



MEDICINE IN ANCIENT ROME

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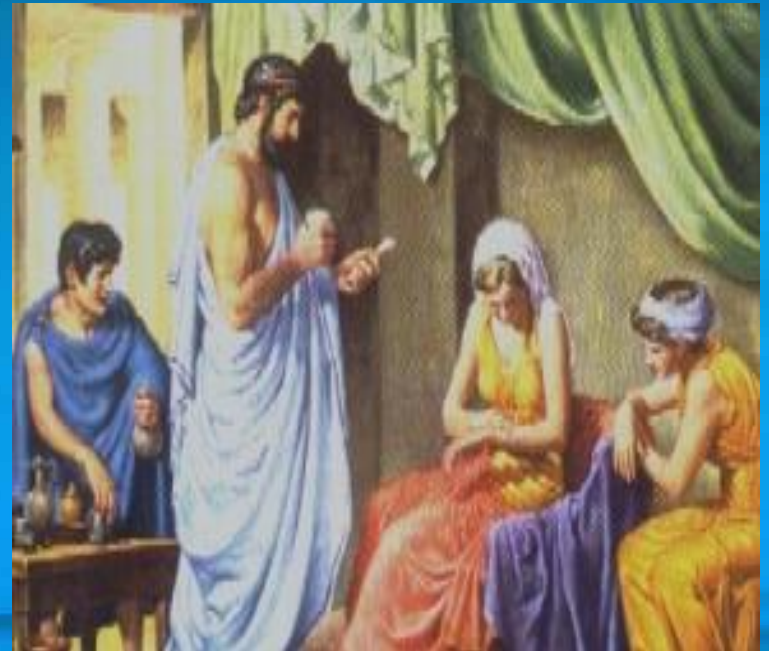
TVER 2015

MEDICINE IN ANCIENT ROME



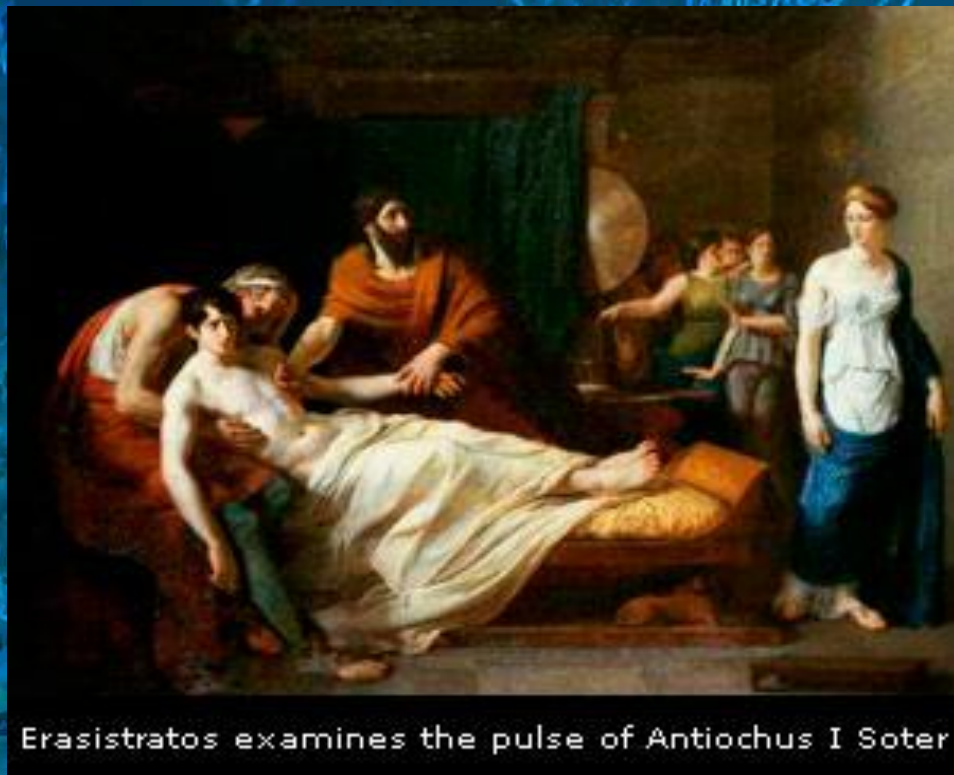
SYNOPSIS

- physicians of the past
- tools
- practices
- Roman medicine
- medicine schools
- conclusion



ANCIENT ROME

Romans can greatly thank the Hellenistic Greeks and the Asians for their work in the medical field. The Romans followed up the scientific methods the Greeks and Asians used in their development of medicine. As Armour clearly notes, prior to this time, Romans went without an official medical profession for over 600 years. The head of the family would treat his family with folk remedies and sacrificial rites to the appropriate god.

