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Original Contributions.

THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE.

BY EZRA H. B. STAFFORD, M.B.

Ad E. A. M. R., Salutem. The history of medicine has not as yet been written, though many writers of exemplary patience and unbounded leisure have dallied with the ample subject.

The fact, in all its seriousness, that such a history *might* be written, or ought to be written, seems first to have struck the German mind; and a large number of writers of this nationality have soberly addressed themselves to the congenial task. Probably a German scholar's ideal of earthly happiness is to be calmly engaged in writing a work, published by volumes from year to year, and of such a nature that the writer need have no apprehension of ever getting to the end. Casper Neumann's Chemistry may be taken as an example of this sort of work, which, carried on slowly, without unseemly haste, through the first half of the eighteenth century, covered eventually seven comfortable quarto volumes of about eight thousand pages, and came, only with the author's death, to a yawning termination, not unlike the mediæval notion of the edge of the earth.

And who shall have the audacity to say that Neumann's work is not eminently interesting? "Tin," he pauses to remark, "is called in the Syriac and Chaldaic languages 'Bragmanack,' that is, the kingdom of Jupiter; whence are deduced, 'Bratman,' 'Britman,' 'Britannia.'" From a reflection so flattering to the English, the deliberate author composedly passes on to a consideration of the