

not be healed." Here we have the first indication of the separation of medicine and surgery. Asclepius, or Esculapius, appears in Homer as a Thessalian king, not as a god, although in later years divine honors were paid him and he was worshipped as a god.

From this it appears that the origin of our profession, both in profane and in sacred history, has a most noble ancestry, being both royal and sacred in character, dating from time immemorial. Seeing, then, the very high position which our profession occupied in the past, and the very important, nay, essential, part it plays in the welfare of civilized nations in the present age, how necessary it is that its members be men of culture. In the early pioneer life of this continent, especially the newer settlements, the chief struggle consisted in providing homes and other necessities of life. Few and far between were the luxuries, as the struggle for existence was keen. The more provident had an eye toward laying up a fund for a time of need. The earlier generations were brought up in the stern lap of necessity. Books were scarce and difficult to obtain. Teachers, beyond those having a mere rudimentary education, were not easy of access, yet under these discouraging circumstances we find men of prominence in our profession, for some are born to be great. As time went on and wealth increased, schools of a more advanced character were established. Our educational system has been founded upon a broad and liberal basis, so that we now boast of having one of the most admirable systems of education, from the common schools up to our universities. With our admirable educational facilities, which are not within the easy reach of all who are ambitious to excel, what excuse have we for a low standard for our matriculation in medicine? Our profession has always been regarded as one of the learned professions, whose members are, or should be, cultured gentlemen. The poet Ovid tells us, "*Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes emollit mores*"—(to have faithfully studied ingenuous arts softens manners). I am well aware that culture does not depend entirely upon mental training. A great deal is due to the innate character of the individual, then the early environment shapes and moulds the mental tendency or temperament, exaggerating or repressing, as the case may be.

In no walk of life does the inner life of the individual shine out so brightly, unless it be that of our sister profession, the clergy. In no profession is the highly cultured man more truly honored, neither is any class of society more powerful for good