

## A Universal Download Edition

The Law Hippocrates by Francis Adams

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1 is of all the Arts the most noble; but, not withstanding, to the ignorance of those who practice it, and of those who, form a judgment of them, it is at present far behind the other arts. Their mistake appears to me to arise principally this, that in the cities there is no punishment connected with practice of medicine (and with it alone) except disgrace, and does not hurt those who are familiar with it. Such persons are the figures which are introduced in tragedies, for as they have shape, and dress, and personal appearance of an actor, but are actors, so also physicians are many in title but very few in reality.

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2 is to acquire a competent knowledge of medicine, ought to possess of the following advantages: a natural disposition; instruction; favorable position for the study; early tuition; love of labor;. First of all, a natural talent is required; for, when Nature, everything else is in vain; but when Nature leads the way what is most excellent, instruction in the art takes place, which student must try to appropriate to himself by reflection, becoming early pupil in a place well adapted for instruction. He must also to the task a love of labor and perseverance, so that the instruction root may bring forth proper and abundant fruits.

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3 in medicine is like the culture of the productions of earth. For our natural disposition is, as it were, the soil; the of our teacher are, as it were, the seed; instruction in youth like the planting of the seed in the ground at the proper season; place where the instruction is communicated is like the food imparted vegetables by the atmosphere; diligent study is like the cultivation the fields; and it is time which imparts strength to all things brings them to maturity.

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4 brought all these requisites to the study of medicine, and acquired a true knowledge of it, we shall thus, in traveling the cities, be esteemed physicians not only in name but in. But inexperience is a bad treasure, and a bad fund to those possess it, whether in opinion or reality, being devoid of self-reliance contentedness, and the nurse both of timidity and audacity. For betrays a want of powers, and audacity a want of skill. There, indeed, two things, knowledge and opinion, of which the one makes possessor really to know, the other to be ignorant.

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5 things which are sacred, are to be imparted only to sacred persons; it is not lawful to import them to the profane until they have initiated in the mysteries of the science. END