

vantage be followed by physicians more largely than it is, especially in these days, when the absorbing pursuit of the microbe tends to make us forget that there is also a macrobe which deserves attention. The physician has to deal with man as a whole, and the human body, whether it be regarded as a piece of "foolish compounded clay" or as "the Lord's anointed temple," is something more than a happy hunting ground for bacilli. The great creative works of literature in which human life is depicted by men who, in the words of Matthew Arnold, have seen it steadily and seen it whole, and in which the workings of the complicated machinery of man's nature are made visible, can, if rightly studied, give the physician a knowledge which he will find most useful in his practice, and which cannot be got from medical books or learnt in the laboratory or the dead-house. For those who appreciate the value of such knowledge, *Don Quixote* is indeed "a good book." It is a proof of the broad-minded view which the University of Paris takes of the art of healing that the other day it accepted a thesis, entitled "Cervantes, Patient and Physician," from a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Medicine. The author, M. J. Villechauvaix, has not, we are bound to say, made the most of his subject, but his essay is interesting as far as it goes, and he appends a bibliography likely to be useful to anyone who may wish to make a deeper study of the creator of *Don Quixote* in his medical aspects. Cervantes was born on October 9, 1547, and died after a life full of suffering, ill-health and evil fortune of all kinds on April 23, 1616. He contracted malaria during a visit to Rome early in life, and on the very morning of the famous battle of Lepanto (September 7, 1571), he was so ill with ague that the captain of the ship on which he served tried to induce him to remain below. He insisted on fighting, however, and received three arquebuss wounds, two in the chest and one on the left hand, which was permanently disabled. He was six months in hospital at Messina, and his wounds were yet incompletely healed when four years later he was made prisoner by Algerian Corsairs on the high seas on September 26, 1575. For five years he was held captive by the Moors, suffering much ill-usage at their hands, but at last forcing them, out of fear of the influence which his indomitable spirit gave him among his fellow-prisoners, to set him free. He died of dropsy, which M. Villechauvaix surmises to have been of cardiac origin, but there is really no evidence on the point. There is a tradition that Cervantes studied medicine, and there are in his works many passages which show that he had a considerable acquaintance with the art of healing as it