

tratus to blind and ignorant superstition, and to utterly repudiate them as unworthy of belief, but for the reasons given above the story seems to me a very probable one.

Herophilus, whether the charge against him of vivisectioning human beings be true or not, was an able physician, an accomplished anatomist, and a learned man. Galen says of him, "He was an accomplished man in all branches of physic, excelling particularly in anatomy, which he learned, not from the dissection of beasts alone, as physicians usually do, but principally from that of men." He discovered the lacteals and the pulmonary artery, and described correctly the liver and organs of generation; he also described the blood-vessels, and a large blood cavity in the skull is, to this day, called the "Torcular Herophili." It is said that he was the first one who operated for cataract by removing the crystalline lens. Gabriel Fallopius, one of the most distinguished anatomists of the 16th century, said that he would almost as soon think of contradicting the Gospel as the authority of Herophilus.

Erasistratus is supposed to have been a contemporary of Herophilus, and to have flourished in the reign of Seleucus (B.C. 300). He was an able anatomist, and accurately described, for the first time, various parts of the human frame, as the brain, nerves, valves guarding the orifices of the heart, etc. He it was who first divided the nerves into motor and sensory. He believed that the arteries carried air and the veins blood, also that the only use of respiration was to fill the arteries with air. This has been adduced by some as evidence that he had never vivisectioned human beings, for had he done so, say his defenders, he must necessarily have found out that the arteries were full of blood, but, as I shall show later on, this argument can have no weight.

Erasistratus was much opposed to bleeding and purgatives, and treated his patients solely by diet and regimen. He condemned strongly complex prescriptions, and, in fact, left everything to nature; he might with truth be called an "expectant physician." Herophilus, it is said, held opinions in physic diametrically opposed to those of Erasistratus, and believed in actively interfering with disease.