

"ME AN' TH' DOCTOR."

Written expressly for THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER AND REVIEW.

EXTRACTS FROM A "MIDWINTER'S NIGHT'S DREAM," IN WHICH
HANDWRITING WAS SEEN ON THE WALLS OF OUR TEMPLES

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There was a period in the history of medicine, and probably not forgotten by those who for thirty or forty years have been in practice, and have been observing the many changes, some for, and many in opposition to, not only our own, but the profession's best interests, when the doctor stood unchallenged, not one daring to make him afraid or dispute his utterances. In that happy period much respect was given the profession, and that most blasphemous and low-bred salutation, "Doc," of modern origin and disrespect, would never have been tolerated. However, with lapsing years, medicine has achieved the highest honors, and all civilized governments have vied with each other in their munificent gifts and manifold interests in medical advancements, and never in the world's history has medicine occupied higher levels, eclipsing the brilliant age in which Pliny lived. So much literature, eulogistic of our profession is there preserved. "Cradled in story and nourished by song," that we need no proofs of our honored position among men. However, to those who admire the writings of Plato or his Dialogues of Eryximachus, the son of the physician, Acumenus, confirmation will be given my statements. I have not these Dialogues in my library. Yet many years since I most pleasurably read them in the original; and for the advancement of our best interests, will not a brother, resident of a city having a university with a library of the classical writers of Greece and Rome give in these columns a good translation of these Dialogues? Juvenal, in his Satires, names Archigenes (Satire VI., 290),

"'Tis she, that knows the time for feigned disease.
'Tis she that sends to fetch Archigenes."

Pliny names several doctors who were given pensions by emperors. The lowest pension given was 250 sester tia (more than \$10,000). During the reign of Claudius, Stertinus, although the recipient of 500 sester tia from the Emperor, com-