1, 2, 3, 4.—Wax casts of the Cripps Stamp, Cirencester, No. 2. Published by kind permission of Mrs. Wilfred Cripps.

5. Wax cast of the Lansdown Stamp. Published by kind permission of Sir Alexander Lawrence.

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ROMAN OCULIST-STAMPS IN BRITAIN

BY

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LONDON

THE classical account in the English language of these bits of antiquity is, of course, the celebrated paper by Sir James Simpson, Bart., communicated to the monthly *Journal of Medical Science* in the months of January, March, and April, 1851, and which is contained in the collected archaeological essays of that distinguished physician, which were edited by John Stuart, LL.D., and published in 1872. More than 70 years have elapsed since this paper was first given to the world and as it is by no means an easy one to obtain, outside of a general or medical library, I have thought it advisable to go over the old ground anew and, at the same time, to add notes of such recent finds as I have knowledge of, in the hope that readers of the *British Journal of Ophthalmology* may find something of interest in these relics of the past. According to Simpson, the earliest specimens of what he calls ancient Roman medicine-stamps were unearthed in Holland about the year 1650. Spon, of Leyden, published an account of another tablet in 1685 and suggested that these engraved stones were used by the ancient pharmacopolists as covers for the jars or boxes in which their ointments, oils, or collyria were kept.

During the eighteenth century various other stamps were found and described both on the Continent and in Britain. To quote Simpson: "These Roman medicine-stamps all agree in their

general characteristics. They usually consist of small quadrilateral or oblong pieces of greenish schist and steatite engraved on one or more of their edges or borders. The inscriptions are in small capital roman letters, cut retrograde and intagliate (like the letters on modern seals and stamps), and consequently reading on the stone itself from right to left, but making an impression, when stamped on wax or any other similar plastic material, which reads from left to right. The inscriptions themselves generally first contain (and that repeated on each side) the name of the medical practitioner to whom the stamp pertained; then the name of some special medicine, or medical formula; and lastly the disease or diseases for which that medicament was prescribed. In a few instances the modes and frequency of using the medicine are added."

In nearly every case, the medicines inscribed on these stamps are drugs for use in diseases of the eye or of its appendages. When Simpson wrote his paper only three of these stamps had been found in Italy itself; and yet it is of common knowledge that eye diseases were extraordinarily frequent in the Roman Empire in ancient times. Formulae for the composition of collyria are numerous in all the old writers; Galen speaks, in one of his books, of a forest of collyria, and has left, according to Simpson, formulae for about 200 of these local remedies for ophthalmic disorders. Some of them had such a reputation that in time they acquired a specific name; this was sometimes the name of the original compounder; sometimes the name was derived from some specific property (chloron, green; cirrhon, yellow; aromaticum, from its pleasant smell). The collyrium Diasmyrnes contained myrrh, the Diarrhodon, roses; one was named from its cheapness, another from its great value; lastly, a collyrium was often known under some high-sounding but unmeaning name, such as Olympus, Proteus, Phoenix, etc.

The stamps described by Simpson may be abstracted as follows :

A. *The Tranent Stamp.*

Found in East Lothian near Inveresk, and "now" in the museum of the Society of Scottish Antiquaries. It is of greenish steatite and forms a parallelogram of approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, with an inscription cut upon two of its sides. These inscriptions run as follows :

- (1) LVALLATINIEVODESADCI
CATRICESETASPRITUDIN
- (2) LVALLATINIAPALOCRO
CODESADDIATHESIS

Simpson extends these inscriptions as follows :

- (1) L. VALLATINI EVODES AD CICATRICES ET ASPRITUDINES.
- (2) L. VALLATINI APALOCROCODES AD DIATHESIS.

Translated they run* "L. Vallatinus's evodes for cicatrices and granulations. (2) L. Vallatinus's mild crocodes for affections of the eyes."

Evodes means of pleasant odour (*ēv*, well, *ὄζω*, I smell). Marcellus in his work *De Medicamentis* praises the collyrium evodes in the treatment of ulcers and cicatrices of the eyes and eyelids. Scribonius Largus also describes the collyrium, "quod quidam *ἐνώδης* vocant." Both authors give the composition as : pompholyx, burnt copper, saffron, myrrh, haematites, opium, etc., rubbed down in Chian wine. In dealing with the second inscription, Simpson points out that in Roman times the word diathesis meant the disease itself and not the tendency to the disease. The term crocodes means that the crocus, or saffron, is a principal ingredient ; Simpson alludes to the unusual word APALO standing before crocodes and derives it from the Greek adjective *ἀπᾶλός* (mild, soft).

