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Original Articles

"THE BALLAD OF THE SERVICES," AND ALLIED STUDIES

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Di prohibite minas; di, talem

Avertite casum, et placidi servate pios.—Virg. Lib. III.

Sir James Paget said: "And so in toil, yet not in weariness, they pursue their way, sowing seed of which they reckon not whether they shall reap any fruit, content because they are in the path of duty; blest if only they see or think they minister to the welfare of their fellow-men."

From *British Medical Journal* I present Townataskim's interpretation of our medical services in foreign lands, so well praised in the prolegomena or words of Sir James, which evidently were the incentive for these lines:

Poets sing of battle's splendour, how their heroes fought and died for their country, for their freedom, in their youth and manly pride. Homer chanted deeds of glory, and undying halos flung round the gods and men of Hellas, when the world was fresh and young. Deeds since then of fame and prowess, brightened many a battlefield; noble hearts like Spartan victors, fighting, sank upon their shield. Yet how many hearts were broken, when the tidings came afar, that the loved ones slept forever, on the crimsoned field of war. But the heroes few remember when the laurel wreaths are given, have in noble duties perished, or in purer pathways striven. Who in sickness and in sorrow cheered the soldier on his way, o'er the burning sands of Egypt, in the tropics day by day? When the scorching sunlight smote him, when the fever racked his brain, who then eased the throbbing temples, cooled his lips, relieved the pain? When his life's blood quick was gushing, and the spirit near its flight, who then stopped the precious fountain, changing

