

*The Dignity of the Medical Profession.* By T. H. CHIVERS, M.D., of Decatur, Ga.

From the most remote times, in fact from the *Berashith* of the pre-adamite Sultans, (the word Sultan having been derived from the Hebrew *Sauletaun*, which signifies the *wide-ruling*,) the medical profession has been held in the highest estimation by all classes of persons. In the most ancient times the physician was the only *true* man—the only Theologian—Theology and Medicine being the same thing—embalmed as they were in the sweet spices of Antiquity. We are told in the *Sacred Oracles* that God is a physician. “*I, Jehovah, am thy healer.*” It is, therefore, obvious that the only *perfect* image of God is the *true* physician.

According to Josephus, Philo and Solinus, the Egyptian High Priests, were the only true physicians, from which arose the succeeding sect, the *Therapeutæ*, or *Essenes*, which is the English translation of the Egyptian word which signifies *Surgeon, Healer, and Curator*, vulgarly called *Doctor*.

The learned Jesuit, Nicolaus Serarius, contends that they were Asideans, derived from the Recabites, mentioned in the thirty-fifth chapter of Jeremiah. Eusebius informs us that the monastic life was derived from this sect. In Matthew, xi: 23; we are informed that Jesus himself belonged to the sect of the *Essenes*, the *Therapeutæ*, *Healers*, or *Doctors*—hence he is called, in the New Testament, “*The Healer of us all.*” The ancient Druids were of the same order, calling the mistletoe by the same comprehensive name.

According to Mosheim, the great Church historian, they had their origin in Egypt, therefore, existed before the coming of Christ—proving that the dignity of the physician is of the very greatest antiquity, halloved, glorified, and made immortal by Christ, having crowned himself with the same consecrated name—the most beautiful ever uttered under Heaven. *Bind it about thy neck, write it upon the tablet of thy heart,* that CHRIST WAS CALLED A PHYSICIAN.

The greatest library that the world ever knew was that at Alexandria in Egypt, made out of the learning of the *High Priests, Therapeutæ*, or *Physicians*—the great professors in the most ancient university in that city. Here were stored away the most valuable manuscripts of Papyri—the *Codices Alexandrini*. Here were the first Bishops. In those days the professions of Medicine and Divinity were both combined in one person, indissoluble, inseparable.

The *Therapœuts* or *Essenes*, as their name signifies, were *Professors of the art of healing*, whose professions embalmed their names in the