

Although, according to Kipling, "When 'Omer smote 'is bloom-in' lyre, 'e'd 'eard men sing by land and sea, and wot 'e thought 'e would require, 'e went and took, the same as me"—even as I am doing in the presentation of these *analecta de bellis et chirurgis*. I, too, must admit I am a poacher in obscure volumes, and especially pleasing and instructive is it for me to learn that even Virgil and Horace, my old friends, were plagiarists of no mean order, and the scholiasts, learned in the classics have proved that there is but little in literature that is new; in fact, as Knox says: "the thoughts we are thinking, our fathers have thought." The favorite writer Montaigne (1533-1592), whom Dr. Wm. Osler admires, tells us: "There is more ado to interpret interpretations than to interpret things, and more books upon books than upon all other subjects; we do nothing but comment upon one another." Yes, he who gave us the Iliad, records the fact that Machaon and Podalarius, sons of Aesculapius, were very much honored and important personages connected with the Greek army. In the third great siege of Troy, Paris "the spouse of Helen dealing darts around," struck Machaon in the right shoulder. Nestor, the old war king, carried him—the great Machaon—from the battlefield in his own regal chariot, and this event having been noticed by the faithful Achilles, skulking in his ship, he gave orders to Patroclus to make inquiries. The poet, when narrating this event, wrote this eulogium:

"A wise physician skilled our wounds to heal,
Is more than armies to the public weal."

For this *cento medicalis* I may state that the Great Machaon, as history informs us by Virgil, was one of those resolute men who by device were the first to behold Troy within her gates, and evidently died in the siege. Podalarius survived Neptunian Troy's downfall, performed the successful operation of venesection for the daughter of a king (the first recorded case, says Sprengel, *Hist. de la Med.*, Vol. 1, page 131, Pod. Anth. Class. Dic.), and married her, as history informs us.

Yes, "Of two famed surgeons, Podalarius stands
This hour surrounded by the Trojan bands,
And great Machaon, wounded in his tent,
Now wants the succor which so oft he lent."

—Pope's Translation of the Iliad.

During the Persian wars with the Asiatic States, Darius I. (521-485 B.C.), self styled "King of the Civilized World," and