

executed victims as sacrifices, and no doubt availed themselves of the opportunities of acquiring some knowledge of anatomy.

Æsculapius dissected animals for the instruction of his students and his descendants, the Æsclepiades founded the schools in Cos, Rhodes and Cnidos. The Jews did not neglect anatomy, which they studied from the carefully prepared bones of their ancestors and their manipulation for embalming. But the first real progress was made by Erasistratus, born, 300 B.C., who obtained permission to dissect human bodies. Up to that time the work had been done on animals with a view to study the comparative anatomy of man.

Herophilus, whose name remains with us as a term in the skull ('Toricular Herophili'), was born in Carthage about the same time and was reported to have dissected living subjects in Alexandria. Parthenius, 200 B.C., published a book on the dissection of the human body. The next great name was Galen, A.D. 181 (*Vena galeni*), who was the principal historian of the subject and to whom we are indebted for the knowledge of the works of the earliest observers from Æsculapius to his own time. Anatomy was now neglected for a long period, till in the reign of Frederick II., of Sicily, A.D. 1191-1250. This intelligent monarch made a law prohibiting the practice of surgery without a previous knowledge of anatomy. In the 16th century we have such names as Lacuna, Sylvius and the great Vesalius, who has been denominated the founder of human anatomy. After many troubles and persecutions on account of his advanced opinions and active investigations, he was recalled to Italy and succeeded his friend and former pupil Fallopius in the Chair of Anatomy at Padua. One of his achievements was the description of the sphenoid bone, and his name is curiously perpetuated by a minute foramen in the great wing. Is not this an irony? It reminds one of Hamlet's sarcastic remark:

"To what base uses we may return, Horatio!"

"Imperious Cæsar, dead and turned to clay,

"Might stop a hole to keep the wind away."

A contemporary of Vesalius was the eminent Eustachius.

In the 17th century progress was rapid. Harvey, in 1619, discovered the circulation of the blood. Shakespeare, who died in 1616, wrote in his play *Julius Cæsar*, as if it were a prophecy of this discovery: (*Brutus to his wife Portia*).

"You are my true and honourable wife,

As dear to me, as are the ruddy drops

That visit my sad heart."

The microscope was employed to detect the small vessels. The