

situated near natural springs of health-giving waters, and while the onus of failure in treatment was laid at the feet of the patient himself, yet all manner of hygienic and therapeutic measures were adopted.

From these institutions emanated a class of men who, having learnt all possible, separated themselves from priestly offices to take up the regular lay practice of medicine. Thus was constituted the first of the famous series of "schools" of Grecian medicine, the Asclepiads. Fine colleges were erected by them and through their knowledge was kept to a great extent in families, yet by paying a fee, (of great size from our present day standpoint) outsiders were admitted. The teaching was handed down orally from teacher to pupil and was in verse, to help the memory. Boys began the study at the early age of twelve years. The completion of their education was marked simply by the administration of what was first committed to writing in Grecian medicine, the famous Oath.

The contents of this oath should be of exceeding interest, for at an epoch of great enlightenment in the world's history we have its clauses performing services which are accomplished to-day by the severe means of terrifying examinations. After containing much reference to the duty of pupil toward teacher, it passes on to more purely medical requirements. The candidate promises to do always what seems to be to the best advantage of the patient; to give no deadly medicine; to give no woman a pessary to procure abortion; to practice and live with purity and holiness; to do no lithotomies (these were to be left to a special class of workers not considered worthy of much respect); and to keep everything secret in connection with medicine and practice.

And now came the grand blending of philosophy with medicine, the entrance of many of the world's greatest minds into what was sincerely considered the art of healing, and the separation of medical work from its association with things religious to place it upon a pinnacle of independence. The natural result of this freedom of thought was the formation of the different schools. Amongst these the most noteworthy were the Italian school, to which belonged Pythagoras, who first taught the immortality of the soul and decay of the body; the Sophists, who eventually degraded philosophy into a matter of consulting personal advantage; and the Gymnasts, a well-known class who associated actual physical exercises with the treatment of even acute diseases. This latter school was looked down upon by the others, and it was considered by the pure reasoner, Plato, that the union of gymnastics with medicine was a nuisance.

Into this age of golden conditions of existence, into the time