

its great founder, is believed by many to be a myth—the creation of the fancy of some heathen Poet, and the account of his parentage that has reached us favors such an hypothesis ; however, be this as it may, he was deified before the Trojan war, and, be he God or be he man, or a mere phantasm of the imagination, he claims us as his sons, and we are proud to acknowledge our relationship.

For long years, the founders of our Art, groped their way in ignorance and darkness. Heathens, they relied more on propitiating the gods than on medicaments, or surgical appliances. The body was early divided by the Egyptians, into thirty-six regions, each region presided over by a particular god, and much of the skill of the Physician depended upon his ability to propitiate the offended deity ; still considerable progress was made, but, doubtless, much of the honor due to the skill of the Physician, was credited to other agencies—a habit of perverted vision that has come down to our own day.

In the armies of Agamemnon, about 1200 B.C., Surgeons were held in considerable repute, one of whom—Podalirius, one of the sons of Esculapius, received the most munificent fee ever presented to a medical man. Having been instrumental in saving the life of a Princess, he was rewarded with her hand, and a magnificent dowry—a stretch of generous appreciation which has never been repeated. May we indulge the hope that our beloved Queen may discover some knight of the scalpel, worthy the fair hand of her remaining daughter.

For several centuries after the Trojan war, there is no record of progress, and it is fair to assume that little, if any, was made. During the fierce wars of those early periods, fractures were frequently sustained, yet there does not seem to have been any attempt at reduction. The aid of the gods was invoked, and, if deformity resulted, there was at least no chance for an action for mal-practice.

Three schools of medicine were founded by the descendants of Esculapius—the Asclepiades as they were called, one at Rhodes, one at Cnidos, and one at Cos. These are the earliest regular schools of which we have any record. The last, that of Cos, was the Alma Mater of the great Hippocrates. Hippocrates was co-temporary with, and a friend of Pythagoras, who founded a school at Crotona, about B.C. 600, and as he discarded the teachings to a great extent of the schools of the Asclepiades, and brought