B. Stamp in the British Museum.

This is supposed to have formed part of Sir Hans Sloane's collection. It is a flat quadrilateral stone, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad approximately, engraved on three sides. One corner has been broken off, leaving a deficiency in one inscription, which Simpson supplies within brackets. The inscriptions are as follows :

- (1) SEX JUL SEDATI CROCOD PACCIAN
- (2) SEX JUL SEDATI CROCODES DIALEPIDOS
- (3) (SEX) JUL SEDATI CRO
(COD) ES AD DIATHES

The proprietor's name is Sextus Julius Sedatus. The third inscription is so nearly identical with that on the Tranent stamp that it needs no comment. The Crocodes Paccianum derives its name from Paccius a celebrated Roman practitioner. Galen gives no formula for the Paccian Crocodes, but recommends it, in his chapter on ulcers of the eyes, when the eye is white and a stimulating application becomes advisable. The second variety of Crocodes is here named Dialepidos. Marcellus gives the formula for this with crocus as the principal ingredient. The name is derived from the fact that it contains the scales (*λεπίδες*) of burnt copper ; i.e., the black peroxide of the metal.

* Later authorities read the owner's name as L. Valerius Latinus.

C. *In the British Museum; also supposed to have formed part of the collection of Sir Hans Sloane.*

This stamp is small and broken; it is engraved on one side only. An unusual feature is that it does not include the name of the proprietor. The lettering is distinct except in one particular. Simpson reads the inscription as follows:

COLLYR
P CLOC

and extends this into COLLYRIUM POST CALIGINEM OCULORUM, the Collyrium for blindness of the eyes. The doubtful letter is the L in the final word; some read it as I; and if this is the correct reading we must substitute CICATRICES for CALIGINEM. P might stand for *post* or *pro*; according to Simpson, *pro* is unknown to him in this form of inscription whereas several examples of *post* are known.

D. *The Colchester Stamp.*

Wright states that this stamp was really found, not at Colchester, but at Gloucester. It was the first Roman oculist-stamp discovered in Britain and was described long ago by Chishull; his description was published in the *Tesoro Brittannico* and ran as follows:

- (1) QIULMURRANIMELI
NUMADCLARITATEM
- (2) QIULMURRANISTAGIU
MOPOBALSAMATADCAP

Chishull's extension of these inscriptions runs as follows:

- (1) QUINTI JULII MURRANII MELINUM, AD CLARITATEM.
- (2) QUINTI JULII MURRANII STAGIUM OPOBALSAMATUM, AD CAPUT.

Simpson has some corrections to make in the reading of the second inscription.

The first inscription may be translated as follows: The Melinum of Quintus Julius Murranus, for Clearness of Vision.

The collyrium Melinum is mentioned by Galen. Opinions differ as to its origin, whether from "malum" an apple; or from the island of Melos whence the ancients obtained their alum; or from an adjective "Melinum" meaning yellow.

The second inscription should run as follows:

Q (uinti) J (ulii) Murrani Stagium (Stactum) Opobalsamatum Ad Cap (Caligines). The Opobalsamic Stactum of Q. J. Murranus for dimness or blindness. The word Stactum means a drop; it was a favourite local application. Aetius gives a chapter on these kinds of collyria, describing five collyria stactica; of these, four contain the opobalsam. Simpson adduces evidence from a stamp

found in France with an almost identical inscription, and in which the Stactum Opobalsamatum is for Caligines as in his revised reading.

E. *The Bath Stamp.*

Found in 1731 in a cellar in the Abbey Yard. When Simpson wrote his paper its whereabouts were unknown and he had to rely on the published accounts of it and on the description of it recorded in the minutes of the Society of Antiquaries. Gough, in 1788, contributed to *Archaeologia* "observations on certain stamps and seals used anciently by the oculists," and described the Bath Stamp as square, of a greenish cast and perforated. Gough read the inscriptions as follows:

- (1) T JUNIANI THALASER
AD CLARITATEM
- (2) T JUNIANI CRSOMÆL
IN M AD CLARITATEM
- (3) T JUIANI DYJC VM
AD VETERES CICATRICES
- (4) T JUNIANI HOFSUMA ρ DV
EC UMODELECTA AMEDICIS

The first two inscriptions are sufficiently accurate. Simpson picks holes in the other two and suggests much more probable renderings. In all four, the oculist's name is perfectly distinct. T (itus) Junianus.

The following are Simpson's readings of the inscriptions:

(1) The Thalasser of Titus Junianus for clearness of vision. The Thalasser was the sea-green or marine collyrium from *θάλασσα*, the sea; it was a favourite remedy.

