

## ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN BRITAIN.

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WE have seen in our former article that the teaching of clinical medicine was established in England by Mayerne, Glisson and Sydenham. Following these three great men came Radcliffe, Garth, Arbuthnot, Freind, Sloane and Mead, and each did his share in placing medicine, and especially clinical medicine, on a sound and practical footing.

Radcliffe was very highly esteemed in his day, and had the reputation of being a very astute observer of the phenomena of disease, though his notes have not come down to us. He was also noted for his great generosity to learning and medicine. Sir Samuel Garth wrote very little on medicine. Dr John Freind, his contemporary, has left us some excellent notes on diseases. The numerous cases reported by him are well arranged and often replete with detail. He followed the method of Hippocrates closely, but his style is modern. Mead's notes are not very numerous and are of a reminiscent character.

A distinct step in clinical medicine was made by Sir John Floyer, who, in his book, "The Physician's Pulse-Watch," published in 1797, introduced the systematic study of the pulse and the value of keeping a record of it. This brings us to the beginning of the eighteenth century, when clinical medicine may be said to have been recognized as a most necessary department of the practice of medicine and the study and treatment of disease. During that century clinical medicine was making steady progress, and reached a very high degree of perfection by the end of the century, as shown by the writings of Dr. William Heberden, which were published in 1802. His classical work, "*Commentarii de Morborum Historia et Curatione*," was the last medical book in England to appear in Latin. He was for some time a Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and lectured on medicine in that university. Later on he settled in London. Dr. Erasmus Darwin attended his lectures in 1752, and has left notes of these lectures, and some references to the books Heberden read. Heberden's method was to write down what he observed at the bedside of the patient and what he was told by the patient. Once a month he read these notes and recorded what he had written in a more concise system of notes under the various diseases that had come under his notice. From these latter, when he was seventy-two years of age, he wrote his treatise on the history and cure of diseases. He died in 1801, at the age of ninety years, and his