THE ARS MORIENDI (EDITIO PRINCEPS, CIRCA 1450): A REPRODUCTION OF THE COPY IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

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W. HARRY RYLANDS & GEORGE BULLEN

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ARS MORIENDI

(EDITIO PRINCEPS, circa 1450).

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W. HARRY RYLANDS, F.S.A.

With an Introduction

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GEORGE BULLEN, F.S.A., &c. &c. Keptr of the Printed Books in the Dritish Museum.

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PREFACE.



S Editor of this, the Fourteenth Volume in the series of the publications of the HOLBEIN SOCHETY, only a few words seem to be required of me. It must not be forgotten that the original work, of which the following plates form a fac-simile, is so rare that only one per-

fect copy appears to have come down to us. Hence, it must be a subject of congratulation to the Council and Members of the Society, that the AUTHORITIES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM have so freely permitted a fac-simile to be made of this rare and curious work—the possession of an original copy being, in all human probability, out of the question.

To MR. GEORGE BULLEN, the Keeper of the Printed Books in the British Museum, the thanks of the Members of the HOLBEIN SOCIETY are due for the facilities which he has afforded to the fac-similist during his work, as well as for the Introduction,

PREFACE.

obligingly undertaken by him at my request: this Introduction coming from one possessing so thorough a knowledge of the subject adds very materially to the interest and value of this Volume.

This being the first publication issued by the Society since the death of MR. ASPLAND, who for some years so satisfactorily performed the duties of Permanent Editor, a fitting opportunity is offered for placing on record the regret felt by the Council, and the loss suffered by the Society, in his unfortunate decease. MR. ASPLAND, who was one of its founders, had the good of the HOLDEIN SOCIETY thoroughly at heart, and spared no efforts to ensure its usefulness and success. Not unfrequently he purchased at his own cost valuable and expensive works solely for the purpose of their reproduction in the Society's Series,—a course, which it need hardly be said was as unusual as it was munificent.

In expressing the apologies of the Council for the unavoidable delay which has occurred in the production of the present Volume, I am requested to state that, in future, it is anticipated the publications of the Society will be more punctually issued.

W. HARRY RYLANDS.

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