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GALEN.

"In Rome" says Galen, "no one seeks after truth; money, public offices and voluptuousness are the sole objects of life. He who devotes himself to the acquisition of knowledge, is considered insane. Among those who appear to take an interest in me, I am often blamed for applying myself too closely to researches after truth. They say that I will never gain any advantage, either for my friends or for myself, until I throw aside this habit, and pay my court to the great in the morning, and sup with them in the evening. It is indeed by such attentions, that acquaintances are made, protection is insured, and practice obtained. It is thus, rather than by merit and learning, that confidence is inspired. And how can it be otherwise? Who are the judges between us? They are men who pass every hour of their lives in frivolous and disreputable occupations. When ill, they do not seek the attendance of the best informed physician, with whom, when in health they had no acquaintance; but they call in those who have been their boon companions, who flatter them; give them cold water, if they so desire; baths, if they wish; ice, wine, in a word, anything they fancy.

"Soon after my arrival in Rome, Glauco, the philosopher, took a great fancy to me, in consequence of my imputed skill in diagnosis. Meeting me accidentally in the street, and shaking hands with me, he remarked, 'I have fallen upon you opportunely; I wish you to visit with me a patient in this neighborhood whom I have this moment left—the Sicilian physician, whom you saw walking with me some days since, and who is now ill.' I inquired of him what ailed his friend, when, with his habitual candor he replied, that Gorgias and Apelas had spoken to him of my skill in diagnosis and prognosis, which appeared to them more like the result of divine inspiration than of medical science; and that he wished to know for himself, whether I really was thus skilful. He had hardly done speaking before we reached the door, so that I had no opportunity of replying. I have often said that on some occasions the signs of disease are certain, at other times they are ambiguous, and require to be considered again and again. As we entered, I observed a servant carrying from the sick chamber, a vessel containing a thin bloody sanies, like the recent washing of flesh, a sure evidence of diseased liver. Without appearing to notice this circumstance, I proceeded with Glauco to the patient's apartment; when, placing my fingers on the wrist of the sick man, I examined his pulse in order to determine whether the attack was inflammatory, or simply a weakness of the affected viscus. As the patient was himself a physician, he remarked that he had recently been up, and that the effort of rising might have accelerated the pulse; but I had already discovered the evidences of inflammation;

and seeing, on a recess in the window, a jar containing something like a preparation of hyssop in honey and water, I knew that he had mistaken his disease for pleurisy; in which, as in inflammation of the liver, there is usually pain under the false ribs. He had been led to this opinion, as I at once perceived, by experiencing this pain, by his short and hurried breathing, and by a slight cough. Understanding the case, therefore, and turning to good account what fortune had thrown in my way, in order to give Glauco a high opinion of my ability, I placed my hand over the false ribs, on the right side of the patient, and at the same time declared this to be the seat of pain, which the sick man admitted to be correct. Glauco, supposing I had made this discovery merely by examining the pulse, began to express surprise. But to increase his astonishment I added, 'inasmuch as you admit the existence of pain at this spot, I wish you further to say, whether you are troubled with a slight cough, and whether your cough is not dry, without sputa, and occurring at long intervals.' While I was yet speaking, the sick man was seized with a cough, such as I had described, whereat Glauco was exceedingly excited, and no longer able to contain himself, began to reciferate in praise of my abilities. 'Do not think said I, 'that these are all the discoveries my art enables me to make; there are others yet to be mentioned, which will elicit the testimony of the patient.' When, turning to the latter, I resumed: 'Is not the pain in this part increased, and accompanied by a sense of weight in the right hypochondrium, whenever you take a full breath?' At hearing this the patient also was surprised, and was as loud in my praise as Glauco. Seeing fortune still smiling upon me, I was desirous of making some remark in reference to the shoulder, which appeared to be drawn downwards, as often occurs in seven inflammations, as well as in induration of the liver: but I did not venture to speak on this point, fearing to diminish the admiration which I had already excited. Nevertheless, I touched upon it cautiously, saying to the patient, 'You will not be long in feeling the shoulder drawn downwards, if perchance you do not find it so already,' when he admitted this symptom also. Seeing him greatly astonished, I said, 'I will add but one other word to show what you conceive to be the nature of your complaint.' Glauco declared he would not be surprised if I should do even this. But the patient, overcome with wonder at such promise, observed me closely, waiting for what I would say. I told him he had taken his disease for pleurisy. This, with a further expression of surprise, he admitted to have been his own opinion, as well as that of his attendant, who had been fomenting his side with oil, for the relief of the disease. From this time forward, Glauco entertained the highest opinion both of me and of our art; for, having never before come in contact with a physician of consummate ability, he had hitherto formed but an humble estimate of the profession."—From the 'Historical Sketches' of Dr. V. J. Fourgeaud. *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*.

SPIRITS OF TURPENTINE.—We have no record the spirits of turpentine has ever proved fatal to human life. Given in doses of a wineglassful or more, it has seemed to act merely as an aperient, although in some instances, it has produced violent irritation of the urinary organs; and in others, intoxication, followed by coma, collapse, and convulsions, but not death.—*Guy*.

The urine loaded with pink or lateritious sediments.—*Ed.*