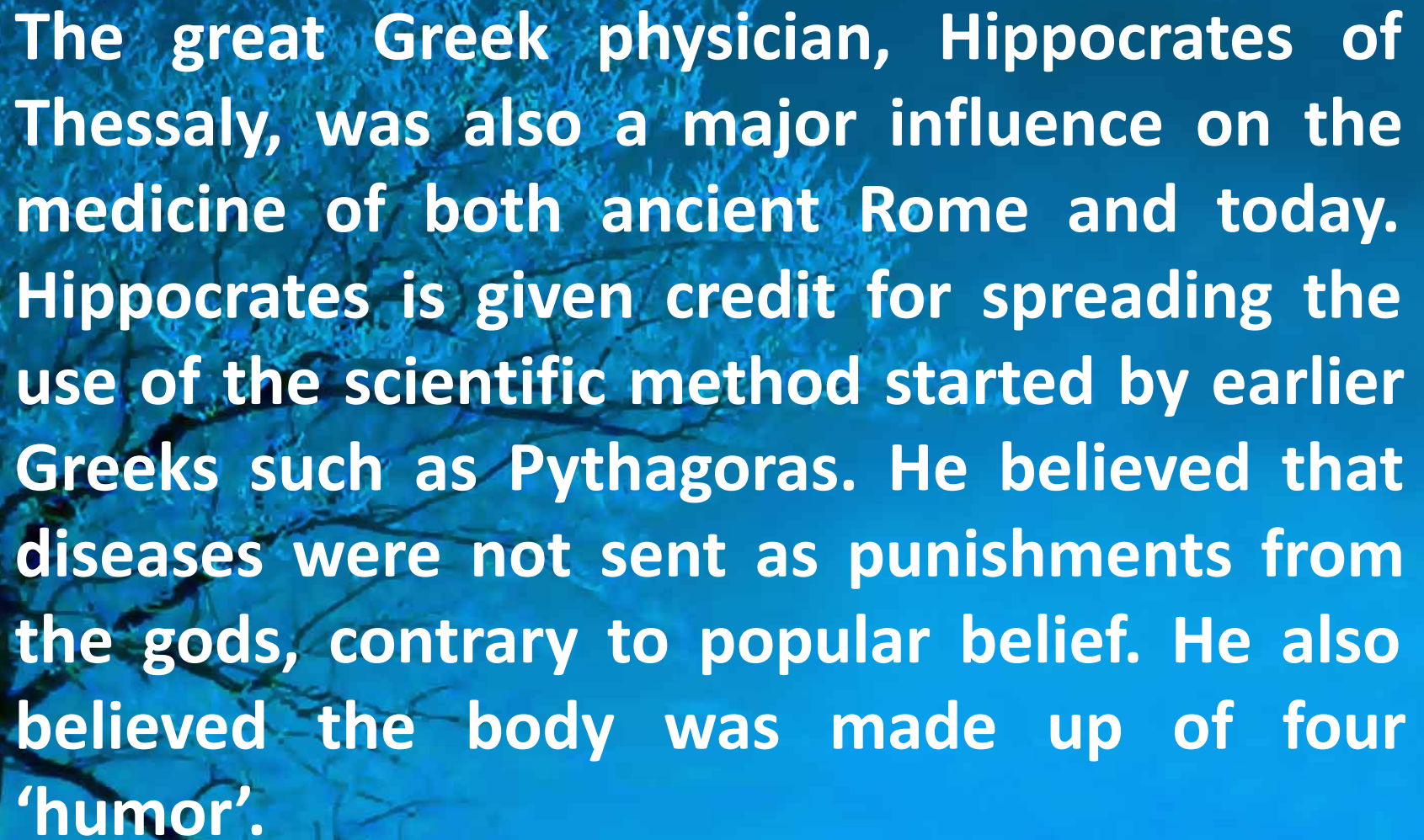


Erasistratos examines the pulse of Antiochus I Soter

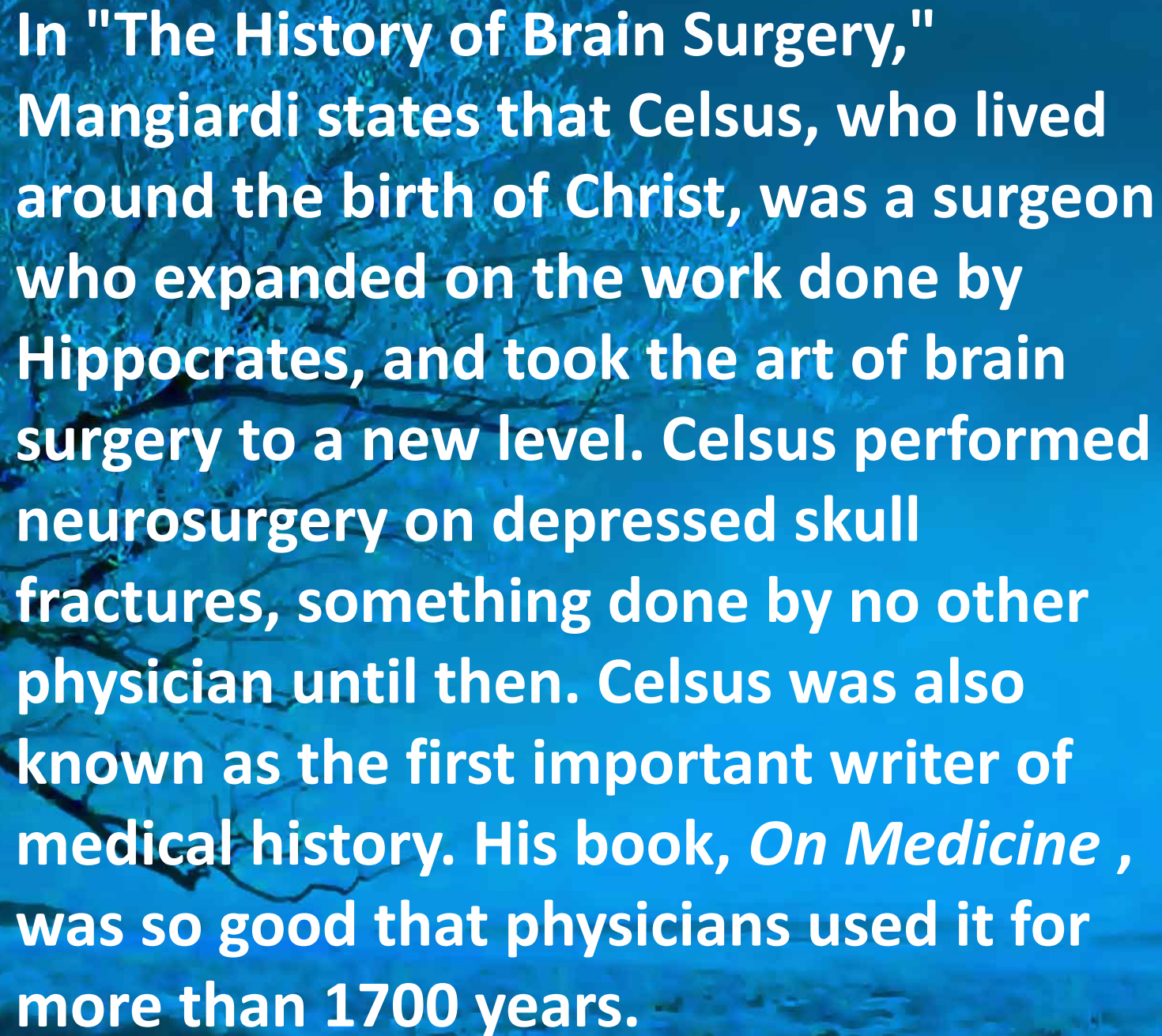


PHYSICIANS OF THE PAST

