

chiefs of their church by their oaths and privileges were unto him a numerous and powerful militia, and while by the clergy proper the popes reigned over the consciences of the people, by the clergy of the universities they reigned over their minds. Who can be astonished, then, that they bore unpatiently the fact of not being able to concentrate also, all other power in their hands?" Nevertheless we must do justice to the Pope, the monks, and the Catholic clergy in general, who prepared the intellectual movement of modern Europe.

The Universities by associating together studious men, offered them the means of mutual instruction, excited their emulation by the prospects of honour and rewards; concurred, in short, in a very efficacious manner to elevate Christian civilization, above all others.

In the reign of Henry VIII., Linacre stood at the head of his profession, and shewed his attachment to its interests by founding two lectures on physic in the University of Oxford, and one in that of Cambridge. He may also be considered the founder of the College of Physicians in London; for in 1518 he obtained letters patent from King Henry VIII. constituting a corporate body of regularly bred physicians in London, in whom was vested the sole right of examining and admitting persons to practice within the city and seven miles round it, and also of licensing practitioners throughout the whole Kingdom, except such as were graduates of Oxford or Cambridge who by virtue of their degrees were independent of the College except within London and its precincts.

The college had likewise authority given it to examine prescriptions and drugs in apothecaries' shops. Linacre was the first President of the new college, and at his death bequeathed to it his house in Knight Ryder street, in which the meetings of the members had been held. In the fifteenth century the sect of chemical physicians arose, and their doctrines, under the bold advocacy of Paracelsus, who publicly burnt the writings of Galen, obtained considerable credit and numerous supporters. The Galenists were the most learned party, while the chemists were chiefly those who were practically skilled in the arts of that newly-discovered science. Neither party can be said to have much advanced the knowledge of medicine; but in the middle of the 16th century the most important improvement commenced in the diligent

and accurate study of Anatomy by Vesalius. From his time the study of Anatomy was diligently pursued, and in the early part of the 17th century was rewarded by several important and interesting discoveries as that of the circulation by Harvey, of the absorbents by Asellius, of the process of respiration by Malphigi, &c., &c. Somewhat later Sydenham introduced a truly Hippocratic mode of observation of the phenomena of disease and its symptoms, causes and effects; and influence of remedies upon it. By the combined efforts of the anatomist's and the practical physician's, medicine in this century made remarkable progress, although in some measure checked by the attempted application of the laws of mechanics to the explanation of the phenomena of the living body. This sect the Iatro-mathematicans were succeeded by the Vitalists, founded by Van Helmont. Stahl, Hoffman and Boerhave were of this school. Among the pupils of Boerhave were Van Swieten and Haller. Cullen, the contemporary of Haller, was of eminent service in the study of practical medicine; and his opponent, T. Brown, is acknowledged to have introduced many useful lessons in the same branch of the study. From the time of Haller, medicine has acquired more and more nearly the character of a science of simple observation, and the patient investigation of facts.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the American Medical Association was held at Detroit on the 2nd of June and following days. The attendance of the profession was very large, and the galleries of the Council Hall were well filled every day. A goodly number of ladies, who are always friends of the medico's graced the meeting with their presence.

Invitations were sent pretty generally to the Canadian brethren, and a fair number were found to have accepted the favour, all of whom were elected members by invitation, and some took part in the discussions on the different papers, most of which were of the greatest interest, and showed thorough research. Among the medical men present from Canada were Drs. Grant, Ottawa; McLean, Kingston; Drs. Richardson, Canniff, and C. B. Hall, Toronto; Dr. Moore, London; Dr.