

his time, however, the subject has been explained and illustrated by Spon, Chishull, Caylus, Saxe, Walche, Gough, Tochon, Siehet, Duchalais, Way, and Simpson,* so that there now remains no doubt that they were medicine stamps used by the Roman physicians or empirics for marking their drugs or preparations, especially for diseases of the eyes.

One of the most interesting of these stones, inasmuch as it presents very great difficulties in interpretation, is that which was found at Bath, in a cellar in the Abbey yard, in 1731. "It was shewn to the Society of Antiquaries in London, at that time and twice afterwards. Mr. Lethiecullier gave them a cast of it in plaster, and in 1757, the stone itself was the property of Mr. Mitchell. It is square, of a greenish cast and perforated." Dr. J. Y. Simpson, (*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, March, 1851,) informs us that he "had attempted to trace out the present proprietor of the stamp, with a view of ascertaining, more correctly, the exact nature of the inscriptions; but that these efforts were quite unsuccessful." Fortunately, however, "some manuscript notices of this Bath stamp exist in the minute books of the Antiquarian Society, with an impression taken with ink from the inscriptions." From a comparison of these notices with the copies of the inscriptions given by Gough (*Archæologia*, vol. IX., p. 228,) Dr. Simpson has determined the reading and interpretation of two of the legends with certainty, and of the third with some probability, whilst he states that the fourth side "offers the most puzzling of all the inscriptions hitherto found upon the Roman medicine stamps discovered in Britain." It is to this inscription that I now desire to direct attention. Mr. Gough (*Archæologia*, vol. IX., p. 228,) reads it:

T. IVNIANI HOFSVMAD ρ V
EC VMODELICTA A MEDICIS.

and Dr. Simpson offers the following explanatory remarks:

"This fourth legend on the Bath stone offers the most puzzling of all the inscriptions hitherto found upon the Roman medicine stamps discovered in Britain. As Mr. Gough gives it, the last words of the inscription (DELICTA A MEDICIS—esteemed by physicians,) are alone intelligible. The plaster cast of this side of the seal, contained in the Museum of the Antiquarian Society of London, contains an extremely imperfect copy of the second line, and not an over perfect one of the first; but we see enough of it to be quite aware of the great carelessness with which Mr. Gough had originally copied the whole inscription. The second last letter in the line is not the Greek ρ , but the Latin Q; and the name of the

* Dr. Simpson's articles in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, January and March, 1851, afford ample and satisfactory information, relative to the stamps found in the United Kingdom.