

CURING THE SICK WITH MUSIC

THE connection between music and medical science is as old as history itself. In the earliest stages of mankind, magicians and medicine men effected cures of every form of ailment by means of music, and certain races still use their methods.

The Hellenes of ancient Greece employed music as a means of curing illness. *Homer wrote that Odysseus could stop the flow of blood by playing music.* Again, diseases rife in old Troy were swept away by music.

Galenus proclaimed that music was the best cure for snake-bites and scorpion stings, and, we are told, was successful in bringing about such cures.

Our modern swing music is said to excite young folk and sometimes send them into a state of frenzy. But that is nothing new.

Galenus tells us that Damon, the singer of Miletus, was able by singing certain songs to drive intoxicated young people into a frenzy. He could also quiet them with a different type of song.

In the Bible we read that before demolishing the house of the Philistines, Samson acquired

strength by playing on and singing to the harp. David with his harp charmed away Saul's melancholy.

In the Middle Ages pipers or flute-players used to perform in the street when a madman had one of his periodic fits. They accompanied him home, and in most cases were able to restore him to sanity.

The Marquise Gueret, one of the greatest beauties of her age, lost her reason when she discovered that her husband was unfaithful to her. A famous lyrist cured her in three months by playing melodies of love to her.

The Italians cured the sting of the poisonous spider by music. The victim of this insect would gasp for air, bleed, become cross-eyed, and often went raving mad, but when he heard suitable music he would recover. Often he would begin a dance, which would develop into a frenzy, after which he completely regained his health.

Now our modern doctors and scientists are finding that music can aid their work.

Dr. Burdick, of the U. S., has evolved a musical treatment

for insomnia and, in his opinion, tests have definitely established that suitable music can turn abnormal breathing into normal and act as a sleeping draught. He also uses music instead of anesthetics for surgical operations and has found that not only were the operations a

complete success but that unpleasant after-effects were eliminated.

In England the St. Cecilia Choral Society has employed its skill for curing and cheering victims suffering from acute melancholia and neurasthenia. —*Fact Digest.*

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Epitaph for a Man

“Let me live, O mighty Master,
Such a life as men should know,
Tasting triumph and disaster,
Joy—and not too much of woe;
Let me run the gamut over,
Let me fight and love and laugh,
And when I’m beneath the clover,
Let this be my epitaph:

“Here lies one who took his chances
In life’s busy world of men;
Battled fate and circumstances,
Fought and fell and fought again!
Won sometimes but did no crowing,
Lost sometimes but didn’t wail,
Took his beating but kept going,
Never let his courage fail.

“He was fallible and human,
Therefore loved and understood
Both his fellow-man and woman,
Whether good or not so good;
Kept his spirit undiminished,
Never failed to help a friend,
Played the game till it was finished,
Lived a sportsman to the end.”

—*The Friendly Adventurer.*