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The British Museum originated with a bequest from Sir Hans Sloane, a most industrious naturalist, of whose history the following sketch may not be unacceptable to our readers. Born in the north of Ireland, but of Scottish family, young Sloane showed an early love of natural history and medicine, and was carefully educated accordingly. At 16 years of age he was attacked by spitting of blood, which dangerous symptom caused him permanently to adopt a strict regimen, and to abstain from the use of all stimulating liquors. Continuing this course ever afterwards, he not only enjoyed a fair proportion of health, but lived to an unusual age. After many years of diligent study he settled in London as a physician, and became a Fellow of the Royal Society but in three years we find him embarking for Jamaica as physician to the Duke of Albemarle, governor of that Island. Owing to the death of the Duke, he was only fifteen months in Jamaica, but he managed to accumulate a vast number of specimens in natural history, which afterwards formed the nucleus of his museum, on which he spent large sums of money, enriching it in every possible way. He was appointed physician to Christ's Hospital, but never retained his salary, always



BRITISH MUSEUM, GREAT RUSSELL-ST. LONDON.

In continuing our sketches of the great public Libraries and Museums of the world, we present our readers in this number of the *Journal*, with a description of the richest and most important Museum in the British Empire, and a memoir of its originator.

devoting it to charity. In 1716 he was created a Baronet by George I. and in 1727 he became physician in ordinary to George II. In the same year he attained the highest honour a scientific man could receive in being appointed to succeed the great Newton in the chair of the Royal Society. He exercised the duties of this office with the greatest zeal until he arrived at the age of fourscore, when he resigned it, and