

majestic whole. Many men are now laboring where few were formerly found, and laboring, too, with the advantage of all modern methods of research and the great light which has been thrown on the science by their predecessors.

In schools where formerly one subject was dissected in two years, hundreds are used for anatomical purposes, and the whole field is open to the humblest worker. As much information may be (I don't say is) obtained from one subject, owing to modern methods of preservation and injection, as would formerly be obtained from a dozen. The student of to-day has many advantages which were denied a century or two ago to even the most renowned. Formerly it was a red-letter day when a subject was obtained, and it was dissected and demonstrated by men of reputation to a select few, who greatly prized the long sought-for opportunity, and considered themselves to be among the fortunate to be so favored. In Italy, in former times, one subject a year, who must have suffered the death penalty, was allowed to each school. The difficulty of securing bodies for dissection was great, even as late as the 17th century. Cortesius, a professor of anatomy at Bologna, could not finish a work on Practical Anatomy he had begun, because of the scarcity of subjects; he had only two opportunities in twenty-four years of dissecting human bodies, "whereas," he says, "I expected to have done so once every year, according to the custom of the famous academies of Italy."

Besides being the basis of a sound medical education, anatomy has other claims of a much broader character; if we study it in the light of our present knowledge, it not only enables us to cultivate scientific habits of thought, but opens up for us fresh fields of inquiry, and puts us in the way of at least partially solving many problems concerning the origin of man and the line of his descent. Thus have morphology and development added a new interest to a subject which was once considered dry and, perhaps, somewhat disagreeable. It is a great mistake to suppose that human anatomy is a subject which has reached its finality; a knowledge of what has been done of late years easily proves this. A few years only have passed since the topography of the cerebral convolutions has been fully described and the origin of