

spirit of that old and trenchant satire which described nature and disease as the two opponents fighting over the sick man, and the physician as a blind man who advanced with a club to settle the contest between them, and dealt heavy blows which might sometimes fell the one and sometimes the other as chance directed.

The book is called the "Art of Curing Diseases by Expectation." Expectation he defines in these words: "The applying of remedies, that do little hurt, and less good, from which the patient day by day frustraneously expecting relief and benefit, is at last deferred so long, that Nature and Time have partially or entirely cured the disease, which notwithstanding the physician by subtlety, cunning, and officiousness, doth commonly with success insinuate, that the patient is debtor for his life and recovery to the doctor's skill, judgment, method, and remedies; and in this particular the wisest of men do become half fools by intrusting their lives, and yielding obedience to most physicians, of whom, or their art, they are incapable of judging by reason of their being unacquainted with the inside of their persons, and the vanities of their profession."

In fact were I to continue I could show that he treated disease very much on the same plan as we do to-day; but to mention what he says of each disease would only make longer an already too long paper. I cannot, however, put the book into its place without telling you what he says of his great namesake and contemporary—the discoverer of the circulation of the blood. After stating that anatomists were invariably poor physicians, "an instance whereof I will give you in one, that was the greatest anatomist of his own time, and no extraordinary physician, namely, Dr. William Harvey, whose erroneous judgment was very remarkable in the prescription of a purge for Esq. Rainton, of Enfield, where the apothecary refraining to prepare more than half the proportion, notwithstanding gave him four score stools, which otherwise, according to the doctor's measures, must unavoidably have scowered him from the close stool into the other world." Later on, speaking of consultation, he says, "the fore-mentioned Dr. Harvey ingrossed

to himself the speaking part by reason of his extraordinary claim to anatomy, and which here, if anywhere, seemed to be of use; after a long contrectation of all the abdomen, did very magisterially and positively assert all his symptoms to arise from an aneurism of an artery, and therefore incurable, as being too remote to come at, wherein all except Dr. Bates very readily concurred, though it was a most absurd offer in opinion; as ever I yet heard." The case turned out to be one of enlarged mesenteric glands. If I may be allowed again to digress, I may say that Gideon's statement as to Harvey's talents as a practitioner are not unsupported by contemporary evidence.

John Aubrey, who was at Harvey's funeral and "helped to carry him into the vault," writes: "I have heard him say, that after his book of the Circulation of the Blood came out he fell mightily in practice, and it was believed by the vulgar that he was crack-brained; and all the physicians were against his opinion and enoyed him. All his profession would allow him to be an excellent anatomist, but I never heard of any that admired his therapeutique way. I knew practitioners in this town, that would not have given him 3d. for one of his bills (prescriptions), and that a man could hardly tell by one of his bills what he did aimeat."

But here I am wandering from the text of my paper in disquisitions as to Harvey's capabilities as a family doctor.

Dr. Paris, in his "Pharmacologia" tell us that the history of the warm bath presents us with another curious instance of the vicissitudes of therapeutic agents. That which for so many ages was a luxury in health and an efficacious remedy in disease fell into total disrepute in the reign of Augustus, because Antonius Musa had cured the Emperor of a dangerous malady by the use of the cold bath. Cold bathing became fashionable. This practice enjoyed ephemeral popularity, for although it had restored the Emperor to health it shortly afterwards killed his nephew and son-in-law, Marcellus; an event which at once deprived the remedy of its credit and the physician of his popularity.