

prescriptions, and secured the recovery of their patients. Religion mingled with all their operations. Their books were filled with recipes founded on experiments and observations. But their grand discovery, their Moly, a chemical preparation, made by the aid of the philosopher's stone, or as others say, a vegetable remedy; an immortal catholicon, which not only cured all diseases, but restored the aged to youth, and the dead to life; this grand elixir, their priests carefully concealed from the Greeks.

Their Kings caused bodies to be dissected, for the purpose of perfecting them in the art of physic. In *anatomy* they have left us two curious observations. 1. A particular nerve proceeds directly from the heart to the little finger of the left hand. On this finger the Egyptians always wore rings; and the priests dipped that finger in the perfumed ointments, to sprinkle the victim and the worshippers. 2. That a man cannot live more than an hundred years, because they found by experiments, that the heart of a child of one year old, weighed two drachms; that it increased by the ratio of two every second year, till fifty; when it decreased in the same proportion till one hundred; when the aged actually died for want of heart.

**CHIRON.**—Medicine was brought from Egypt to Greece, by the sage Chiron, the centaur, and son of Saturn. He accompanied the Argonautic expedition, and was the most learned genius of his time. He taught Apollo music, Esculapius medicine, and Hercules astronomy. He was also the tutor of Achilles, the instructor of Jason, Pelens and Aeneas, and all the heroes of that celebrated expedition. His knowledge of *simples*, reduction of fractures, and luxations of the bones, prescribed by rule, after the Egyptian fashion, is all we have left us of his theory of medicine. He was shot in the heel by a poisoned arrow, and prayed Jupiter to take away his life. The god heard his prayer, and translated him to the heavens, where he shines in the constellation Sagittarius.

**ESCULAPIUS**, the Greek, and scholar of Chiron, was the son of Apollo and Caronis. He flourished before the Trojan war. In his infancy he was exposed on a mountain of Thessaly, and was suckled by a goat, and defended by a dog. The shepherd, having for some time missed his goat and dog, went to seek them on the mountains, and found the child possessed of extraordinary beauty. The shepherd brought it up with the greatest care; and when a boy placed him in the hands of the sage Chiron, by whose instructions he so largely profited, that his fame far surpassed that of his master. He taught his two sons his own divine art, Machaon and Podalirius, who were afterwards celebrated in the war of Troy. He dedicated his days to the relief of the unhappy, and added his own experience

and observations to that of his master, Chiron. The most dangerous wounds, diseases and maladies yielded to his operations, his remedies, his harmonious songs, and his magical words. The gods would have pardoned all his glory, and fame of superior skill, but his great success and daring mind, induce him to recall the dead to life. Pluto was so enraged at this inroad on his dominions, that he struck him dead with a thunderbolt! He was deified by the Greeks, who showed the most unbounded love to his memory. Forty stadia from Ephidaurus you will find his temple, his statue, and his sacred grove, to which the sick resort from every place, to seek a cure from their various maladies.

The inscription over the entrance of his temple, is at once solemn and affecting:—*"Procul est profani,"*—far hence, ye profane, none shall enter here but the pure in soul. The secrets of his art he communicated to his children, and they were retained in his family until they burst forth with peculiar splendor, and shone out to the possession of the world, in the writings and the character of the divine Hippocrates.

**HIPPOCRATES.**—He was born in the Island of Cos, 80th Olympiad, 461 A. C., of the family of the Asclepiade; for his father was the 17th in lineal descent from Esculapius, and 16th from Podalirius, who dressed the wounded before the walls of Troy, and afterwards reigned over a small city in Thessaly. He studied medicine under his grandfather, Nebrus, and his father, Heraclesides; to which he added the reading of the tablets hung up in the temples, describing the nature of diseases, and the mode of their cure. This was a custom among the ancient Greeks, and is still practised in the East—a custom of great utility and long standing.

The family of the Asclepiadæ had carefully preserved the doctrines of their progenitor, Esculapius, and had established three Medical Schools, in Cos, Chirius, and Rhodes. Their fame began to spread, when this master spirit of the healing art, the *Homer* of medicine, as he has been called, appeared to contend for the prize of victory, on the great arena of public effort and emulation. His mighty mind soon perceived the defects in the system of his progenitors, and he grappled with its difficulties, and set himself to find out and apply a remedy, equal to its vast importance.

As the grand sum of all medical skill consists in *reason and experience*; and as the union of these forms the accomplished and successful practitioner, he prepared himself to add reason and argument to the rules of Greece and Egypt, and at once exalt medicine to the dignity of a science! And this he accomplished, (notwithstanding he has been denounced an empiric,) with a perseverance and success, which perhaps has never since