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MEDICAL SCIENCE IN GREECE.

FROM THE EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THIS JOURNAL.

ATHENS has a university—a beautiful, well-arranged building, of small dimensions, built by the contributions of German merchants, without costing the citizens or government a dollar. Large additions are now going up, in which there will be halls, lecture rooms, cabinets, libraries, &c. It has four faculties, as follows:—*Theology*, with three professors. *Law*, with seven ordinary and four honorary professors, and two candidate professors. *Medicine*, with six ordinary, one honorary, and five candidate professors. *Philosophy*, with eight ordinary, five honorary, one candidate professor, and a teacher of the French language. All the ordinary professors are paid by government—the salaries, however, are quite small. Honorary professors are paid by those attending their lectures. Candidate professors are those on the list to be appointed whenever a vacancy occurs. By the interest of friends, and perhaps intrigue, their names are thus made prominent. The faculty of medicine is thus arranged. Prof. Nuccas, on Specific Nosology, Therapeutics and Clinical Surgery. Prof. Damianos, on Anatomy and Physiology. Prof. Olympius, on Surgery and Ophthalmology. Prof. Costi, on Pharmacy and Obstetrics. Prof. Prinariis, on General Nosology and Diseases of the Brain. Prof. Palli, on Medical Jurisprudence and Public Health. Dr. Petsalis (Hon. Prof.), on Surgical Pathology. Dr. Aphentoulis (Hon. Prof.), on Pathological Anatomy. Dr. Krinos (Can. Prof.), on Organic Chemistry, as applied to Physiology. Dr. Eginitis (Can. Prof.), on Pathological Anatomy in relation to diseases of the breast, microscopical examinations and necropsy. Dr. Bonsikis (Can. Prof.), on Comparative Physiology. Dr. Benizelos (Can. Prof.), on Pathological Physiology and General Pathology. Lectures continue six months, and 110 students were said to be in the theatre on one of my visits. It was a curiosity, indeed, to attend a medical lecture in the city of Athens, delivered in the Greek language, and hear Hippocrates quoted in his own words. Just east of the University, Aristotle and his disciples taught; and down on the plain, in the other direction, Plato delivered his lectures. The temple of Æsculapius was near the Acropolis, and, therefore, in the day of its glory, could have been seen from the same point. Pausanias says of it—that “it is well worthy of remark for

the statues of Bacchus and his children, and for the pictures which it contains. In the same temple is a fountain at which Halirrhothius, son of Neptune, is reported to have been slain by Mars for having disgraced his daughter Alcippi; and this murder is said to have been the first upon which judgment was pronounced. In the same temple is a Sarmatian breastplate, which shows that the barbarians are not less skilful in the arts, than the Greeks." Not a vestige of that renowned edifice can be identified.

A more satisfactory organization for a college could not have been adopted. Every person connected with the course of instruction, is a native-born Greek. They have had the good fortune to keep out the Germans and Italians—and instead of a president to preside over the institution, appointed as in most collegiate establishments in the United States, the faculty, annually, elect one of their own body to be rector or president for the ensuing year. They are compelled by the despotic determination of the King to elect three, whose names are to be sent to the palace—out of which, one is elected, and he becomes the presiding officer for twelve months, when another election is held. This system has been found to work admirably for the advancement of the University, inasmuch as no jealousies are created, no rich dunce is placed at the head, and each, in his turn, under ordinary circumstances, where there is perfect harmony, gratifies his literary ambition by sitting at the upper end of the council-board, wearing a high cap on great occasions, and signing diplomas, as Rector of the only University in the realm. Two hospitals, one military and the other civil, present no claims to distinction. A fine figure of Hippocrates stands over the principal entrance of the first, near the mighty columns of the once imposing temple of Jupiter Olympius. Apothecaries are numerous, and their shops neatly kept.

While at Athens, the editor of this Journal addressed the following questions to the medical faculty of the University, which were promptly answered, and translated into English by the Rev. J. H. Hill, a well-known American missionary, whose urbanity and kindness is the theme of all his countrymen who sojourn in the classical regions with which he is so familiar.