(2) T. JUNIANI CERUSSOMÆLINUM AD CLARITATEM. T. Junianus's ?Leaden or Golden-Yellow Collyrium for clearness of vision.

The prefix CRSO admits of more than one interpretation. Galen gives four different formulæ for the collyrium Melinum; three of them contain as one of the ingredients, the cerussa or carbonate of lead. Another meaning has been suggested by M. Sichel; CRSO a contraction for CHRUSO, golden, from *χρῦσος*, gold, and Simpson calls to mind the favourite golden ointment of his day.

(3) T. JUNIANI DIEXUM AD VETERES CICATRICES.

The word Diexum is a puzzle. Gough's transcript gives three very imperfect attempts at letters, which I have entered as yjc; it is only fair to say that none of these letters is really at all like what I have printed; Simpson calls them of rude Britanno-Roman characters and has attacked the problem from the other end, *i.e.*, the complaint; the old scars, for which the medicament was to be used, and he found that in most of the other known examples

of drugs for use AD VETERES CICATRICES, the collyrium is named Diamysum. He thinks that Diexum should read DIAMYSUM, but he admits a possible derivation as DRYCUM or DRYXUM from ($\delta\rho\upsilon\varsigma$), an oak; the bark, acorn, or galls of the oak tree being made to yield an astringent liquid for the collyrium. Gall-nuts of the oak appear to have been used for tinting old cicatrices; *i.e.*, for tattooing an old leucomatous cornea. Another, and possibly a less far-fetched derivation is from the collyrium DIOXUS or DIOXUM given by Marcellus for use in granular lids, composed of cadmia, burnt copper, haematites, myrrh and gum.

(4) T JUNIANI HOFSUM (OR HOBSUM) AD ρ UECUMO DELECTA A MEDICIS. This inscription has been most carelessly copied by Gough. The plaster cast of this side of the stamp in the museum of the Society of Antiquaries is very imperfect, but Simpson felt sure that the HOFSUM or HOBSUM is really PHOEBUM, while the Greek ρ is apparently a Latin Q. He thinks that this is probably an error for L; and his final rendering of this inscription is as follows: T JUNIANI PHOEBUM AD LEUCOMA DELECTA A MEDICIS. This may be translated: the Phoebum of T. Junianus for Leucoma, esteemed by physicians. He could not find any evidence of a collyrium of the name Phoebum in the ancient writers and offers an alternative reading, PHORBUM. Galen says of the Phorbum that it possesses alternating, attractive and discutient powers. Its seeds, mixed with honey, were applied to leucomata.

F. Mr. Douce's Stamp.

Douce published in 1778 a note of a square flattened stamp, each side measuring 2 inches, the thickness being $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch. Gough published in *Archaeologia*, a sketch of this stamp. In a note in the *Gent's Mag.*, 1778, it is stated to have been lost out of a pocket that had a hole in it. The inscriptions are as follows; the terminal and initial letters of three of the lines being wanting, were added by Simpson in italics:

- (1) MJULSATYRIDIA
LEPIDOSADASPR
- (2) MJULSATYRIDIASMI(r)
(n)ESPOSTMPETLIPPIT
- (3) MJULSATYRIDIALI
BANUADSUPPURAT
- (4) (m)JULSATYRIPENI
CILLENEEXOVO

The name of the owner, M. Jul (Julius) Satyrus is quite distinct on all four sides. Extended, these inscriptions read as follows:

- (1) M JULII SATYRI DIALEPIDOS AD ASPRITUDINES. M. Julius Satyrus's Dialepidos for granulations.

The first three inscriptions all contain the letters DIA, from the Greek preposition "with," signifying "made with." Under Stamp B, we have seen that Lepidos refers to the scales of burnt copper, *i.e.*, the oxide of the metal.

(2) M JULII SATYRI DIASMIRNES POST IMPETUM LIPPITUDINIS.

The Diasmyrnes, or myrrh collyrium of M. Julius Satyrus, after the commencement of ophthalmia.

Lippitudo, according to Galen, was conjunctivitis; the term has also been used to designate blepharitis, or blear-eye.

(3) M JULII SATYRI DIALEBANUM AD SUPPURATIONEM. M. Julius Satyrus's Dialebanum for suppuration.

Frankincense (*λίβανος*) was frequently used in ancient times in collyria. Here Simpson translated the word Dialebanum as the incense collyrium.

(4) (M)JULII SATYRI PENICILLUM LENE EX OVO. M. Julius Satyrus's mild Penicillum, to be used with egg.

