

quainted with dislocations and fractures of all kinds ; and how well he had profited by the opportunities he thus enjoyed, every page of his treatises *On Fractures* and *On the Articulations* abundantly testifies. In fact, until a very recent period, the modern plan of treatment in such cases was not at all to be compared with his skillful mode of adjusting fractured bones, and of securing them with waxed bandages." Another authority, the *International Encyclopædia of Medicine*, says : "He boldly and freely opened abscesses of the liver and kidneys. . . . The rectum was examined by an appropriate speculum, fistula-in-ano was treated by ligature, and hemorrhoids were operated upon. . . . The bladder was explored by sounds for the detection of calculi ; gangrenous and mangled limbs were amputated ; the dead foetus was extracted from the mother. Venesection, scarification and cupping were all employed."

His knowledge of physiology was of course very rudimentary. There was no subject which the ancients found more difficulty with than physiology, what they called the natural functions, *actiones naturales*, respiration, circulation, digestion, and secretion. To the last these remained much of a mystery to them, as indeed they continued to be till far on in our modern era. Hippocrates thought food was prepared for assimilation by being a sort of boiled in the stomach. Later on Asclepiades declared that the process was one of trituration. They had both got hold of facts in a way, but even though they had combined them, they would still have been unable to solve the problem for want of a chemical theory of the gastric juices.

In the treatise on *Ancient Medicine*, which I have already quoted from, we find Hippocrates struggling to lay the very foundations of physiological science when there was evidently little or nothing to help him. The only hint he seems to have for a start is the old generalisation of Empedocles about the four qualities of things which in the view of ancient medicine were combined in the living body, heat and cold, moisture and dryness, a principle which he had discarded as of no use in therapeutic practice. But he makes use of it here as a simple classification and begins by seeking to determine what parts of the human body collect and carry the moisture, what parts the