1. How many medical students are in attendance on the lectures, upon an average, annually? *Answer.*—Over 130. About 30 are added annually.

2. How many courses of lectures are required to be attended before receiving a degree? *Ans.*—The students are required to attend the medical lectures four years, and (besides the lectures of the school of philosophy) they are taught the following, viz., natural history, botany, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, general and particular nosology, pharmacy, surgery, obstetrics, medical jurisprudence, hygiene, pathological anatomy, pathological and surgical clinics, and obstetrical clinics. The students are examined first in a written examination, i. e., they are required to reply in writing to the questions given them in writing, upon all the aforesaid subjects, except the lectures of the philosophical school, natural history and pathological anatomy. If they are successful in this exa-

mination, they are examined a second time extemporaneously—questions being proposed to them off-hand, to which they are required to reply in the same way. Succeeding this, they are graduated by the Faculty of Medicine, as *doctors of medicine, surgery and obstetrics*.

3. Is the degree of M.D. or M.B. conferred, or both, by the University? *Ans.*—Except the diploma of doctor, no degree is conferred by the University.

4. Where do the graduates find employment—in Greece, or abroad? *Ans.*—Of those who graduate, some remain in Greece, others go abroad. Those who remain, and intend to practise in Greece, must submit to another examination before the medical council. The examinations are conducted both verbally and by writing. If the applicant passes, and is approved, he receives from the council permission to practise in any part of Greece.

5. Are many in the service of the State, and if so, what is their pay? *Ans.*—The greater part of the medical men in the army are students of the University. Their pay is as follows:—1. A surgeon-in-chief receives monthly 400 drachmas; two assistant-surgeons, 360. 2. Surgeon of first class, 300; do. 2d class, 260. 3. Military surgeon, 1st class, 200; assist. do., 2d class, 160. 4. Under surgeon, 1st class, 140; assist. do., 2d class, 120. 5. Eleve surgeon, 1st class, 80; assist. do., 2d class, 60. N. B. The last, eleves, are students of the University, and are allowed to go to the military hospital to attend the cases there before they are examined, in order to acquire practice.

6. How are the Medical Faculty of the University elected, and how paid? *Ans.*—The professors of the medical faculty were formerly appointed by the Minister of Public Instruction, upon the recommendation (or nomination) of the medical school. Now, however, they are appointed by the government immediately. They receive a monthly salary from the government—the professors in ordinary, 300 per month; and the extraordinary professors, 200 per month. (Six drachmas make one dollar United States currency.)

7. Is there any medical periodical published in Greece? *Ans.*—There was formerly a medical periodical in Athens, called the *Æsculapius*, but at present there is none.

8. Has modern Greece produced any authors in any department of medicine or surgery—and if so, what are the works and names of the authors? *Ans.*—Up to the present time the following works have appeared. On anatomy, by Dr. D. Mavrocordato (since dead). Physiology, translated from the German by Prof. Damianos; Obstetrics, by Dr. Costi, professor of that branch; Practical Pathology, translated from the German of Hufeland, by Dr. Gouda; and also by the same a translation, from the French of Chomel, of his work on General Pathology.

9. Are physicians ordinarily employed in obstetrical cases, or a midwife? *Ans.*—Ordinarily, a midwife attends, but very frequently physicians are called in.

10. What are the most common diseases of the country, and which are attended by the greatest mortality? *Ans.*—The prevailing diseases are fevers of an intermittent type—often fatal when they assume the

form of *fièvres pernicieuses* ; not precisely malignant, but of a malignant type of intermittents.

11. Is pulmonary consumption common? *Ans.*—Unhappily pulmonary consumption is beginning to be common.

12. Are patent medicines and secret remedies permitted to be sold? *Ans.*—By no means—in no instance.

13. Are there any quacks in Greece? *Ans.*—Unhappily they are numerous.

14. Does the government impose any restrictions on the practice of medicine, or state any specific qualifications? *Ans.*—No other than mentioned under the answer No. 2. *Note.*—Physicians inspect the apothecary shops frequently, test the quality of medicines on sale, &c., but no one is allowed to deal in drugs as an apothecary till he has been educated for the profession, and licensed.