

From the time of these two anatomists to that of Celsus little was done to keep alive the science of anatomy. Celsus, who lived towards the end of the last century before the Christian era, gives in his works, which are valuable repositories of the medical and surgical knowledge of his time, fairly accurate anatomical descriptions, but he himself does not seem to have done any original work in anatomy.

The first Roman anatomist whose name has been handed down to us is Marinus, who, according to Galen, described the muscles accurately, and also mentions the mesenteric glands. Soon after Marinus, Ruffus of Ephesus, a Greek physician, appeared. He vivisected animals and devoted himself to physiology and comparative anatomy; he made some discoveries regarding the abdominal viscera, and especially the uterus.

Of all the physicians of antiquity, none attained to so great a fame as Claudius Galenus of Pergamus. His reputation is deservedly great, for none did so much as he to advance the knowledge of physic. He was born A.D. 130, and was educated by his father Nicon, a mathematician of repute, as well as an architect and astronomer. Nicon early initiated his son into the mysteries of Aristotle's philosophy, but Galen also studied philosophy in the schools of the Stoics, Academics, Peripatetics and Epicureans. With the exception of the Epicureans, whose doctrines he utterly repudiated, he is said to have taken from each what he thought to be the most important part of their systems. At the age of seventeen he began the study of medicine; he soon outstripped his teachers, and early exhibited proofs of the greatest ability. His renown spreading abroad, he was brought to Rome by the Emperor Aurelius, and in that city he practiced till his death at the age of 90 years. Over his contemporaries he acquired great ascendancy, and held the same position in the medical world that Aristotle held in the world of general science. For hundreds of years after his death his doctrines and opinions held sway, and his sayings were regarded as oracular. Few ventured to oppose his tenets, and up to the 16th century all the medical books were merely commentaries explanatory of Galen's work. If any one advanced