

News, Notes and Queries

of health by the quantity and quality of food, and the time and manner of our eating. He maintains that Man is created with free will and that it is in his power to make choice of life or death. Although life has a term, this is alterable. It may be prolonged by observation of God's laws.

His harsh words to his medical brethren have a timeless ring to them. He agrees with the Talmudists that 'a physician ought to be very careful about his patient's recovery, otherwise he may lose his own soul, for the best physicians sometimes go to Hell on this account.' Again, 'There are some (physicians) that pretend to cure a distemper which they do not understand, others do not take notice of the proper time to administer the physick, and there are others that leave all to chance and care not whether their patient lives or dies. It often happens that a sick man loses his life while the physicians are disputing about the nature of the disease! Perhaps for this reason, physicians are sometimes called Murderers. That consideration which should affect the patient, is that he must not too confidently depend on the Physician, or Natural Means, but chiefly put his trust in God!'

In 1650 he wrote *The Hope of Israel*, also in Latin. This was translated into Spanish, Hebrew and English. It was the last translation that brought him into contact with Jews in England and led to his invitation there in 1656, during which he lived for a short time in London in a house in the Strand. His joy at the success of his mission was short-lived, for in 1657 he died in Middelburg on the island of Walcheren in Holland, whilst bringing home the body of his son Samuel for burial.

Although Jewish law forbids the reproduction of the human image Manasseh's portrait was painted by his friend Rembrandt, who also made four etchings which are in the British Museum.

I. M. LIBRACH

SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE D'HISTOIRE DE LA MÉDECINE

THE XVIIth International Congress of the History of Medicine will be held at Athens and Cos from 4-14 September 1960, under the presidency of Prof. Sp. Oeconomos.

The themes of the Congress are:

- (i) Hippocrates and his School.
- (ii) The School of Alexandria.
- (iii) Byzantine medicine.
- (iv) Miscellaneous subjects having reference to Greek medicine.

The Secretary-General of the Congress is Dr. F. A. Sondervorst, 124 Avenue des Alliés, Louvain, Belgium, from whom further particulars can be obtained.

OSLER MANUSCRIPTS

THE manuscripts in the Osler Library of McGill University have been photofilmed through the generosity of an anonymous benefactor and the positive films are now available for inter-library loan. These include all items listed under 'Manuscripts' in the index of the *Bibliotheca Osleriana*, 1929, except those of Osler's own writings, published, unpublished (his taboo), and (one) unpublishable.