

open the chest with a knife and removes the leeches, sews up the chest again and the patient returns home next day."

Evidently "Aesculapian" section would be quite correct.

From other inscriptions we learn that Aesculapius treats dropsy heroically; he cuts off the patient's head, then holds him up by the heels; the fluid runs out. He then puts on the head again and all ends happily.

In later times superstition and deception had a less share and art a larger one in the work of healing. We find the priests prescribing many things prudent and judicious; plain and simple diet, hot and cold baths, poultices, hemlock juice, squills, lime water, and drugs for allaying pain, are all mentioned. Many benefited greatly by the rest, pure air, simple diet, the sources of mental interest, the baths, the regular exercise, massage and friction, which were all in practical operation. As to the quotations from the tablets it must be remembered that the patients and not the priests were responsible for most of these statements, and that they do not differ much from many curious statements made by patients at the present day.

Near the sacred grove was the theatre, of which the ruins still exist in a fair state of preservation. It was the largest but one in the world, and is in interesting contrast to the small size of the temple. No doubt the patients who were able to have a good time were very numerous.

Epidauros was really a fashionable watering place for some eight hundred years. From all over the known world patients were sent for cure. It is an excellent illustration of how long a system of suggestive therapeutics backed by divine authority can maintain itself against the scepticism and incurable ills of this world.

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