

successful working out of these objects, has been immediately appropriated and utilized, no matter from what source it may have been derived. Coeval with the creation of man, and originating in the dire necessities of his mortality, and in his relations to the forces of the universe, medicine was practised, albeit in a simple and primitive manner, ages before the words and deeds of active struggling humanity were recorded by the historian. Pain, disease and death, we are authoritatively told, became the heritage of man, and to these malign influences his living material being was constantly exposed. Not helplessly, however, for in the intellect with which his maker had endowed him, he possessed the power of investigating phenomena, reasoning upon them and forming conclusions. Thus, by observation and experience, he soon learned what to avoid in order to preserve his health, and more gradually what to apply when his system was invaded by disease. The knowledge, at first limited and scattered amongst individuals, and handed down from one to another, was in course of time increased, systematized and made the special study of a certain class of men. For many centuries medicine remained simply a science of observation. Therapeutics, or the knowledge of the treatment of disease, during this period, was consequently of the most elementary kind. Experimental investigation, to determine the laws of life, their operations in maintaining the normal healthful state of the human economy, and the influences which by disturbing the harmony of their actions produced disease, was, from the difficulties which attended its prosecution, altogether neglected. The religious element in man, which in his unenlightened state led him to attribute disordered conditions of the system to the malignancy of evil spirits whom he deified and endeavored to propitiate by rendering them homage; in later years, and in the light of Revelation led him to consider that disease was caused by the direct and immediate action of the Divine Being. This theological view of disease coupled with, and mainly the result of