

Diseases. Harrison was the author of "Surgical Disorders of the Urinary Organs" which became a standard text-book, and went through four editions, as well as of "Selected Papers on Stone, Prostate and Other Urinary Diseases" and "The Use of the Ambulance in Civil Practice". During his residence in Liverpool he re-organized medical education at the Royal Infirmary, and took an active part in the introduction of the ambulance system, in which he continued to take an interest after his removal to London, being president of the Street Ambulance Association at the time of his death. He was the recipient of many distinctions, including those of Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, president of the Medical Society of London, and Hunterian professor of surgery and pathology of the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1903 he inspected the School of Medicine at Cairo for that College and received the Imperial Ottoman Order of the Medjidie.

#### Roman Dorchester

THE Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, concurrently with its share in the excavation of Maiden Castle, is investigating a site at Colliton Park, Dorchester, on which a county hall is to be erected. The site is within the walls of the Roman city and has not been built on since Roman times. In view of its situation, it was thought probable that Roman buildings would be found there, and the last opportunity upon which the site would be available for examination could not be allowed to pass by. Already, it is reported (*The Times*, Aug. 14), a large part of a house has been disclosed, of which one range of five rooms contains three for bathing, a central dressing-room, with a hot bath on one side with its hypocaust, still largely intact, and on the other side the cold bath-room. North of this range of rooms is a corridor looking out on the courtyard, in which is the well, now cleared to a depth of thirty feet. The filling of the well was found to be entirely composed of wreckage from the building, and included broken parts of at least nine stone columns, four of which are complete though fractured. They probably formed the colonnade of the corridor. At right-angles to the first range of rooms is a second, consisting of seven rooms. All these have mosaic floors, of which one is in perfect condition, while another, though badly damaged, still shows traces of considerable beauty. This latter has panels containing a head of Flora and another head which has not yet been identified. One of these rooms has a hypocaust beneath. An unusual feature in a Roman house in Britain is the lower part of two windows with internal splay. As this house is clear of the building line of the new hall it is hoped to preserve it intact. Trial trenches are being dug to find the other buildings which are thought to lie beneath the surface. As the whole area is to be explored, further financial assistance towards the considerable cost is required.

#### The Gyro Compass on the Hudson Bay Route

IN a summary of the eighth report of the Imperial Shipping Committee on Hudson Bay Marine In-

urance Rates, published by H.M. Stationery Office, 3d. net, which appears in *The Times* of August 13, it is mentioned without comment that the Committee quotes tributes by captains of ships to the value of a gyro compass in contributing to the confidence with which the Strait and Bay were navigated. It is stated that other masters have expressed the view that a gyro compass is essential for navigating the Hudson Bay with safety. The Committee submitted to the underwriters that a further reduction of premiums should be made in respect of vessels equipped with gyro. An illustration is given of the saving of premium which could be effected by installing a gyro compass for one voyage, two voyages, and three voyages in the same season; against this is set the cost of hiring a gyro compass for, say, three months, which including fitting would, it is stated, be approximately £200, plus a very small charge for inspection. The Committee concludes that there is now a considerable inducement to the owner of a vessel to instal a gyro compass for voyages to the Hudson Bay. A gyro compass is specially desirable in the Hudson Bay area on account of the proximity of the north magnetic pole, off the Prince of Wales Land; a ship entering Hudson Bay must approach this pole within at least 14°, and owing to the low value of the horizontal magnetic force (which becomes zero at the magnetic pole), the directive force on the compass is low, and disturbances have a proportionately large effect. On the other hand, the distance from the geographical pole, which is one of the factors in determining the directive efficiency of the gyro compass, is more than 25°.

#### Electricity and Marketing

AN account is given of the Farmer's Conference at the Royal Agricultural Show held at Wolverhampton on July 8, in the *Electrician* of July 16. Mr. F. H. Slade read a useful practical paper on "Electricity and Marketing". He said that now the rural distribution of electricity is extending so rapidly, the British farmer will be able to compete on better terms with the foreigner. He described machines for the electro-mechanical grading and packing of fruits. Such machines will grade in one hour 700 lb. of gooseberries or 1,400 lb. of plums or 180 boxes of tomatoes, without bruising them and with less loss of bloom than by hand methods. A 1½ h.p. electric motor can divide hard fruit into fine sizes and two qualities at the rate of 1,000 bushels per day, ready for cold storage. It pays a grower having 20 acres or more to instal grading and refrigerating plant. The care of apples in a refrigerator is a matter of 'atmospheric control'. In a suitable atmosphere the fruit can have its life-cycle speeded up fifty per cent or the ripening of the fruit can be slowed down by fifty per cent. The average cost of cooling milk in a refrigerator for dairy purposes costs on an average about a penny for thirty gallons. Refrigerated stores for eggs are replacing water-glass immersion. Thanks to electricity, the British farmer, instead of merely getting low prices in season and losing markets out of season to foreign competitors, is now in a much