

theories without a material basis; facts were disregarded or explained away, *a priori* new systems were constructed out of sheer imagination or on the strength of insufficient or distorted knowledge. One wanton system would follow another; not in Germany alone, however. Thus Van Helmont, Sylvius, iatromechanism with Paracelsus as its principal prophet, Fr. Hoffman, Stahl, the Solidarists, the Humoralists, John Brown, Rasori and his contrastimulus, animal magnetism, nature-philosophy, Hahnemann, Rademacher, Broussais and Bouillaud, all had to be outlived and overcome.

The actual progress of medicine began when the influence of mere theorizing was broken. Gradually the sterile nature-philosophy of Schelling and the equally unprofitable dialectic contortions of Hegel ceased to draw minds into the abysses of speculation, and German text-books and monographs were no longer all written in hopelessly unintelligible language. The first part of the nineteenth century, however, belongs to France, its latter half only to Germany. That is why the terms "French medicine," and "German medicine," are unduly prominent in medical terminology. It is only now that we begin to speak of medicine without any regard to nationality. It has become international, cosmopolitan. The fraternization of mankind seems to grow its first roots in science; that, at least, has no Russia of its own to exterminate, or to revolutionize.

I am fortunate in having studied during an active period. Let me report to you what happened in those very few years, and congratulate you upon the wealth of scientific conquests laid at your feet without your co-operation. By so doing, I may impress upon your minds the necessity of paying attention to the constantly increasing results of the work of this very year, of your year, of every year.

In 1847, my first medical year, Hermann von Helmholtz (1821-1894), published his address on the preservation of force; ether anaesthesia was used in obstetrical practice by Hammer of St. Louis (1818-78), in dentistry by Delabarre (1819-1878), of Paris; Justus von Liebig (1803-1873) published his researches on meat; prismatic glasses were employed by Kreke and Franz Cornelis Donders (1818-1889) the great Dutch ophthalmologist; ether and afterwards chloroform were introduced into Scotch obstetrics by James Young Simpson (1811-70), of Edinburgh. The scapula was removed by Sir Wm. Ferguson (1808-77); Faradization was recommended by Duchenne (1806-75) in that form of paralysis which has long been known by his name. Unstriped muscular fibres were described by Rudolph Koelliker (born 1817); Semmelweiss (1818-1865) discovered at the autopsy of Professor Kolletschka (1803-1847), who died March 13, 1847, of sepsis contracted during an autopsy, the same lesions that were found in puerperal