

CU5417/39.81

Fragment 9a

BOOKS, '16-'17.

Letter from Dr. Sa'eed, Hassanahad, Teheran, Persia.

Oct. 19, 1916.

...I have come across a book attributed to Rhazes, 2 vol. in one called Kannash <sup>کانش</sup> a stem which sends out many offshoots, otherwise called <sup>کانش</sup> the Boaster Fâkher. He starts with "so says Mohammad son of Zakariah Al Razee, and he is the compiler of this book" and begins with the head Alopecia and ends with Indigestion in the 1st vol., and in the 2nd vol. starts with the Liver and ends with fevers <sup>مبارک</sup> evidently Malarial quintans <sup>مبارک</sup> septans etc. and finishes with syncope. It really deals with every kind of disease although quoting more than twenty authors like Galen, Paul, Dioscorides, Archigenes, <sup>مبارک</sup> Horiam, Rufus, Johannilius, Arteus, yet most of the book is his own and the descriptions so vivid, so charming that it is worthy of the well-known author. I don't remember having seen his "Hawi"; here in chapter on smallpox he quotes Galen on several occasions and believes Galen must have had written more about it in books which were not translated into the Arabic, and his enquiries of those who knew Syriac or Greek brought nothing more to light; he seems to have spared no pains in the way of research. What you say about pain due to the involvement of Pleura in Pneumonia and mention the name of Aretaeus he quotes it as Thabet's <sup>مبارک</sup> I notice the copyists's mistakes for want of a thorough knowledge of the Arabic. If the book was dated, in mending and rebindings it has dropped out.

It would be interesting to know if Dr. Cowley has ever come across it or there is such a copy in any of the well-known libraries; the owner appreciates it much, it won't be easy to get it out of his clutch.

There are other books on Medicine etc. by Avicenna and others of which I cannot give you details just now.

As to the tomb of "the Prince of physicians", last year the Turkish Gr. had sent a man Ohaydellah whom Professor Browne knows, to bribe and deceive the Persians and the Afghans during his stay at Hamadan; this was one of the policies, to bring the well-to-do Persians and ask their help to rebuild the place; they did some repairs, but like many things it was....