

we will not go far astray if we see in the collection an accurate presentment of the principles which the "Father of Medicine" laid down and of the lines of practice which he adopted. Renouard, gives the following as the genuine productions of Hippocrates: The Aphorisms; the Prognostic; the first and third books of Epidemics; the Regimen in Acute Disease; the treatise on Airs, Waters, and Places; that on Articulations and Luxations; that on Fractures; and the *Moehlie*, or the treatise on Instruments and Reductions. Other works included in the Hippocratic collection but probably from other hands, are: that on Treatment; The Sacred Disease; The Laboratory of the Surgeon; treatises on Fractures; on Articulations and Dislocations; on Wounds of the Head; on Diseases of the Eye; on Fistula; on Hemorrhoids; monographs on Generation; the Seventh Month of Pregnancy; the Eighth Month of Pregnancy; on Superfoetation; on Accouchment; on Extraction of the Dead Fœtus; on Diseases of Women; on Sterility; on Dentition; and some fragments of a work on Diseases of Girls, dealing chiefly with hysteria. To these were added afterwards the works of Pythagoras, Plato, Aristotle and others, the whole forming the so-called Hippocratic Collection, which was recognized as the most considerable monument of medical knowledge and as such formed an integral part of the great libraries of Pergamos and Alexandria.

A study of these works shows that four great ideas stand out pre-eminently as characteristic of Hippocratic Medicine. Hippocrates was probably the first to discover and lay down the fundamental principle that the processes of life and disease alike are governed by what we would now call natural laws, and, as a corollary of this, that it is only by accurate observation of the actual phenomena of disease that we can proceed to safe generalizations on which to base theory or outline rational practice. He denied the influence of the supernatural in pathogeny, and emancipated medicine from the priestcraft and superstition which had enthralled it. Consequently, the Hippocratic school became unrivalled in antiquity for habits of minute observation and the accurate interpretation of symptoms. This principle has proved to be so solidly grounded and so rational that it has lasted until now, and it is not too much to say that the true method of clinical study, the method in vogue to-day, notwithstanding our immense superiority in actual medical knowledge, is the method of Hippocrates. The third great characteristic was the wonderful artistic skill and judgment with which the Hippocratic physician made use of the meagre materials and tools that he possessed. Finally, there was the lofty conception of the duties and personal character of the physician as portrayed in the famous "Oath,"