

enough Mr. Helmcken was sent to St. George's school, and as he was regarded as fragile it was the intention that he should be made a teacher. When fourteen years of age Dr. Graves, while attending his mother, took a fancy to him and asked for him as an office boy, promising to make him a druggist. His mother consented and Mr. Helmcken entered the doctor's office, in which he made himself useful and obtained a knowledge of the secrets of making pills and potions. There were two medical apprentices in the office who petted him and made him useful to themselves. In those days every practitioner had to do his own dispensing and Mr. Helmcken got plenty of practice therefore. He picked up a knowledge of Latin, and after a couple of years of work was able to dispense medicines with the best practised hands. It chanced that when he had been for two years an office boy, that Dr. Graves fell ill, and as the senior apprentice had by this time become a full-fledged practitioner it fell to Mr. Helmcken's lot to dispense medicine for all the patients. When Dr. Graves recovered after a long illness, he was so pleased with his office boy's conduct that he offered to take him as an apprentice for five years and make him an allowance during that time. Mr. Helmcken's parents accepted this liberal offer, and accordingly he was apprenticed to Dr. Graves. Shortly afterwards his father died and while his mother was not left in the most comfortable circumstances she refused to permit her son to miss his opportunity for her sake, and declared that she herself could, would and was not afraid of work. During this period Mr. Helmcken had all the drudgery of an apprentice to do and saw a great deal of the poor in some of the worst of slums in his visits to cup, bleed or otherwise physic them. In due course his five years expired, but during a considerable portion of that time he had been going to a private teacher, a Lutheran clergyman, to learn Latin and finish his education generally. Before the expiration of his apprenticeship he became a student at Guy's hospital and attended there for five years. Having passed the apothecary's examination and been pretty well used up by hard work, Mr. Harrison, the treasurer of the hospital, offered him an appointment, as a reward of merit, to the Hudson's Bay Company's ship Prince Rupert, to go to York Factory on Hudson's Bay and back again, a journey of some five months. It so happened that on the same vessel, Chief Factor Hargraves and his wife were passengers and also a number of men belonging to an