

handed down to him, but his great service to medicine consisted in impressing on his generation the necessity for accurate observation above all things. He did not reject theory, for he was the originator of the doctrine of Humoral Pathology, but he attached great importance to the phenomena of disease, apparently recognizing that facts must be accumulated before generalizations could be formed. Unfortunately, his precepts on this point were largely ignored by his successors, for they spun theories when they should have observed and recorded.

It is, however, probable that had they fully exploited the methods which he taught the result in the end would have been the same. The absence of definite knowledge regarding the functions of the various organs of the body would have ultimately made the mass of observations sterile of result. The sciences of chemistry and biology had to wait two thousand years for their modest beginnings, and there could be no considerable advance until the microscope was invented, and so long as oxygen and its properties were unknown.

In those twenty centuries the Scientific Spirit was almost extinct in medicine, and authority and tradition reigned supreme. It was not that the love of learning was less than it is now, for, although the population of the non-Russian portion of Europe at the close of the Middle Ages did not exceed fifty millions there were more students in its universities than there are in those of Germany of to-day. The University of Vienna alone had at the end of the fifteenth century about 7,000 students hailing from every part of Christendom. But it was only tradition that was taught and authority and dogma were unlimited in their tyranny over the human intellect. A revolt now and then occurring was suppressed. How little place there was for the Scientific Spirit, even as late as the sixteenth century, may be gathered from Luther's remark that, "reason is the chief mistress of the devil."

This obscurantism began to give way in medicine, and in the seventeenth century Galen was rejected everywhere for Hippocrates. But it meant for the intellect in medicine the exchange of one servitude for another, for, although the great teacher of Cos may inspire those who read his works in the right spirit, the vast majority of those who resorted to him sought to find in him merely an authority in all things medical. And an authority he became, for edition after edition of his writings issued from the press and those of his Aphorisms alone numbered over 350.

But in that same century the light began to come from another source. It was the century of the foundation of the Royal Society. It was the century also of Harvey, Malpighi, Borelli, Grew, Glisson,