

of windows the light comes in through the cracks in the wooden walls. I went down one evening to such a place to see a sick Indian woman. It was dusk, and the waves of the sea were lapping the beach close at hand, while dusky children flitted by in the twilight, engrossed in some pastime. On entering the only door in the rancherie, I found it in utter darkness, excepting for a small fire burning at the extreme end of the building. Here was presented a study in light and shade, to have suited a Rembrandt. Around the fire was arranged a circle of Indian women (it is always the women who are closest to the mysteries of nature), while at one side was the patient, too weak to sit up, but supported by a couple of sympathizers. Facing her was the Indian Medicine-man, trying to cure her disorder by directing his energies to overcome the supposed cause of her disease. My diagnosis was tubercular pleurisy with effusion, but my Indian confrere had diagnosed possession by an evil spirit, and as he was in charge of the case, I could only look on. Each woman, with a stick in either hand, was beating on a piece of wood before her, making as much noise as possible, and adding blood-curdling explosives to the incantations of the Medicine-man, in a vain endeavor to drive out, to scare out, the possessing spirit. But unfortunately this kind comes not forth by such rude wooing. And so, from the gray dawn of time, down to what we imagine is the mid-day splendor of to-day, such forms of practice have persisted through all the ages.

But let us not imagine the air clear yet; the fog is only getting thinner. In other times the sun has attempted to shine through. Five hundred years before Christ, Hippocrates broke away from the old traditions of healing, the supernatural methods, and laid the foundations of medical science on experience, observation and reasoning. Later his teaching influenced the school of Alexandria, where positive knowledge was developed by the adoption of anatomic studies; and centuries later, under Moslem patronage, the medical sciences reached their highest development in the Middle Ages. But Europe was less fortunate under Christian influences. There was a return to the belief in the supernatural origin of disease, and in the practice of supernatural methods to combat it. Retrogression prevailed over progression. Still believing in demoniacal possession, the various phases of exorcism was practised, even combined with such practical methods as the following: "To disgust the demon with the body he was tormenting, the patient was made to swallow or apply to himself unspeakable ordures, with such medicines as the livers