Pliny speaks of Penicillum as a fine variety of sponge, a pledget of which was recommended to be applied to the eyes, soaked in myrrh or rose leaves. Others have considered the Penicillum as a sort of swab for cleaning away discharges. Simpson suggests that the collyrium or ointment which was to be used with a sponge or swab was sometimes designated Penicillum, from the special mode in which it was to be applied. White of egg was a very favourite method for the use of these collyria.

G. *Stamp in the British Museum.*

This is thicker and more rounded at the edges than the generality of these stamps. Gough, in *Archaeologia*, published a sketch and an account of this stamp; but he came to grief in not appreciating the fact that two of the sides are imperfect; and that in consequence the latter half of one of the inscriptions and the first half of the other are deficient; the stone having been broken or reduced in size, and subsequently again rubbed down and smoothed on two of its sides, before one of the sides was engraved with the rude lettering to which he alluded in his description. The inscriptions are as follows:

- (1) LJULIVENISD—
OPOBALSAMTU—
- (2) —ASMVRNESBIS
—MPETUEXOVO
- (3) FSEKUNDI
ATALBAS

The owner's name, in two of the inscriptions was L. JULIUS IVENIS. Simpson notes that the cognomen IVENIS is one that

constantly recurs among the Roman pottery stamps found in England.

It is impossible to fill in with precision the missing letters of the first two inscriptions, but Simpson, judging from the analogy of similar and more perfect stamps reads them as follows :

(1) L JUL IVENIS DIAPSORICUM OPOBALSAMATUM (AD CLARITATEM). L. Julius Ivenis's opobalsamic Diapsoricum for clearness of sight. We have seen under Stamp D the adjective opobalsamatum joined to the word stactum ; but in stamps found at Jena and at Lyons it is used joined with Diapsoricum. The letter D of the last of the first line of the inscription would point to this word rather than to Stactum. The Psoricum was a mixture of cadmia and chalcitis according to Dioscorides, Pliny and Celsus ; and of lithage and chalcitis according to Galen, Aetius and Paulus Aegineta. On a stamp found at Jena the opobalsamic Diapsoricum is followed by AD CLARITATEM.

(2) L JUL IVENIS DIASMYRNES BIS (LIPPITUDINIS IM)PETU EX OVO. The Myrrh Collyrium of L. Julius Ivenis to be used twice daily, mixed with egg, at the commencement of ophthalmia.

The third side of this stamp is very roughly and rudely engraved. The name of another oculist appears ; F.SECUNDUS. The inscription reads F. SECUNDI AT ALBAS ; the collyrium of F. Secundus against albugines. Simpson considers that the AT is a mistake for AD, and that ALBAS means white scars, *albugo* of the cornea. De Villefosse and Thédénat refer to a stamp with an almost similar inscription (FL for F), found at St. Albans, in their work "Cachets d'Oculistes Romains," 1882, probably they are referring to this stone. It was found at St. Albans in 1739.

H. Stamp found at Littleborough, Nottinghamshire.

In 1772 a sketch and notice of this stamp was sent to the *Gent's Mag.* from Southwell, Notts. by an anonymous contributor, C.D. It was described as an oblong stone about 2 inches long and 1 inch broad. The inscriptions are cut on the two ends and on one of the long sides. This latter appeared to contain the name of the owner, but it was so badly cut (or copied) as to be quite unintelligible. Simpson does not attempt to elucidate it, but he gives the inscriptions on the short ends as follows :

- (1) B DIASORICV
- (2) STATUS

He considers that these are obvious mistakes for DIAPSORICUM and STACTUM. The inscription on the long side as shown in the plate which illustrates the article, seems to reads as follows :

IRAICALSILIAL

I can only copy Simpson and leave it alone.

I. *The Wroxeter Stamp, now in the Shrewsbury Museum.*

This almost unique stamp was turned up by a plough in 1808, while ploughing a field near the Old Wall at Wroxeter (Viroconium). It was figured and described by Parkes in the *Gent's Mag.* in 1810. Nightingale in the *Beauties of England and Wales*, makes mention of it; while Hartshorne in *Salopia Antiqua* (1841) wrongly described it as an amuletal seal. Hartshorne's description was corrected by Albert Way and by Wright in his *Celt, Roman and Saxon*, but it was left to Simpson to give the best rendering. The inscription is cut on the face, like that in the Leicester Stamp, to be presently noticed, and runs as follows :

IBCLM
DIA LBA
AD OM
NE Δ UN
O EX O

Wright read the owner's name as Tiberius Claudius Medicus, but in no other stamp so far as I am aware, is the description Medicus ever found in connection with these seals; had the owner wished to have Medicus inserted he would, I think, have qualified it by the word Ocularius; while there was so much to be got into a rather limited space that I am sure that the M here does not refer to the owner's profession. Simpson's reading is as follows :

