

tion of cities, their exposure to sun and wind, the kind of water used by the inhabitants, and so forth. He advises the student of medicine to study those things in every city he visits and gives himself a medical description of different cities and districts, showing how the constitution of the inhabitants is affected by their environment. Modern inventions have made the conditions of life more uniform in each country than they were in ancient times, and modern medical science is so absorbed in subtle instrumental analysis that it pays little attention to these old lines of natural observation and research, yet there might still be room for some comparative medical science based on the study of climate, situation and food such as was attempted by Hippocrates.

The chief distinction no doubt of Hippocrates as a physician is the great development he gave to physical diagnosis, which he systematized and practised in a way that raised it almost to the level of the science of our own time. He used, for example, the method of auscultation in diseases of the respiratory organs, and gives precise directions how to practice what is still known as the Hippocratic succussion. "Let some one," he says, "hold the hands of the patient while you shake his shoulders and listen from which side the sound of disease comes." And he shows how the physician may thus determine whether the fluid in the chest is water or pus. He also describes the sound of pleuritic friction as something like the creaking of leather. Here again the diagnostic art of Hippocrates was superior to anything practised till early in the 19th century, when modern pneumatology began with the work of Laennec and Raynaud.

On Prognosis, or the science of forecasting the course of a disease, Hippocrates set a high value and achieved himself a kind of unique distinction in this department, his *facies Hippocratica*, or description of fatal signs in the visage, being still a tradition in medicine. It occurs at the beginning of his book, *The Prognōstics*. "The first thing in acute diseases," he says, is to look at the face of the patient and see if it is like the face of those in health, but especially if it is like itself; if so, it would be an excellent sign; but if quite the opposite, a very