

The temples of Canopus and Vulcan at Memphis became the principal depots of these registers, and they were kept with the same care as the archives of the nation. The priests, who were charged with the study of these observations, did not hesitate to seize upon the exclusive practice of the art, and when they had collected a grand mass of facts, they formed a medical code, the fruit of the experience of ages, which is called by Diodorus, of Sicily, the Sacred Book, from the directions of which they were never permitted to vary. Renouard in his "Histoire de Medicine," gives a minute account of the practice of embalming by the Egyptians, and clearly shows that it was calculated to familiarize the Egyptian priests of that early day with anatomical research. Moses, rescued by one of the daughters of Pharaoh, was reared in the court of that prince and instructed in all the knowledge of the Egyptian priesthood in which he became a proficient; his writings constitute a precious monument for the history of medicine, for they embrace hygienic rules of the highest sagacity. The Bible prescribes frequent ablutions necessary in all, but particularly in hot dry countries. It would appear from the 13th of Leviticus that Moses gave his instructions concerning leprosy and other infirmities to the priests only, from which it may be inferred that the Levites joined the practice of medicine to their sacerdotal functions. It appears that they maintained for a long time this double relationship to society, for there is no mention made of lay physicians among the Jews, except in the book of Ecclesiastes, the author of which lived in the third century before Christ. The following references are made on this subject in the XXXVIII. chapter, verses 1, 2, 3, 4. Hygiene under the Ptolomies Ptolomy Soter and his son and successor Ptolomy Philadelphus, the leaders of the Alexandrian school, did not progress as rapidly as Anatomy and Physiology, nevertheless, it was not entirely stationary. Celsus has recapitulated in his first book the most accredited hygienic precepts of his time. He commences by addressing some general councils to men in robust health. Then he explains, more at length, the regimen which is suited to persons in delicate health, among whom he classes