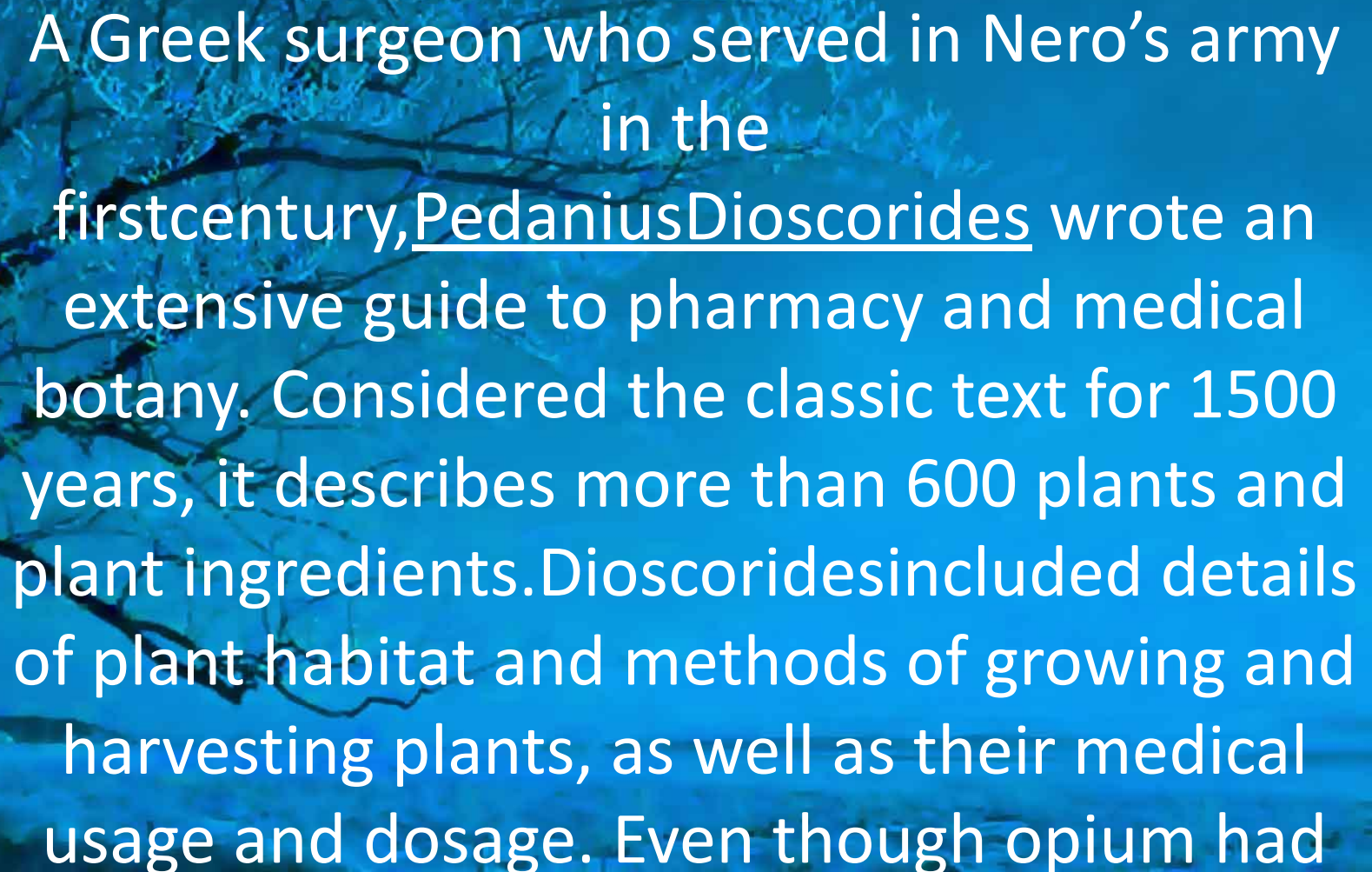
One of the people that the Romans borrowed medical techniques from was a Hindu surgeon named Shushruta. He developed a medical procedure that is still in use in modern medicine. The technique used was called the pedicle flap, which involved removing a piece of skin tissue from one part of the body and sewing it to a damaged area on the body.

