and fall with it: this is the case with nearly all those in Greenland.

If we turn from modern to ancient records, still more remarkable statements in relation to springs will be discovered, but there are few of them that command belief. The Greeks, whose warm and vivid imaginations gathered flowers of inexpressible beauty from every portion of nature, with which fancy wrought a garb to cover ignorance, were never weary of tracing the history of their fountains, and the deities who presided over them. There were some springs that caused death, some leprosy, and some gave the power of prophecy: oblivion was the result of tasting the waters of some, and the mystic stream of Arethusa gave beauty. The man who has devoted any time to the perusal of the writers of antiquity, and stored his mind with the fable and imagery which give life and energy to all their descriptions, can hardly fail, when he thinks of the natural appearances that prompted them, to recall to mind the impressions which the first perusal could not fail to produce.

No one theory is sufficient to account for all the singular appearances presented by springs, though it is probable that some one cause is more active than others, and may be the general agent, while others modify its results. Some persons have attributed springs to the passage of water from the sea along subterranean channels into elevated natural reservoirs. But as water cannot ascend above its level, this theory cannot account for any of those springs which are situated above the level of the ocean, and consequently the doctrine of capillary attraction has been called in to aid the hypothesis. It is well known that water will ascend small tubes and threads to a considerable height above its ordinary elevation, and it has been supposed that such forms may exist in the interior of the earth, and the water be thus raised above its level. But this theory cannot assist the speculator, because a liquid does not flow through a capillary tube, though it may be raised in it beyond the ordinary level. There is no doubt, that many springs have their reservoirs at an immense depth below the surface of the ground from which the water is thrown; and it is more than possible that the water may be raised by the pressure of confined vapours, which, struggling for enlargement, force it through the fissures connected with its reservoirs. Dr. Hutton attributes springs to the per-