

amounting to a revolution took place, and the name of the illustrious Frenchman, Ambrose Pare stands out in bold relief, as the monument of a new era. Pare revived the use of the ligature, in the face of tremendous opposition, but, as fire arms were then used in war, and, as a consequence, amputations had to be frequently resorted to, the great surgeon triumphed. He had truth on his side, and sooner or later truth must prevail. I may remark incidentally, that Pare was only saved from the massacre of St. Bartholomew by the personal exertions of the cruel monarch who permitted that horrid butchery of the best and noblest of his subjects.

As a consequence of anatomical study, the circulation of the blood was discovered by the immortal Harvey, in 1619. This was, doubtless, the greatest discovery of the age, and, if we, as Britons, point proudly to that great name, our pride is surely laudable.

Towards the close of the 17th century, Chamberlin so much improved the obstetric forceps, that he is almost entitled to the credit of their invention. Previous to his time, all the forceps that we have any account of, were joined by a fixed hinge.—If it is sometimes exceedingly difficult to apply the separated blades, what must it have been to apply them united?

The great discovery of the value of vaccination by Jenner in 1775, has been the means of saving thousands, aye millions of lives, and of preventing an inconceivable amount of human suffering, and the discoveries of his great Scotch cotemporary, Hunter, are sufficient to mark the close of the 18th century as an era of great mental activity and achievement.

It will be remarked that I have drawn more upon the department of surgery than medicine for illustrations, the reason is obvious. Surgery was much earlier guided by an approach to fixed principles than medicine, indeed it is not until after the discovery of the circulation of the blood in 1619 that anything like definite principles were established. Previously physicians kept their individual principles,—if they had any—and their remedies, and modes of treatment to themselves. It is true there were the theories of the Humoralists and Solidists, the Methodists and Eclectics, and of those who classified disease as either sthenic or asthenic, this being the nearest approach to principles, and certainly simplified diagnosis and treatment. A disease being referred to its class was invariably treated in the first, or sthenic class, by depressants, in the