

the grease left in it; and if we put under the knee a feather pillow doubled, little by little we shall straighten the leg....."

After this comes his after treatment.

"The following days I made injections into the depths and cavities of the ulcers, of *Aegyptiacum* dissolved sometimes in eau-de-vie, other times in wine. I applied compresses to the bottom of the sinuous tracks, to cleanse and dry the soft, spongy flesh, and hollow leaden tents, that the sanies might always have a way out; and above them a large plaster of *Diacaleitheos* dissolved in wine. And I bandaged him so skilfully that he had no pain; and when the pain was gone the fever began at once to abate. Then I gave him wine to drink, moderately tempered with water, knowing it would restore and quicken the vital forces. And all that we agreed in consultation was done in due time and order; and so soon as his pains and fever ceased, he began steadily to amend."

There were many drawbacks in Paris at that time: he had no proper knowledge of the circulation of the blood; no anæsthetics, no bacteriology, no knowledge of antiseptics. He had neither microscope, stethoscope nor thermometer. But besides the lack of these essentials of the present day, other things stood between him and accurate pathology.

He had some belief of the influences that the stars had on the course of disease; that the plague was of divine origin; in spontaneous generation, as was the general belief of the time, and he judged this from the putrefactive changes occurring in wounds of princes as well as common soldiers. The terror of the powers of the air was a real one, and it is of interest to note that two hundred years later, in his own hospital, there was the same frightful mortality and the same fear of the air.

He had belief in devils, witchcraft and sorcery, and, on the other hand, the power of saints to cure disease, as well as the Royal touch to cure the King's evil. His fear of air infection was a very real one, both in surgery and the plague.

In practice some of his operations and methods were curiously modern. He understood and practised massage; he had quite a good method of producing local anæsthesia; he was opposed to immoderate bleeding; he knew the value of rest and silence for his patients. The *Journey to Turin* tells of his discovery of amputations through joints; and, later, he describes the use of the ligature in cases of amputation. He recommends good threads, two together, and a catch forceps, such as is now used by surgeons. This last was the result of direct observation of the ill effects and the frequency of secondary hæmorrhage following the use of the cautery. His publications were:

1. The method of treatment of wounds made by arquebuses and other firearms, and of those made by arrows, darts and the like, also the burns made by gunpowder.—1545.