**Semenenko E**., assistant of [The Department of Public Health and Healthcare Management](http://knmu.edu.ua/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=232%3A2011-05-19-08-08-34&catid=7%3A2011-05-05-09-09-08&Itemid=27&lang=en)

**Daskapan S.**, [the VI Faculty for International Students of KhNMU Education and Research Institute for Foreign Nationals](http://knmu.edu.ua/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=77%3A6-&catid=6%3A2011-05-05-08-49-25&Itemid=28&lang=en), 2nd year, group 13

Kharkiv National Medical University, Kharkiv, Ukraine.

**THE TEMPLE MEDICINE IN THE BLACK SEA REGION**

**IN THE 1ST – 3RD CENT. A.D.**

The questions related to the maintenance of health played an important role in the ancient society. Medicine was an inherent part of the antique culture. Ancient Greeks were a highly mythologized society. Each field of their life was patronized by particular deities. And medicine was just like any other sphere of life. Whenever Greeks fell ill they worshipped their gods for recovery. The people, who moved from Greece to the Black Sea region and founded their cities there, brought their culture with them. In particular, they brought to the new place of living the cults of healing deities which were spread at their motherland [1. С. 374]. The peak of popularity of the temple medicine was in the 1st – 3rd cent. A.D. The timing can be explained by significant changes in the culture of the ancient society, which took place in that period. The aforementioned period was characterized by the reconsideration of traditional spiritual values and views of people, their perception of life. New religious currents came from the East and became popular dramatically. The latter changes lead to the increase of people’s interest to their health and the development of the temple medicine. Among the most influential cults of healing deities there were cults of Apollo and Asclepius as well as Hygea, a legendary daughter of Asclepius [2. С. 46]. The temples of Asclepius weren’t only meant for worshipping the god, but were healing centers and the biggest of them became huge medical complexes, which included the functions of resorts. The state cults of healing deities were introduced in big cities such as Chersonesos and Olbia. The most popular methods of the temple medicine included incubation – the treatment by sleep and natural healing. The priests of Asclepius were likely to be educated enough to make diagnosis and prescribe the treatment [3. С. 61]. Thus through the study of the cults of healing deities it is possible to get an idea about spiritual and medical practices of Greeks and about the importance of medical knowledge in their life.

Reference

1. Межерицкая С. И. Культ Асклепия и психология античного общества II в. н. э. *Мнемон*. 2004. Вып. 3. C. 373 – 394.
2. *Жебелев С. А*. Религиозное врачевание в Древней Греции. / С. А. Жебелев // Записки Русского археологического общества. – 1893. – Т. 6. – 63 c.
3. Кадеев В. И. О медицине в Херсонесе Таврическом / В. И. Кадеев // Древности, 1994. – С. 58 – 65.