

Mediaeval Medicine

Medicine

JOHN RATHBONE OLIVER, in *International Clinics*.

"Mediaeval" and "The Middle Ages" are terms that we use in a more or less loose connotation. By them we designate a period in our civilization extending, roughly, from the final disintegration of the "Pax Romana", with the loss of all the old physical and mental achievements, down through centuries of disorder, in which the stabilizing elements wrought slowly to bring some order out of chaos, until after one or two False Dawns the new and abiding light broke in the minds of men with their rediscovery of the long-lost ancient world and their assimilation of the forgotten treasures of Greece and Rome. Modern scholarship has shown a new and remarkable interest in the Middle Ages. All this new interest must rebound to the benefit of the medical historian. Today, as never before, he has a chance to reach at first hand, accurate knowledge of many mediæval medical texts, to enter intelligently into the whole spiritual current of mediæval life, and to understand the place in it which his mediæval colleagues occupied. There are two characteristics of the Middle Ages that strike the most casual reader as he works his way through one treatise or novel or sermon after another. First, a childish simplicity, a happy credulity to which nothing is impossible if it be only presented by accepted authority, be that authority claimed by the most unlikely person to know anything about the matter in hand. And then there is a brutality—which is, however, not always coarse, but simply outspoken, and which one meets with so constantly in the satirical or parodistic literature. As the basis of all mediæval life was more or less religious, so medicine and religion were often indistinguishably mingled. In the Middle Ages people took things very literally, if only those same things were said by those whose authority and knowledge were generally accepted. The Middle Ages had not only their general "practisours" but they had their "specialists" also. In surgery, for instance, there were certain men who were famed for their specialized knowledge and technic of one single operation. Naturally, there were many quacks of the most preposterous kind.

Science News-Letter, August 18, 1928

An active brain is about 85 per cent. water.

An Indorsed Contribution to Science The New FFSA Microscope

Contains six features which have been endorsed by the satisfied users of over 200,000 Bausch & Lomb microscopes. It represents the knowledge gleaned from fifty-five years of microscope experience and three-quarters of a century of manufacturing precision lenses.

Six Advantageous Features

1. The more refined requirements of lens system formulae are satisfied by standardized objective mountings with threadless cells.
2. The fixed tube length makes for the best performance of objectives.
3. The Abbe Condenser has provision for the use of a dark-field lens element.
4. The patented fine adjustment assures long service through small number of parts and use of Butress thread, to absorb lost motion, with twelve teeth in driving contact.
5. The Substage actuated by rack and pinion provides for long range movement.
6. The Simplified Mechanical Stage with rack and pinion movements at right angles has a range in one direction of three inches, in the other one inch and accommodates 3 x 2 inch slides. Stage racks completely off the microscope.

*Further information will gladly
be furnished on request*

**Bausch & Lomb
Optical Company**

697 St. Paul St.
Rochester, N. Y.

