

server of his actions, or candid reader of his writings, can hesitate for a moment to admit that he was a very extraordinary man, one whose name will descend to posterity as the exclusive excogitator and founder of an original system of medicine, the remote, if not the immediate cause of more important fundamental changes in the practice of the healing art than have resulted from any promulgated since the days of Galen himself. He was undoubtedly a man of genius and a scholar; a man of indefatigable industry and dauntless energy." John Syre Bristowe, M.D., in an address in medicine before the British Medical Association, said: "That he had learning and ability and the power of reasoning, is abundantly clear. He saw through the the prevalent therapeutic absurdities and impostures of the day; he laughed to scorn the complicated and loathsome nostrums, which even at that time disgraced the pharmacopeias; and he exposed with no little skill the systems which then and theretofore prevailed."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

EARLY ARABIAN HOSPITALS.

"I was reading in Arabic, the other day, an account of a stranger's hospital in Alexandria, maintained by the famous Saladin the hero of the Crusades (on the Moslem side.) He was a fine fellow in some ways. In one particular this hospital differed from those with which we are familiar in America, for it had a provision whereby its physicians and nurses, were to visit, and care for, at their lodgings, those sick people who could not for any reason come to the hospital. This is very similiar to a provision existing in Heidelberg, where the advanced medical students are sent to visit patients whose cases have been reported at the great hospitals there. The difference in the Alexandrian hospital being that regular physicians and nurses were provided, while in the modern charity, students go and no nurses are sent.

Hospitals are very old among the Mohammedans, there is a clear record of their existence about 700 A.D. Another thing that was most commendable, was the providing of life long at-

tendance for helpless people, such as the blind, palsied, etc. Of these charities the State sometimes paid the cost, sometimes it was the beneficence of a good ruler and very frequently, it was paid by donations made as religious gifts by pious Moslems."—*Extract from a Leiden letter by Rev. Walter M. Patton, B.D.*

REMINISCENT HOMŒOPATHY.

ARTHUR FISHER, M.D., MONTREAL.

One of my earliest experiences in homœopathy was the following. An elderly gentleman, a druggist, came to me one evening and saying that his family physician (the late Dr. Campbell was out of town, he would like me to go with him and see one of his children, about whom he was apprehensive. On arriving I found the little patient breathing very hard to say the least, and in fact threatened with croup. I took out my pocket case, dissolved a few globules of medicine in a cupful of water and gave the child a teaspoonful, shortly afterwards the labored breathing ceased and she fell into a quiet sleep. So great was the change, that the family became alarmed, fearing demise, I however quieted their fears, telling them to give, if necessary, on awakening, another teaspoonful of medicine. The father was so much surprised that he asked for the name of the medicine, and on being told that it was Belladonna remarked, that he had never seen any like that before, referring to the colorless dilution. I replied that it was a preparation I had brought from Germany. He went down to his place of business next day, related the occurrence, and said that they should have to get that medicine, when, on meeting Dr. Campbell, and informing him of the matter, the doctor said that it must have been homœopathy, and that homœopathy consisted in putting a drop of medicine into the Niagara river and taking out a tumblerful at Quebec. The father remarked that it could not have been anything of that kind that cured the child, but he never forgave me for having cured her by so heretical a method.

Being the pioneer of a new and unknown system of medicine, it will be easily understood that I had no easy road to travel, at first little being known, either in or out of the profession about homœopathy, I was accorded a severe ignoring, little beingsaid about me, or my method of treatment, but, when later on, the treatment began to tell, and the patients to desert their old prescribers