

PHYSIC AND PHYSICIANS, (Plato).

Inserted Coll. Reprints, 3rd ser. (1892-97).

From Edw. H. Sieveking to W.O.

17, Manchester Square,
(London), W.

April 22, 1893.

Dear Professor Osler,

It is very kind of you to send me a copy of your very interesting address on Physic and Physicians as depicted in Plato.

I congratulate your University on having one who, in the best sense, is a laudator temporis acti. I for one fully acknowledge the enormous strides taken by modern medical science, which particularly in its preventive and sanitary aspect must be regarded as entirely an achievement of our day. But at the same time the more I know of the Ancients, the more I feel that we have scarcely done justice to them yet, and I fancy that in many respects times and nations that are commonly called barbarous, are much more highly cultivated than historical records show. The tendency of the present day is to exalt the present unduly, and I am not one of those who regard all education from what is called a "practical" point of view. We are taught modesty by going back into antiquity and scarcely a day passes that I do not learn to appreciate more and more the Horation - Vixere fortes ante Agamemnona.

May I ask whether your University Library contains a copy of the antetype reproduction of Harvey's MS lectures delivered in 1816 and downwards, brought out under the auspices of the Royal College of Physicians in 1886?

With renewed thanks,
I am,
Yours very truly,