

were not the fact—as I must regretfully admit that it is—that there is no really satisfactory evidence that the word “coronis” ever was used in any Greek expression corresponding to that in our vernacular which I have employed. So we may be thrown back on the other interpretation.

Or am I quite wrong? And does the story not mean that the bright god who has the power to ward off plagues and epidemics and to relieve mortals from disease, evolved from the crooked Shamanism and quackery of the existing pretended healing art a new and better science—thereafter destroyed the old; and the new science became a living and active force through the study of nature? For Hermes was the god of nature as well as the god of thieves.

The story that he was brought up by Cheiron the Centaur may indicate the dependence of the G. P. upon his stable-man, or it may show symbolically that he must work like a horse, though with the brain and intelligence of a man.

Whatever be the true interpretation of the myth, it seems to me—notwithstanding the doubts sometimes expressed—as clear as anything can well be in the absence of contemporary record, that the ultimate source of the medical profession is to be looked for in that body of men found in all peoples of a certain grade of civilization, in which the priest and physician are one and the same person—“Medicine man.” “Shaman,” or whatever the name he may bear. The origin is, of course, lost in antiquity.

In the profession of the law, on the other hand, we can trace with reasonable certainty, beginning and advance. As law at first was in no way different from the customs of the tribe, supposed to be thoroughly known to all, there was no need of the advocate; and it was not till comparatively late in history that advocacy appears as a profession. Take Athens, for example—the Court consisted of a defined portion of the freemen of the State. All the people took part at some time as jurors, and the litigant addressed the people assembled. In time it became the practice of the litigants to procure speeches to be written for them by skilled dialecticians, but counsel was not, at first at least, called in.

In Rome, indeed, rather early the advocate did make his appearance—the effect of his eloquence and skill everyone knows. In England it was well within historic times and during the Plantagenet period that we first hear of barrister or attorney.

And in the subject matter of the sciences, there has been a like difference.