

tending from its original centres at Thessaly, Cos and Epidauros, until in the fifth century B.C. it had become well established at Athens, Corinth and other cities. Later, in the Roman times, the great centre was at Pergamon, in Asia Minor, where Galen was born. The worship was brought to Rome in 270 B.C., and a temple was built upon an island in the Tiber.

The antique statues which we see in the museums are not works of great masters, but copies of the originals made by Greek and Roman artists. Many of them are by second-rate sculptors. All the statues of Aesculapius in existence are copies, many of them very poor and made by inferior artists. At the time of Phidias and Myron, when Greek art reached its highest perfection, there were some statues of Aesculapius created,—some no doubt by these great masters, for the types followed by later artists were established then. None of the originals are in existence, but there are a few which suggest how the masters portrayed their ideals of the god. The masterpiece



FIG. 1.

is a colossal bust of Parian marble (Fig. 1) in the British