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BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF FAMOUS ANATOMISTS.

Gabriel Fallopio.

BY

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Gabriel Fallopio, who was an Italian anatomist, was born in 1523, at Modena and died in 1563, at the early age of forty. He studied under several professors in Italy and then visited Greece and France. When only twenty-four years of age, he was appointed professor of anatomy at Ferrara, subsequently filling the same position in Paris and finally in Padua.

The fact that even Fallopio did not shrink from accepting the gift of some convicts and then poisoning them—indeed, even when the first experiment failed he tried it again with better success—is characteristic of the age in which he lived. He was a pupil of Vesalius and improved upon and extended his works in many directions.

He instituted accurate investigation upon particular parts of the organ of hearing and of the eye, by which he was able to give fuller information upon the ligementum ciliare, the tunica hyaloidea, the lens, etc. So also in the case of the female genital organs, the oviduct, known as the Fallopiian tube, has immortalized his name in anatomical terminology,

Of his numerous discoveries and descriptions we may mention those of the aquaductus vestibuli, the foramen ovale, the lamina spiralis of the cochlea, the chorda tympani, the petrosal and sphenoidal sinuses (he demonstrated the absence of the latter as well as the fact that the foetal sternum consists of seven bones and the foetal lower jaw of two bones); of the muscles of the forehead, occiput and tongue, the three scaleni, the oblique abdominalis, the so-called Poupart's ligament, the seminal vesicles, the lymphatic vessels, acoustic and glossopharyngeal nerves, nervous ganglia, etc. He also showed that the membranes of the brain have no part in the origin of nerves.

Fallopio was the author of the well-known maxim, that "the road to surgery leads through anatomy."