J (ulii) B (assi) Clementis Dialebanum ad omnem *Διάθεσιν* uno ex ovo. The Dialebanum, or Incense collyrium, of Julius Bassus Clemens for every eye disease; to be used mixed with an egg. Simpson points out that Clemens was a fairly common family name among the Romans. Julius Bassus was a well-known physician and is mentioned by Dioscorides; while on a monumental tablet discovered at Leyden, the cognomen of Clemens is actually preceded by the names of Julius Bassus. The Wroxeter Stamp has a rude figure of a plant engraved at one side of the inscription, and Hartshorne confused himself and others by reading this figure as a letter for the beginning of the third line.

J. *The Kenchester Stamp.*

This stamp was described in the *Jl. of the Brit. Archaeological Assoc.* for 1849 by Roach Smith. It is a quadrilateral stone engraved on all four sides, while the word SENIOR is engraved on one face and the letters SEN on the other. The inscriptions run as follows :

- (1) F VINDACARIO
VISTIANICET
- (2) T VINDACIAR
(1)OVISTINARD
- (3) T VINDAC ARI
OVISTI CHLORON
- (4) T VINDAC ARIO
VISTI —RINM

The proprietor's name F or T Vindex Ariovistus is quite clear. Simpson recalls the name of the German King, Ariovistus, who caused so much trouble in Caesar's army; details of which will be found in the first book of *De Bello Gallico* if any are anxious to renew their acquaintance with that work.

The inscriptions can be extended as follows :

(1) F VINDACII ARIOVISTI ANICETUM. The Anicetum, or infallible collyrium of F. Vindex Ariovistus. Oribasius describes a collyrium Anicetum, composed of red copper, henbane, hemlock, spikenard and frankincense, as good for carbuncle. Roach Smith thought that aniseed was meant, but Simpson points out the true derivation from the Greek word for unconquered.

(2) T VINDAC ARIOVISTI NARDINUM. The spikenard collyrium of T. Vindex Ariovistus.

(3) T VINDAC ARIOVISTI CHLORON. The green collyrium of T. Vindex Ariovistus.

(4) T VINDAC ARIOVISTI (TU)RINUM. The frankincense collyrium of T. Vindex Ariovistus. The last inscription is almost undecipherable, Roach Smith did not attempt to render its meaning, but Simpson, by a careful study of an impression, came to the conclusion that the terminal letter is M, and that, of the four letters preceding, the first three are RIN. The collyrium Turinum is recorded on three stamps that have been discovered in France; the principal ingredient was frankincense; it is sometimes spelt Thurinum and at others, Turinum. We shall see when we come to describe the stamp owned by Mrs. Wilfred Cripps, which was unearthed in 1900, that the terminal word of the first line of the first inscription is the word Turinum; and it is impossible not to wonder at the almost uncanny ingenuity of the late Sir James Simpson in unravelling these old obliterated inscriptions. It is a striking testimony to his learning that his surmise in 1851 should be verified by the identical word turning up in a stamp discovered years after his death.

K. *The Cirencester Stamp* (I) (now in the British Museum).

This was found in 1818 in a garden, deposited in an urn. The stone is a parallelogram; the inscriptions are as follows :

- (1) MINERVALIS DIALEB
ANUM AD IMPT LIPP EX OVO
- (2) MINERVALIS MELINU
AD OMNEM DOLOREM

The owner's name was Minervalis and the inscriptions extended run as follows :

(1) MINERVALIS DIALEBANUM AD IMPETUM LIPPITUDINIS EX OVO. The frankincense collyrium of Minervalis for attacks of ophthalmia to be used with egg.

(2) MINERVALIS MELINUM AD OMNEM DOLOREM. The yellow collyrium of Minervalis for every pain or disease of the eye.

L. Irish Stamp (now in the British Museum).

This was found in Tipperary not long before Simpson wrote his paper. Ireland is said not to have been subject to Rome, but Roman antiquities have been found there and among them this stamp. It is engraved on one side only as follows :

M JUVEN TUTIANI
DIAMYSUS AD VET CIC

Extended, M JUVENTII TUTIANI DIAMYSUS AD VETERES CICATRICES. The Diamysus of M. Juventius Tutianus for old cicatrices. The Diamysus according to Simpson derives its name from the fact that the principal ingredient is misy, a metallic vitriolic preparation, used anciently as a stimulant and escharotic; as late as 1662, it still occupied a place in the London Pharmacopoeia. According to Adams the misy was a combination of sulphate of copper with sulphate of iron.

