

the historic page, to medical studies in the East, in Egypt, and in Greece, through the long period that elapsed between Hippocrates and Galen. In Greece, the votive tablets suspended in the temple of the gods, displayed to the eyes of the student of medicine, the disease, its history, and the nature of its cure. In India, the sick were laid in beds by the way side, that every passenger might be consulted on the means of their recovery. These cures were also registered on the pillars and monuments of Eastern magnificence, for the benefit of the public. If any discovered a poison, he was obliged to conceal it, till he had also found out its antidote, and then they were published together. This was a part of the code of wise maxims, which still distinguish the primitive regions of the human race. In Egypt, medical science progressed according to the prescribed forms, until Nectanebus, the last of the race of Misraim, was expelled his throne and kingdom, by Ochus, the tyrant of Persia, a few years before Alexander conquered the East.

ERASISTRATUS was celebrated for his skill and wisdom in the mode of cure; his medicines were mild and simple, administered with judgment and success. He was opposed to mixed and complicated medicines.

HERAPHILUS, the anatomist, held a distinguished rank amongst the physicians of Greece. He was so much devoted to the discovery of specifics, that it gave occasion to his disciple Philinus, of Cos, to attach himself wholly to the practice of empiricism. The honor of having founded the sect of empirics, has been contended by their followers, between Philinus and Serapion, of Alexandria. It is, however, certain, that it arose immediately after the time of Heraptilus. And this period may be regarded as one of the most remarkable in the history of general physic.

HERACLIDES, of Tarentum, was one of the empiric sect—a person of great skill and judgment in the study of medicine. Very remarkable cures are recorded of him. His writings being lost, the world has not been much benefited by his discoveries.

The establishment of medicine as a separate science, at Rome, must be ascribed to the Greeks. For five hundred years, according to Cato, the censor, it was in a very rude state, and confined entirely to the women. A luxurian was reduced by incantation, and the *bassica* accounted an universal remedy.—*Asclepiades* was the first of the Grecial physicians who practised at Rome. He was not bred to physic, but was a professor of rhetoric. Not finding success in his original profession, he commenced the practice of physic, and formed a system for himself. He established a mild practice, employed few medicines, and strongly declaimed against compound and complicated medicine.

SCRIBODIUS LARGUS treats professedly of the composition of medicine; but his medicine and mode of practice have been charged with great uncertainty and imperfection.

Superstitious follies seem to have distinguished many of these writers, as well as Pliny the elder, and Andromachus, senior; though to the present day, the *Tberiaca* Andromachi is retained in systems of medicine.

DISCORKDES, who wrote professedly on *Materia Medica*, is regarded as one of the best and most judicious of ancient times. Many might be added to these names, but *jam satis*. These will suffice to show the turmoil and vicissitudes in the medical science of ancient times.

“LET THE READER THINK.

I am but a poor Mechanic—possessed of but a common English education—but the following fact is one which I think my duty to lay before the Public:—

A case of disease has lately passed under my observation, where a learned and experienced Regular Physician was employed, (for if they are not most to be depended upon pray who is) which has caused me more reflection than on any other occasion.

The patient was a friend of mine, and I shall endeavour to describe the case minutely. My friend had lived to the age of 42, apparently in the enjoyment of a good state of health, except sometimes subject to slight attacks of dyspepsia. About this time, upon a certain occasion of exposure, he took a severe cold, which was attended with some fever and pain throughout his system, especially in the limbs. He requested me to call on Dr. which I did. When the Doctor called he felt his pulse, looked at his tongue, and stated that he would be well in a few days; but as there was some inflammation, and the pulse full, it would be necessary that he should lose a little blood. After blood was drawn, my friend stated that he felt much easier. The Doctor then wrote a prescription, which I carried to an apothecary, where I found it to be small powders of calomel and opium, which were administered according to the Doctor's directions. On the next morning the Doctor called again, and upon entering said, “well how is our patient this morning?”

To which my friend replied, “somewhat easier, but rather weak.”

“Oh!” says the Doctor, “you'll soon get over that.”

The Doctor then ordered that a dose of salts and senna should be given him. On the next day the Doctor called again, making a similar enquiry respecting his patient as he had the previous morning. To which my friend replied, “I feel somewhat weaker, and have a slight cough.”

The Doctor enquired whether he had taken the salts and senna, and if it had operated, and