

which *Mercurius* was but *puer* at the time of his death. See De Rossi's nn. 178, and 193.

(g) Mention of time of sickness before death :— 95.

PERPETVO BENEMERENTI IN PACE
QVI VIXIT · ANNOS · PLM · XXX MEⁿses ...
DEPOSITVS IDVS APRILIS DEFVNctus ne
OFITVS PERIT · IN DIES · V ·
POS CONSVLATV · VICTORI^s et
VALENTINIANI · NOBI *lisssmi pueri*

(In *Mus. Vat.* ; De Rossi, n. 214.)

Perpetuo bene merenti in pace, qui vixit annos plus minus XXX, menses —. Depositus Idus Aprilis (Idibus Aprilibus), defunctus neofitus (neophytus), perit in dies V, post Consulatu (Consulatum) Victoris et Valentiniani, Nobilissimi Pueri.

"To Perpetuus, well deserving, in peace, who lived thirty years more or less, — months. Buried on the Ides of April (April 13th), died a neophyte, was sick for five days, in the year after the Consulship of Victor, and Valentinian, the most noble boy," i. e. 370 A. D.

1. 4. *Perit in dies V.* This notice of the period of sickness is very rare. We have another example in De Rossi's n. 8 :—ἐν νόσησεν ἡμέρας ἑβ̄. 1. 5. *Post consulatum Victoris et Valentiniani.* It is strange that this form should be used to denote the year, instead of the ordinary form—*Valentiniano III et Valente III*—especially as we have examples of the use of this latter in Christian epitaphs of January and March. No satisfactory reason can be assigned for this variation, which is also used in other cases apparently capriciously.

(h) *Domini Nostri* applied to Consuls not *Augusti* :— 96.

DD NN · CLAEARCO ET RICOMEDE VVCC
CONSVLIBVS BENEMERENTI OLIBIONI QVI VIXIT
ANNVS XV · MESIS VI DIES XX DECESSII
DIE XII KALENDAS OCTOBRES IN PACE

Dominis Nostris Claearco (Clearcho) et Ricomede (Ricomere), Viris Clarissimis, Consulibus. Benemerenti Olibioni, qui vixit annus (annos) XV, mesis (menses) VI, dies XX. Decessii (decessit) die XII Kalendas Octobres in pace.

"In the Consulship of our Lords Clearchus and Ricomer, most distinguished men (i. e. 384 A.D.) To the well-deserving Olibio, who lived fifteen years, six