So far I have only been abstracting Simpson; I now start on the stones which have been discovered since the date of his paper.

M. The Leicester Stamp.

This is a circular stamp about $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch in diameter. I am indebted to Mr. N. C. Ridley for the loan of a plaster cast of this stamp, and through him to the Curator of the Leicester Museum for a description of it, and the beautiful photographs which are reproduced here. It was found at a depth of ten feet in High Cross Street, Leicester, in 1873. When first I saw the cast I was doubtful if it could reasonably be considered an oculist-stamp. The illustration shows that the lower part of the stamp is occupied by a grotesque figure which has some resemblance to the profile of a human head and neck, with a very prominent beak-like nose.* The inscription runs as follows :

C PAL
GRACILIS

*A stamp discovered at Amiens in 1846, shows the profile of a human head and neck on one surface.

Various authorities have read the final word of the first line as PAL, but on examining it with a +13D. lens, I cannot get away from the idea that the letter P is really meant for D, the curve of the letter comes very nearly to the base of the upright part of the letter. Assuming the letter to be a D, the inscription extended

The Leicester Stamp. Face of Inscription.

The Leicester Stamp, Cast of the Inscription.

might run C (AII) or C (LAUDII) DIALEBANUM or DIALEPIDOS GRACILIS. The Dialebanum or Dialepidos of Caius or Claudius Gracilis. In this way only can I consider myself justified in assuming this to be a Roman oculist stamp. It is interesting to note that in the Wroxeter stamp, the only other circular stamp known to me in Britain, the collyrium named in the inscription is a dialebanum. In passing, I may note that Deneffe in his pamphlet *Les oculistes Gallo-Romains au IIIe siècle* (1896) mentions this Leicester stamp;

he reads the inscription as follows: Gaius Pol—Gracilis. There are two manifest errors here, the first letter of the inscription is undoubtedly a C, this is quite obvious when one compares it with the G of Gracilis immediately underneath and no stretch of the imagination can make the A in the second word into an O. The Curator of the Leicester Museum, in his description, seems to

The Leicester Stamp. Side view.

think that the stamp is probably a tradesman's stamp. I do not feel that I can be absolutely sure that it is an oculist-stamp, but it seems to me quite legitimate to give it the benefit of the doubt and to include it in this paper.

N. *The Cripps Stamp* (Cirencester 2).

I am deeply indebted to Mrs. Wilfred Cripps of Cirencester for information about this stamp, which is in her museum of Roman antiquities, and for the impression of it which she most kindly sent at my request. This stamp was dug up in ground near the Great Western Railway station in 1900. It is a square stamp;

each side measures $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length by $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch in thickness. The inscriptions run as follows :

- (1) ATTICI COLLYR TURINUM
AD OMNES DOLORES EX OVO
- (2) ATTICI LENE AD OMNES DOLO
RES POST IMPETUM LIPPITU
- (3) ATTICI DIAGLAUCAEUM
AD OMNES DOLORES F
- (4) ATTICI COLLYR MELI
NUM AD ASPRITUDIN F

Inscriptions (1) and (4) have fine parallel lines separating the two halves of the inscriptions; between the lines on the second inscription is a perfect representation of a "swastica"; while the spaces at the ends of the two lines in the fourth inscription are occupied by emblems which I am not able to interpret; the bottom one might be interpreted as a rough figure of a stalk with leaves on it. These inscriptions are easy to translate with the exception of the word DIAGLAUCAEUM in the third. I take it to mean the green dialebanum; the letters are perfectly distinct and there is no doubt that they occur on the stamp as I have transcribed them. The word DIAGLAUCEN occurs on a stamp found at Poitiers, which is described by de Villefosse and Thédénat. It is a very interesting thing that two of these stamps should have been unearthed at one Roman station; doubtless the owners were not in practice at Corinium at the same time. The name ATTICUS denotes a Greek extraction and the presence of the swastica favours this supposition also, while it is a matter of general knowledge that the medical men in practice in the Roman Empire were for the most part Greeks.

Corinium was a most important centre in Roman Britain; many roads met there. The Akeman Street came in from the south-west, leading from Bath (Aquae Solis) and beyond that from Isca (Exeter). The Foss Way, the great Roman highway through the midlands from south-west to north-east starts here and runs through Leicester (Ratae) to Lincoln (Lindum); running west and north was the main Roman road to Gloucester (Glevum), while from the south-east came in the road from Calleva (Silchester).

