

that manual dexterity and delicacy of touch requisite to the surgeon. The systematic detail of anatomy, as given in lectures, is very dry work, but this dryness will be very much lessened by an early and close attendance in the dissecting-room. I have observed that the majority of students neglect their opportunities and avoid dissecting as much as possible—their endeavor being to get through the required number of extremities as quickly as they can, without paying due regard to the object. Some students make excellent bone cleaners but poor dissectors. Possibly they would dissect better if they had to do it by stealth, as in the olden time, when the bodies of animals were often substituted for that of man. We live in a day of enlightenment, the wise provisions of our laws enable you freely to investigate and follow up your enquiries without fear of popular vengeance. Though prejudice still exists it is as nothing to the horror which once prevailed at the idea of interfering with the dead. Looking back at the history of anatomy we find that the first dissections were made at the school of Alexandria, three hundred years before Christ. Herophilus first inaugurated practical anatomy, and by his zeal and courage broke the bonds of superstition and bigotry which surrounded him, and by overcoming the natural repugnance of the dead, became one of the great benefactors of mankind. We still retain some of the names which he gave, and among which is the duodenum and calamus scriptorius. We must not, however, suppose that nothing was known of the human structure before he dissected. The skeleton in all ages must have attracted attention. Students were drawn to that school a century before his time for the purpose of studying the bones and here is another example for you to follow. For if they found it necessary to study the skeleton in that age of imperfect anatomical knowledge, how much more necessary is it for you to do so. You do not require to go long distances for the purpose, each of you can obtain for himself the material for such study, and I trust that the statement of an eminent lecturer in England, will never be said of any one of you. In speaking of the examinations, he said "that many students were rejected because they could not tell a clavicle from a first rib, and though they might guess at a femur could not tell to which side it belonged.

In ages subsequent to the one I have mentioned, as the Roman Empire declined, and the Saracen power was developed; anatomical investigations ceased, for the Koran pronounces him defiled who

touches a corpse. The knowledge which had been acquired was too precious to be lost, and it was handed down from physician to physician through subsequent periods until it reached the beginning of the fourteenth century. The dawn of science and education, which succeeded the mediæval night of bigotry and superstition had also its effect on anatomy, by throwing light upon the imperfections of anatomical lore. No doubt the surreptitious researches of physicians suggested the necessity of revision, and induced the Papal Government to authorise dissection. Italy thus became the fountain head of anatomical knowledge out of which sprang a long list of anatomists whose names are imperishably connected with the structures of the body. For instance we speak of the tubes of Eustachius, and those Fallopius; the lobe of Spigelius; the glands of Meibormius; the bridge of Varolius; the valve of Vieusens, and the nerve of Vidius, Names so often repeated during your professional studies as to become as familiar as household words. The history of anatomy has been progressive, previous investigations cleared the way for the grand discoveries of Harvey, and enabled Hunter to immortalize his name. From general we have, in our time, advanced into minute anatomy. Microscopic observers have made discoveries which could never have been surmised by the worthies I have mentioned, and still the search continues. In the future, the hidden processes of our bodies will be laid bare to the persistent efforts of patient workers in this laboratory of nature. This brings me to the subject of physiology. As anatomy exhibits the body already formed, and each part fitted to perform its function; this will show you how that formation occurs; the use, growth, and minute structure of each part. It enables you to follow out that wonderful development which, from a mere spot, culminates in the perfect man. You will learn the change which food undergoes after its reception into the stomach; the manner of its absorption into the blood; its appropriation by the tissues; and, lastly, its elimination and excretion. You will understand how the body is sustained by the orderly succession and slow growth of cells, the study of which, in health, is essential, if you desire to form a proper idea of the rapid growth and irregular succession of cells in disease. Supplemental to the ordinary lectures in this branch the Faculty have instituted a series in practical physiology, of which I advise you all to take advantage. At present, attendance upon them is optional; but, apart from the benefit to be derived as a study, they are