

those choice intelligences who, at the first glance, unravel the true from the false, who raise themselves to such a commanding point of view that they are enabled to embrace the whole connection of facts, but who love to walk upon a solid foundation, who reason always with exactitude, and who can clearly express the ideas which they have conceived.

In Harvey's own account of his discovery he says, "When I began to study, not in books but in nature and by the help of vivisections the movements of the heart, the task appeared to me so difficult that I was almost tempted to believe that God only could understand them. But by giving each day more attention and care, in multiplying my vivisections, making use of a great variety of animals, and collecting many observations, I believed that I had at length arrived at a knowledge of the truth. Since then I have not hesitated to communicate my views, not only to a few friends, but in public in my anatomical teachings. They have been favourably received by some, blamed by others; on the one hand the crime has been imputed to me of straying from the precepts of my predecessors; on the other hand, a desire has been expressed to see me further develop these novelties which might, perhaps, be worthy of attention. At length, yielding to the counsels of my friends, I decided upon making use of the press in order to submit myself and my labours to public opinion." Such are Harvey's expressions as to his motives for the publication of his book—he almost seeks to excuse himself for it, and nevertheless it is a masterpiece. Not only does it contain one of the most important discoveries in physiology, but it is written with such perfect method, that Roger Bacon perhaps was thinking of the researches of his modest and wise fellow-countryman when he laid down with a masterly hand the rules to be followed in scientific investigations.

Seven years after the publication of his treatise Harvey was appointed physician to the unfortunate King Charles I., and ever remained faithful to his Sovereign. As a reward he was chosen Warden of Merton College, Oxford, in 1645. When, however, the parlia-

mentary visitors came there, he left Oxford for London where he died in 1658. We are not less indebted to our illustrious fellow-countryman who discovered the circulation of the blood for having paved the way to a rational treatment of aneurismal and wounded arteries by the modern operation of placing a ligature between the heart and the seat of disease or injury.

Although England has produced many distinguished anatomists, Dr. Wm. Hunter undoubtedly occupies the first rank; he was born in 1718, in Lanarkshire, and went to London in 1741. Dr. Wm. Hunter not only gave a new impulse to anatomical science, the effects of which have been transmitted to the present time, but his zeal in behalf of his favourite pursuit tended to make many converts. Among these the celebrated John Hunter stands foremost. Hearing of his brother's reputation he offered his services as an assistant, and his proposal was kindly accepted. The active mind of John Hunter, guided by a deep insight into the powers of the animal economy, substituted for a dangerous and unscientific operation, an improvement founded upon a knowledge of those laws, first revealed by Harvey, which influence the circulating fluids and absorbent system; the first operation was performed by John Hunter, in December, 1785, in a case of popliteal aneurism, in which the femoral artery was ligatured, and since that time this mode of treatment was universally employed by surgeons, until the introduction of compression in 1842. The result of the united labours of the two brothers was the formation of a museum of comparative anatomy; this museum was bequeathed under certain conditions, which have been most faithfully fulfilled to the Royal College of Surgeons in London. Dr. John Hunter died in 1793.

Passing down the stream of time we meet with the wonderful discovery of the effects of vaccination; it is to be observed that the practice of inoculation, meaning thereby the introduction of the actual virus of small-pox, had been in vogue throughout China and the East generally from a very early period in the world's history. This practice was introduced into Great Britain by a very celebrated Eng-