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LITERARY.

SKETCHES OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE.

During the year 1873-74, in the University Gazette one paper of the course under the above title, appeared and consisted of some brief notes on "Early Eastern Science. The writer proposed to follow up the subject in succeeding numbers but his papers did not appear, as the publication of the Gazette was suspended till the present Session. Some of his manuscripts of the series have fallen to us as a legacy and we propose to publish them.—
Editors.

II.

SCIENCE AMONG THE GREEKS.

BY J. W. S.

By whom Greece was first settled is not known. The most ancient race, of which we have any authentic records, is the Pelasgi. Thucydides says that even their successors consisted of many predatory and barbarous tribes. The most advanced state of civilization of the East was not without influence among them, and it probably, to a limited degree, crept into Greece before the historic epoch.

As early as 1832 B.C., there is recorded the inundation of Beotia and part of Attica, caused by the overflow of the waters of Lake Copais, and that canals had been made across Mount Ptoon to carry off the superfluous waters of the lake.

The Greek mythology was engrafted with the Egyptian Philosophy, and the scientific mysteries of the priests of the latter nation seem soon to have become public property, and as early as Homer the mass of the Grecian people appears to have been liberally educated and to have had greater freedom than any of the contemporary nations. Homer, himself, has shown the proofs of

having studied Comparative Anatomy and Botany as well as the agricultural and industrial Arts.

The practice of medicine was probably introduced from the East at an early date; but the personages of Æsculapius, Orpheus, and Chiron were probably mythical, Æsculapius was believed to be the incarnate father of medicine, having been taught by Apollo himself, and could not only cure diseases, but also raise men from the dead; as he was depopulating the infernal regions very rapidly to the great discomfort of the god of those unpleasant abodes, Plato obtained from Jupiter the means of striking him with a thunderbolt. Æsculapius is said to have left two sons in possession of his knowledge, Machion, of Surgery, and Podalirius of internal diseases. Both of these sons accompanied the Trojan Expedition.

HESIOD, in his Theogony, gives a symbolic explanation of the creation of the world, and of the birth of the gods in a genealogical form, but these are only derived from the Eastern ideas. Among the earliest philosophers were Thales, Pythagoras, Democritus.

THALES (B. C., 636-546) was the founder of the Ionic School, and was the first teacher of Philosophy in Greece. He professed a systematic idea of the formation of the world from the waters, and demonstrated that the earth was a sphere, explained eclipses, fixed 365 days for the solar year, introduced a sun-dial into Sparta, discovered the pyro-electric properties of diamonds and amber, made the first geographical charts, and so diversified were his studies that he even entered the grave-yards to investigate the mysteries of the human organization. This scientific investigator died at the advanced age of ninety years.

ANAXIMANDER (born 610, B. C.) was a pupil of Thales. His philosophy is said to have been the first written production, but his