O. *Stamp in the British Museum.*

This is an oblong greenish stone with inscriptions on all four sides and with certain marks on at least one of the two surfaces. It was found in a ballast pit near Sandy, Beds., and was presented to the British Museum by J. C. Lucas, Esq., F.S.A., in 1882. The marks on one of the surfaces are quite distinct but rather

roughly scratched as follows: DIOX STAC. DIAGLAUC MIXT. The owners' names were CAIUS VALERIUS VALENTINUS, whose inscription occurs on two of the edges, while on the other two appear the name of CAIUS VALERIUS AMANDUS. Presumably they were near relations, probably brothers and in partnership together.

- (1) C VAL AMANDI
STACTUM AD CA
- (2) C VAL AMANDI
DIOXUM AD REUMTC
- (3) C VAL VALENTINI
DIAGLAUC POST IMP LP
- (4) C VAL VALENTIN
MIXTUM AD CL

The words Dioxum and Stactum I have already alluded to, they need no further elucidation. The inscriptions may be extended as follows:

(1) CAII VALERII AMANDI STACTUM AD CALIGINEM. The Stactum or drop of Caius Valerius Amandus for blindness.

(2) C. VALERII AMANDI DIOXUM AD RHEUMATICA. The Dioxum (vinegar lotion in the British Museum catalogue) of C. Valerius Amandus for running eyes.

(3) C. VALERII VALENTINI DIAGLAUCIUM POST IMPETUM LIPPITUDINIS. The Diaglaucum (poppy preparation in the British Museum catalogue) of C. Valerius Valentinus for use after an attack of blar eye.

(4) C. VALERII VALENTINI MIXTUM AD CLARITATEM. The mixture of C. Valerius Valentinus for clearness of sight. There is an excellent illustration of this stamp in the catalogue.

P. *Stamp in the British Museum.*

This is a Purbeck marble specimen found at Colchester and presented by Sir A. W. Franks in 1892. It is of square shape and the inscriptions are cut on three of the sides; the owner's name was Lucius Ulpius Decimus. One side had only the letters UP DE cut on it. The second side bears ULP DECIMINI PENICIL LE. The third side bears L ULP DECIMINI DIAEPIDOS CROCOD AD OMNIA VITIA. The first of these inscriptions obviously refers to the owner's name; the second, to his mild penicillum and the third to his saffron collyrium for all ills of the eyes.

Besides these stamps in the British Museum the same Institution has the impression of an oculist-stamp stamped on the bottom of a pot or jar of red Samian ware which was found in the City of London and which came into the possession of the Museum in 1856. It is most unusual and it is attributed in the catalogue to

the second century ; from the impression it would appear to have been a circular stamp ; the following is the inscription :

L JUL SENIS
CROCOD AD ASPR

The Museum Catalogue reads the first initial as Q. The translation would run : "The Crocodes of Quintus (or Lucius) Julius Senex for granular lids." One may be permitted to wonder if there was also a Q Julius Junior in practice in London at the same time.

Q. Stamp discovered at Lydney, Gloucestershire.

This is of green steatite and was described in the "Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1876." (2nd Series, Vol V.) There are inscriptions on three of the sides :

- (1) IUL IUCUNDI
COLYR MELNU
- (2) IUL IUCUNDI
COLYR PENC
- (3) IUL IUCUNDI
COL STACT

The owner's name was JULIUS JUCUNDUS and the translations of the rest of the inscriptions are sufficiently obvious ; his Collyrium Melinum, Collyrium Penecillum and Collyrium Stacticum, all of which collyria we have met before.

R. Stamp found at Harrold, Bedfordshire.

This stamp was described in the "Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1896," (Vol. XVI). There are inscriptions on two of the sides as follows :

- (1) C JUN TERTULLI DIA
LEPID AD ASPR ET C
- (2) C JUN TERTULL
DIAMISUS AD CIC

The owner's name was C. Junius Tertullus and the translations of his wares present no difficulty ; the Dialepidos for granulations and cicatrices, and the Diamisus for cicatrices.

S. The Lansdown Stamp.

This paper had been ready for publication for some months when I was given by a friend a cutting from the *Daily Mail* announcing the discovery by Sir Alexander Lawrence of another example of a stamp on his estate at Brockham End, Lansdown, near Bath. I wrote to Sir Alexander, and he with great liberality

gave me all the information he had about this recent British find, with permission to include it in this paper.

The stamp was found at a depth of eighteen inches from the surface, in a field half a mile west of the main road from Bath to Wick, just south of the fourth milestone from Bath; fifty yards south of the old stone wall which forms the county boundary

The Lansdown Stamp

The Lansdown Stamp.

between Somerset and Gloucester, just above the brow of the plateau. It is of interest to note that the county boundary is an extremely ancient one, it being none other than the boundary between the Saxon kingdoms of Mercia and Wessex.