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The great Greek physician, Hippocrates of Thessaly, was also a major influence on the medicine of both ancient Rome and today. Hippocrates is given credit for spreading the use of the scientific method started by earlier Greeks such as Pythagoras. He believed that diseases were not sent as punishments from the gods, contrary to popular belief. He also believed the body was made up of four 'humor'.



In "The History of Brain Surgery," Mangiardi states that Celsus, who lived around the birth of Christ, was a surgeon who expanded on the work done by Hippocrates, and took the art of brain surgery to a new level. Celsus performed neurosurgery on depressed skull fractures, something done by no other physician until then. Celsus was also known as the first important writer of medical history. His book, *On Medicine*, was so good that physicians used it for more than 1700 years.



A Greek surgeon who served in Nero's army in the first century, Pedanius Dioscorides wrote an extensive guide to pharmacy and medical botany. Considered the classic text for 1500 years, it describes more than 600 plants and plant ingredients. Dioscorides included details of plant habitat and methods of growing and harvesting plants, as well as their medical usage and dosage. Even though opium had



P E D A C I I

D I O S C O R I D I S

A N A Z A R B E L D E

Medica materia,

L I B E R T E R T I V S .



Vperioribus, charissime
Aree, commētarijs, tradi-
dimus de aromatibus, vn-
guētis, oleis, arboribus ea-
rum fructibus, & lachry-
mis: item de animalibus,
cerealibus, oleraceis, & herbis acrimonia pradi-
tis. In hoc autem tertio radices, succos, semina,
herbas, & que vernacula, & inter se cognata
consentur, quaq; pluribus scatent remedijs, pro-
sequemur.

Agaricum. C A P. I.

*Lapsus qd
est loco
Suo proinde*

A Garicū radix fertur laserpitij similis, sed
facie summa solutior, & rariore, fungo-
soq; tota cōtextu. Duo eius genera: scemina, qua
presertur, rellis intus venarum discursibus con-
stat: mas rotundus est, & vndique compa-
ctior. Vtrique gustus in initio dulcis, mox ex
distrī

ROMAN TOOLS

- The Romans also had many tools that they used in medicine, as tells in "The Surgery of Ancient Rome." These tools helped the design of some of the basic medical tools today.

These tools were:

- vaginal speculum (dioptra in Greek)
- cautery (kauterion in Greek)
- hook (blunt or sharp)

