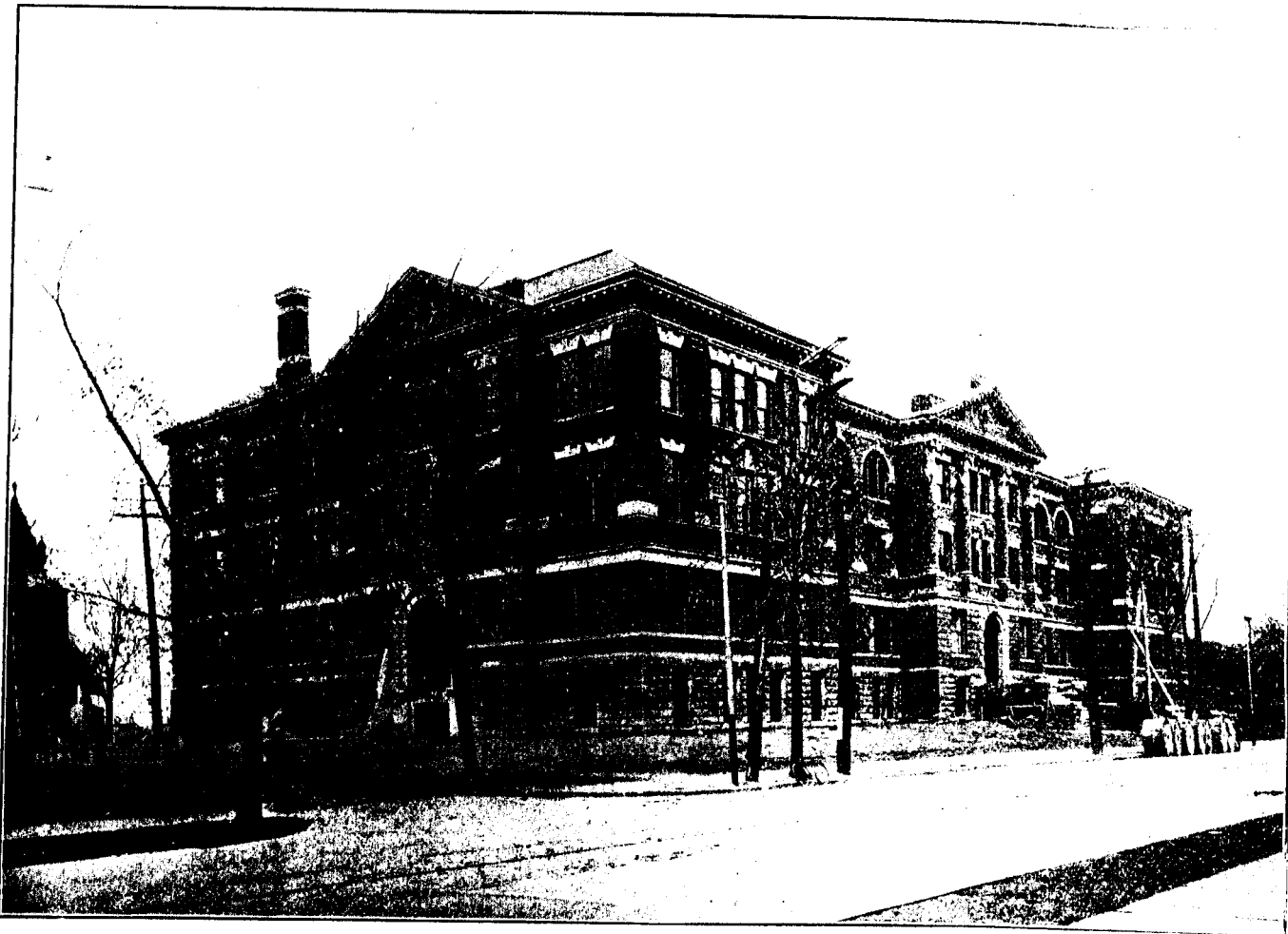


nalía and "poms of death." The elaborate bier with its candles and large cross over the pall is most impressive. There is perhaps no more effective "memento mori" than the sight of the monks in their black habits and long cowls carrying the dead. There are few impressions that stay longer by one, especially when one meets the procession at night.

But the antiquarian interest soon gives way to the desire to see what the work is in such a hospital. To appreciate this one must "make the visit" or attend the rounds of the physician in charge. This is the event of the day for the staff. The chief goes around the ward with his assistants, new patients are examined and the older ones seen when necessary. These rounds

day. Being fairly confident of my knowledge of Venice I walk over and miss my way only twice. Still my arrival is before that of the physician in charge, and the time of waiting is spent in deciding in what language we are going to converse. The rub comes when we meet. He speaks no English, I no Italian. We decide on German as the best medium of conversation, each pitying the other's accent. Such an occasion makes one regret that the use of Latin as a common medical language, was ever allowed to go out. What a convenience if all scientific men were able to use it. It is not long since medical treatises published in England, were written in Latin. The first medical work written in English was sent out with many apologies. Luckily



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may be compared to the parade of a regiment. The chief is the colonel and his first assistant is the adjutant. Just as in a regiment much of the efficiency depends on the adjutant, so in a clinic on the first assistant. He superintends the running of the machine, is in charge except when the chief is there, and has to see that the juniors keep up their work. This system is a continental one and practically no British hospitals and very few in America have it. To go round on a visit tells the whole story of the hospital. Then, too, it is interesting to see others doing like work to one's own. There is both the critical and sympathetic sense.

The rounds here are made early in the morning, which necessitates a start in good time next

in medicine we have many Latin terms, and German is common to most of us. However, in a Latin country one is greatly helped by the gestures and play of expression.

The chief is joined by his staff and we start around the wards. One of his assistants had studied at the same German clinic as myself, which made acquaintanceship easier. We usually make only a short stay at each bed. But here is one of more interest and a difficult point in diagnosis comes up which gives a good chance of studying their methods. We are really all one large family in medicine and new work in one country is known everywhere as soon as published. That makes it possible to estimate anywhere the character of the work done. Of