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before closing, to say a few words with regard to its proper function in society. At a time like the present, which by all is acknowledged to be one of rapid transition, and when everything is investigated with the keenest scrutiny, the question is often asked, and but seldom answered, whether the medical profession, as a whole, really does perform what it professes; whether it lowers the rate of mortality, diminishes the total amount of sickness, and favors the growth of a robust and healthy population. Even in ancient times this question occupied the attention of some of the wisest men of that period, who came to a conclusion, which I think we will hardly admit was satisfactory. They asserted that one office of the state was to ensure that all members of the community should be well trained and fitted to discharge what ever duty their station in life called them to perform. Health was absolutely requisite for them. They, therefore, saw that to rear the sickly or to prolong the career of the intemperate, to enable the constitutionally diseased to protract a useless existence and to beget children, which in all probability, would be as unhealthy as themselves, was not the way to make a people healthy. They therefore maintained "that the healing art was revealed by the gods, for the benefit of those whose constitutions were naturally sound, and had not been impaired by their habits of life, but who, attacked by some specific complaint, might be speedily restored to the discharge of their duties. But for the constitutionally diseased and the intemperate, they looked upon the existence of such a man as no gain either to himself or to others, therefore they thought that to attempt to cure such a one was wrong."