

treatise on Syphilis, at this time beginning to rage in Europe. He may have remained with him for some time, as Leonicensus speaks of Linacre as his pupil (Payne). In any case he must have found in the old Ferrara professor a remarkable character. He read the physic lectures for upwards of seventy years¹.

The length of Linacre's stay in Italy is not certain. Johnson says two years, but Payne thinks the evidence is in favour of a longer residence, six or seven years. Returning to England Linacre resumed his work at Oxford, teaching Greek, and probably practising medicine. Little is known of his life at this period. He had as friends the great scholars, Grocyn,

¹ In answer to one who asked him why he did not practise his art Leonicensus replied that he did the public a greater service by teaching those who cured them. He held that Philosophy and *belles lettres* should be joined to medicine, and when at the age of 96 he was asked to what he attributed his great age, he replied, to the innocency of his customs, the tranquillity of his soul and the frugality of his diet.