

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### THE PRINCIPLE OF "LIKE CURES LIKE" IN GREEK LEGEND.

Homœopathy, or the doctrine of "like cures like" (*Similia similibus curantur*), is of very ancient origin and was based originally on religious considerations. The idea is that of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth"; blood-guilt could be propitiated, or cured, only by the shedding of blood, and reparation had to be made in kind.

The extension of this principle to the art of healing appears first in classical antiquity in the Greek epic, where we are informed that a warrior by the name of Telephus, one of the allies that came to Troy, was wounded by the spear of Achilles. The wound did not close, and the oracle was consulted. The reply was that the spear which had caused the wound alone could cure it; whereupon the patient, after considerable effort, procured some shavings from the spear-head of Achilles, and applying them to the wound healed it.

The idea has been frequently represented in Greek art, and we here reproduce an Etruscan mirror depicting the event. The background of the scene is ornamented with a solar disc, which is frequently used as an emblem of the restoration of health. This idea is even received in the Bible, where in Malachi iv. 2 we read: "The Sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings." P. C



ORNAMENT ON AN ETRUSCAN MIRROR.<sup>1</sup>

The Cure of Telephus.

### CUI BONO?

Aye, to what purpose is this strain of thought,  
Eager uplifting of the soul on high,  
Keen piercing utterance of a spirit-cry

<sup>1</sup> Reproduced from Springer's *Handbuch*, Vol. I., p. 107.