

beggar outcast from society, who can be seen at any of our city dispensaries suffering from varicose ulceration. That the priests possessed some accurate surgical knowledge cannot be disputed, for the rite of circumcision was delayed if the child was jaundiced—a fact that would indicate that they appreciated the danger of hæmorrhage in such conditions. Few cases of accident are described in the Bible, but that which happened to Abimelech is described at sufficient length to give us ground for diagnosing fracture of the skull, the retention of consciousness showing the absence of compression.

The reproach of Van Helmont, that "a bloody Moloch presides in the chairs of medicine" could not be brought against the Hebrew physicians as the sacredness of blood prohibited bleeding. In Proverbs XXX, 15, we have reference to the use of leeches.

Their materia medica consisted of balm of Gilcad, myrrh, cinnamon, cassia, aloes, calamus, spikenard, camphor, and mandrake. Folk-lore medicine, as amongst primitive people attributed healing virtues to saliva, and the first aid to the injured rendered by the good Samaritan when he poured oil and wine into the sufferer's wounds was certainly surgically orthodox. They were ignorant, however, of dietary laws, and we cannot but think that Hezekiah was in greater safety when Isaiah prescribed a fig poultice than his kinsman who enjoyed a diet of fig pudding.

Osler, in his "pessimistic therapeutic nihilism," as some of his truthful statements about medicine have been termed by the American writers, has stated that much of the humbuggery of the profession still lingers about mineral waters. But if, as theologians tell us, "never yet has any particular doctrine or mode stating truth held its own for any length of time in human history unless there was some genuine truth beneath it," then we must still count mineral waters of some therapeutic value, since the Hebrews believed in their efficiency even as the Gentiles of to-day. The saline waters of the Jordan, the miraculous healing power of the pool of Siloam, and waters of Bethesda were well known to all devout Jews. And to-day their descendants still bathe in the pool of Bethesda for rheumatism and other disorders. They still believe that the waters are more efficacious when they are "troubled," that is, when the natural syphon under the cave overflows.

One factor which probably contributed in no small degree to the health of the Jewish race was their care in providing good water supplies, that of Jerusalem being particularly complete. The city was supplied by five conduits. One, supposed to have been constructed by Solomon, was thirteen and a half miles long, two feet deep, and one