

rang and the bowstring twanged and the arrow leapt forth desirous of flying into the host." Such arrows might directly kill a man; thus Euchenor was struck below the jaw and ear, and Kleitos was struck in the back of the neck. Both wounds were immediately fatal. There is a graphic description of a wound of this nature which implies some anatomical knowledge. Harpalion was struck in the right buttock by an arrow, and "it pierced to his bladder below the bone, and he sat down in the arms of his dear comrades breathing out his life, and the black blood flowed and wetted the ground, and the great-hearted Paphlagonians busied themselves about him."

More often arrow wounds were not, at any rate immediately, fatal, but were dreaded because the arrows might be poisoned, a fact we are still reminded of in the words "toxic" and "toxin," which are derived from *toxikon*, "belonging to an arrow." In the *Odyssey* we hear of Odysseus taking a journey to Ephyre, in Thesprotia, to ask Ilos, son of Mermeros, for a man-slaying drug to smear on his bronze-tipped arrows. The presence of such an arrow-poison is perhaps implied in the description I have just read—an arrow "unshot before"—and in other phrases. We do not know whether mention of the use of arrow poison is omitted by expurgation, as Murray thinks, or whether the practice was already passing away. But in any case it was beginning to be thought barbarous. Thus Ilos, son of Mermeros, fearing the wrath of the eternal gods, would not give Odysseus the poison he asked of him, but Anchialos, king of the Taphians, a robber and piratical people, was less scrupulous, and gave it, "for he loved Odysseus terribly."

The method adopted for the treatment of arrow wounds is recounted on two occasions. When Menelaos was struck by the arrow shot by Pandaros, Agamemnon, his brother, sent for Machaon, the army doctor, who was found in the midst of warriors who had followed him from Trikke, and "Machaon pulled the arrow from the belt, and the sharp barbs were bent back as the arrow was dragged back . . . and when he saw the wound where the arrow had entered he sucked the blood out of it and put on it soothing drugs which the kind-hearted Cheiron had given his father." Later on in the battle Eurypylos returned to the ships, "limping from the battle with an arrow in his thigh, and sweat ran from his back, shoulders and head, and black blood gushed from the grievous wound, but his mind was unshaken." Patroclus met him, and taking him under the breast led him to the hut, and his page having spread ox-hides for him to lie on, "Patroclus cut out the sharp, painful arrow from his thigh with a knife, and washed away the black blood with warm water, and put on it powder rubbed from a sharp root, which checked the pain, and the wound dried and the blood ceased."