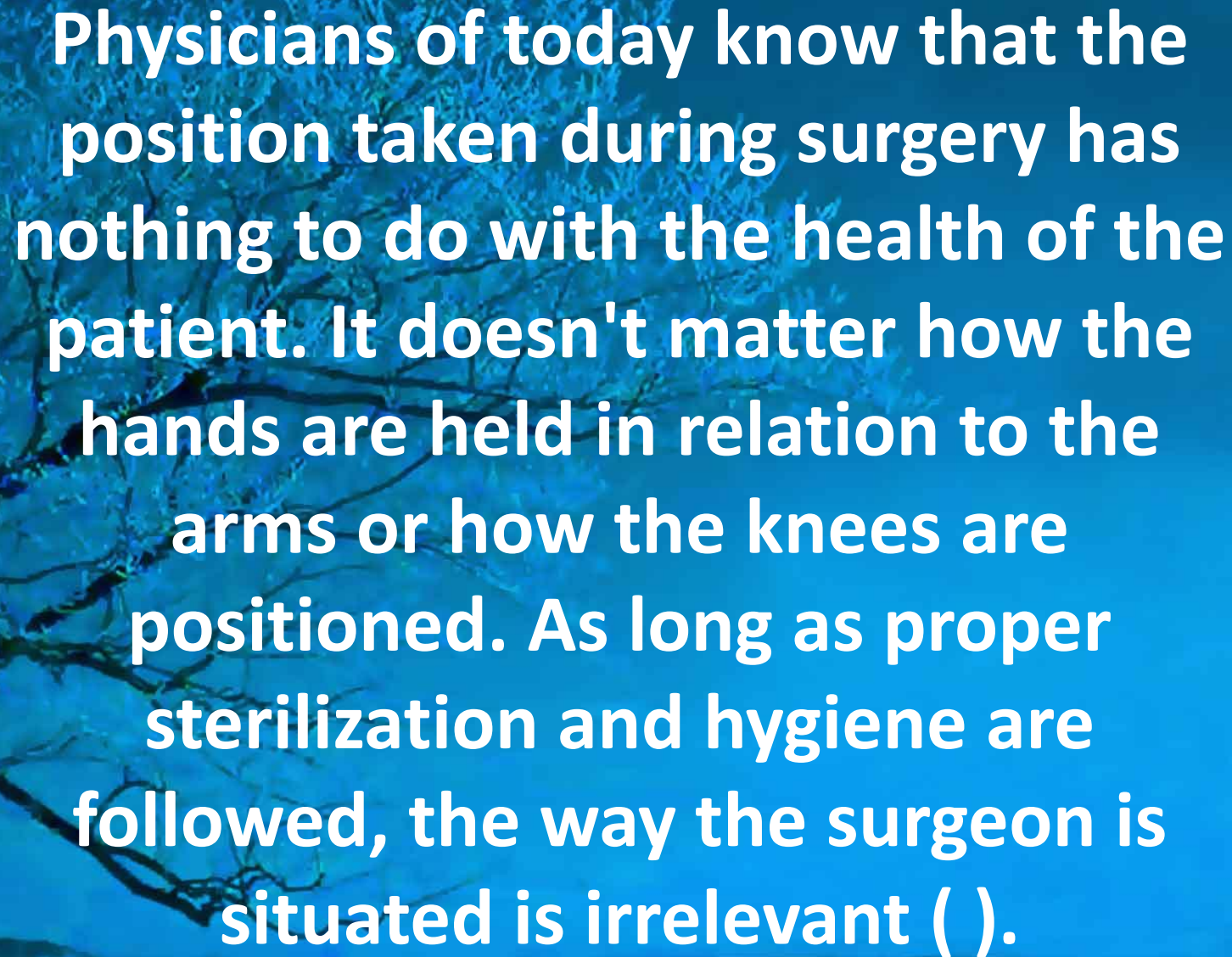


SURGERY DURING ANCIENT ROME

- The surgery of ancient Rome set an early example for surgery of modern times offering a model to improve upon. Roman surgery was very strict as to the position that the surgeon had to be in.

When in a sitting position, the surgeon's:

- knees were slightly separated and above the groin
- elbows were never to pass the front of the knees or go behind the chest
- two hands were to be used at all times

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Physicians of today know that the position taken during surgery has nothing to do with the health of the patient. It doesn't matter how the hands are held in relation to the arms or how the knees are positioned. As long as proper sterilization and hygiene are followed, the way the surgeon is situated is irrelevant ().



ROMANS CREATIONS THAT REMAIN THE SAME TODAY:

Various other things remain in modern medicine that were first started in Rome like

- the house call
 - medical terms
 - prescriptions
 - Hippocratic Oath
- Upon graduation, medical students of ancient Rome took an oath, the Hippocratic Oath. As Thorwald states, until the first half of the twentieth century, this 'Hippocratic Oath' was regarded as the model statement of medical

ROMAN MEDICINE

When Romans did use medicine to treat ailments, they almost totally used herbs. Physicians of the time would often experiment on people of the town to try to find out different cures for diseases. Herbs would be dropped into wine without anyone knowing to find out the results. Sometimes these cures would work and sometimes they would not. As Armour jokingly notes, many of the physicians from Greece, who were not able to set up a successful practice, became slaves in the homes

MEDICAL SCHOOLS

Also, the work done by the medical schools of ancient Rome on the use of dreams as a therapeutic practice, greatly helped psychologists and physicians of today with their practices, as noted by . According to Percy in "Dreams in Ancient Medicine," modern scholars, following Galen's lead, often speak of three or more medical sects or schools in Roman medicine: dogmatists, empiricists, and methodists. Some speak also of an

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the medical work brought to the rest of Europe through conquest by the Romans two thousand years ago helped build the foundations of our modern health-care system. Most amazing is how much they accomplished, with so little. The Romans used what they had, thanks to the help of the Hellenistic Greeks and the Asians, to make great strides in the surgical field, the field of medical practice, and their overall knowledge of the medical field. The physicians, the tools that were used, and the way surgery was then performed all helped

A blue-tinted landscape featuring a tree on the left side and a body of water in the distance. The text "THANK YOU" is overlaid in the center.

THANK YOU