

**ST. BERNARD'S: THE
ROMANCE OF A
MEDICAL STUDENT, BY
AESCULAPIUS SCALPEL**

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St. Bernard's: The Romance of a Medical Student, by Aesculapius Scalpel by Edward Berdoe

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EDWARD BERDOE

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THE ROMANCE OF A MEDICAL STUDENT

BY

ÆSCULAPIUS SCALPEL

"Ars Longa Vita Brevis."

Parolles: Right; as 'twere a Man assured of an—

Lafeu: Uncertain life, and sure death!

—All's Well that Ends Well.

FOURTH EDITION.

LONDON:

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PATERNOSTER SQUARE.

1888.

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ST. BERNARD'S.

CHAPTER I.

THE FIRST OF OCTOBER.

"Homines ad deos nullâ re proprius accedunt quàm salutem hominibus dando."

HAVING selected medicine as a profession, the usual day for a man to enter on a course of study at one of our great medical schools is the first of October. The almanack tells us this is the feast of St. Remigius, the day on which Cambridge term begins and pheasant shooting commences. Neither of these interesting facts, however, explains the opening of the medical schools on the day in question; nor is it explained by the circumstance that this period is the anniversary of the institution of the order of merit for Folly, created at Cleves in the year of our Lord 1381; nor by what good old Thomas Fuller tells us of the holding of Lawless Courts, or *Curia de Domino Rege Dicta sine Lege* on Kingshill at Rochford in Essex; though some non-medical antiquaries, holding the learned profession of medicine in low esteem, have pretended that a day sacred to folly and lawlessness is peculiarly appropriate for the commencement of the curriculum of a medical student. We will not, like the ancient philosopher of whom Montaigne speaks, seek for learned and obscure explanations when our serving maid can offer us a simple one, but will state at once that the medical schools open at this season of the year because the weather being now cool, corpses set apart for dissection keep

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