of 84. The Roman Catholic Church celebrates his festival on October 18th.

After St. Paul's conversion to Christianity, St. Luke crossed over to Europe with him, living at Neopolis and travelling on to Philippi. It is here that he saw his companion, St. Paul, arrested, beaten with rods and thrown into prison for being a Jew. It is probable that St. Luke escaped the same fate because he was a Greek. When St. Paul departed from Philippi, St. Luke was left behind to carry on the missionary's work and to attend on the sick. He remained in Philippi while St. Paul was preaching in Athens and Corinth.

Some authorities believe that St. Luke was one of the seventy disciples and one of the two disciples who went to Emmaus. When St. Paul revisited Macedonia he again met St. Luke at Philippi. It was in St. Paul's company that St. Luke made the long coasting voyage vividly described in the Book of the Acts. The two apostles shared each other's sorrows and triumphs, and when they came to Jerusalem St. Paul was imprisoned and St. Luke was his daily visitor in the fortress, attending to St. Paul's needs.

Writing for the last time in prison to St. Timothy, St. Paul said: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. . . . Make haste to come to me quickly for Demas hath left me, only Luke and Luke alone is with me."

Little is known about St. Luke's declining years, but it is assumed that they were devoted to the needs of the sick and poor. It is not certain where he died. His claim to be a pioneer of medicine must at any rate in part depend on the fact that by combining medicine with Christianity, the needs of the body with those of the soul and mind, he raised medicine to a hitherto unknown height and gave it a spiritual force which has added incalculably to its value. He became a physician, thanks to the School of medicine in which he studied, but he earned the title of "The Beloved Physician," thanks to the influence of his Master and of St. Paul.

(Communicated by the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies.)

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

The King will Broadcast at Glasgow.

It has been officially announced that the King will broadcast to the nation and the Empire when he opens the Empire Exhibition at Glasgow on May 3rd. The King's speech will be made at about 11 a.m. at the Ibrox Stadium.

Women in Council.

We are receiving many enquiries concerning the Jubilee Conference of the International Council of Women to be held in Edinburgh from July 11th to 22nd, which promises to be an exceedingly interesting gathering of leading women in political, social and educational activities from many parts of the world.

H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent is associating herself with the Conference and is to receive the guests at a Garden Party at Holyrood House on July 18th. Baroness Boël, the President of the International Congress of Women is the wife of the vice-president of the Belgian Senate. The Marchioness of Aberdeen is arranging for a garden party at Haddo House, and as Mr. Walter Elliot, the Secretary of State for Scotland, will attend the Conference, every honour will no doubt be extended to the visitors. Edinburgh is a gem of a City, of vast historic traditions and an ideal meeting place for this great event. When the I.C.W. held its meeting in London in 1899, the delegates were received by Queen Victoria.

Enquiries *re* the Conference should be addressed to the General Secretary, Mrs. Watts, 92, Gower Street, London, W.C.1, and Mackay Brothers & Co., 33, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, will deal with accommodation. A leaflet *re* list of hotels, etc., will be sent on request.

First Woman Minister in Ulster.

A woman now holds office for the first time in the Government of Northern Ireland. Mrs. Dehra Parker, M.P., whose appointment to the Parliamentary Secretaryship of the Ministry of Education in Ulster has been announced. Mrs. Parker, who has been identified with the Unionist Party for many years, was a member of the first Ulster House of Commons. She sat for Londonderry from 1921 to 1929, and has sat for South Londonderry since 1933.

First R.S.A. Woman Associate.

The members of the Royal Scottish Academy, at an assembly in Edinburgh, elected for the first time a woman as an associate member. She is Mrs. A. E. Haswell Miller wife of the Keeper of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

Mrs. Miller, who topped the poll with 29 votes, received her training at the Glasgow School of Art. She has painted a good deal abroad, particularly in Northern Italy. She is represented in the Scottish Modern Arts Association by her picture "The Canal."

Abolition of the "Cat."

The complete abolition of birching or flogging as a Court penalty is recommended in a unanimous report issued recently by the Departmental Committee on Corporal Punishment.

A retention of the power to impose corporal punishment is proposed only in the case of prison offences. The Committee consider that it is essential to hold this power in reserve as an ultimate sanction in respect of mutiny, incitement to mutiny, and gross personal violence to prison officers.

Fitness in Gaol.

There is room for the "Keep Fit" movement inside prisons in the opinion of Mr. Harold Scott, chairman of the Prison Commissioners. Speaking at Manchester yesterday he said something should be done about physical training inside prisons.

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