The stamp is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, 1 inch in breadth, and $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch in depth; it is of a brownish-green colour, and is composed, on the authority of Mr. Thomas of the Geological Museum, Jermyn Street, of a fine-grained silicious sandstone, showing specks of mica and

pyrites. The nearest deposit of this stone is in the old red sandstone found in the Mendip Hills.

The inscription is cut on one edge only of the stamp; the letters are not very clearly cut, and so some divergence of opinion exists as to the exact rendering. At first I inclined to the following :

FLUTUGNI DIAP
SORI AD CLARI

The Diapsoricum of F (ilius) Lutugenus for clearness of vision. The alternative readings are FI LITUGNI and LUCHI JULII JUVENIS. The first of these is that suggested by Mr. R. O. Collingwood, of Pembroke College, Oxford; with whom both M. Esperandieu and Sir Alexander Lawrence are in agreement; the second is that suggested by Mr. Reginald A. Smith, of the British Museum. I imagine that Mr. Collingwood's reading will be regarded as the most likely; in this the i of the Fi joins on to the middle stroke of the F; in the same way the L and the I of Litugenus are joined together to look exactly like a modern U, while the u of the Litugenus is rendered V. On the upper or under surface of the stamp is a curved line with one end forked, which would do either for S or for a representation of a serpent with a forked tail.

It is of interest that this stamp has been found in a field on the site of what was almost certainly a Roman villa. The soil was found to be blackened as a result of fire at some remote date. It would appear that the site has never been built over since the original building was burnt. Sir Alexander tells me that he thinks it likely that this was the house of the owner of the stamp: in other words, the country house of an oculist who practised in Bath. It is to be hoped that future excavations may yield remains of surgical instruments in support of this view; which I must say, strikes me as very reasonable.

This appears to exhaust the list of Roman oculist-stamps found in Britain. Inquiries which I have made in various counties have not yielded any other finds; thus no specimens are present in the Museums of Canterbury, Maidstone, Reading (Silchester), Carlisle, Chester, Nottingham, and Colchester; and I am given to understand that there are none at York, Lincoln, and the museums in connection with the eastern end of the Roman Wall, nor was any specimen found last year at Folkestone by Mr. S. E. Winbolt.

I owe a debt of gratitude to many helpers and would especially thank Mr. N. C. Ridley of Leicester; Dr. Cotton of Canterbury; Dr. Hurry of Reading; Dr. Philip Laver of Colchester; Mrs. Wilfred Cripps of Cirencester; Mr. W. G. Collingwood of Coniston; and Dr. Felix Oswald, D.Sc. of Margidunum (Notts.).

Quite a large bibliography has arisen around these Roman fragments; the most authoritative book is Esperandieu's *Signacula Medicorum Oculariorum* (1904). By the kindness of the Librarian of the Roman Society, 19, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1., I was enabled to consult this work, which is now out of print. It gives details of more than 200 specimens.

Those who are interested in the pharmaceutical side of the collyria would do well to read the small pamphlet on Roman Oculists' Medicine Stamps and Collyria (1925) by Mr. C. J. S. Thompson, Curator of the Wellcome Historical Museum, to whom I am also greatly indebted for assistance. Lastly, I must record my thanks to the Deputy Keeper of the British Room of Roman Antiquities at the British Museum, who kindly gave me all facilities for examining the specimens in his care; and to Sir Alexander Lawrence for so generously allowing me to include his specimen.

ANOPHTHALMUS CONGENITUS IN A PUPPY

BY

H. WOOLLARD

LONDON

THIS puppy was given me by Professor J. P. Hill, who had received it when it was three weeks old. The investigation of the visual cortex was begun in the hope that the area striata might be the more easily discerned in the presence of this defect and thus throw light on the limits of this area in the dog. The localization of this area is on the whole firmly established. The only serious discrepancy arises from the work of Munk. The defect seems to be extremely rare, as Durlacher, writing in 1910, was able to find only 27 cases recorded in the literature.

As will be seen later, this case seems to differ from those previously recorded in that the nervous elements subserving vision were normal. Schwalbe states in his description of this condition that the optic nerves may be absent, that the lateral geniculate may be small or absent and the pulvinar reduced, and in the occipital cortex the stria of Gennari and the internal granular lamina are wanting. The principal descriptions of the changes in the central nervous system come from the publications of Bolton and Leonowa.

Bolton investigated the area striata in a new-born child in whom there was complete congenital anophthalmus. His main conclusion was that the area striata was reduced in extent. It occupies