

Florence and published in 1507. By his brains and the energy of the following the free thought in medicine was finally established.

Paracelsus, the great iconoclast, then came on the scene nearly a century after Guy de Chauliac. A radical who was neither courteous, pitiful nor sober; he was the incarnation of the spirit of the free thought in medicine which broke the Arabian schools and struck at the solemn rubbish taught in the universities. The books of the former he publicly burned as an introduction to his lectures at Basel in 1526. Paracelsus demanded, "Is not medicine a plausible pretext to extract money from the purses of imbeciles?" To correct this impression he visited every school of any learning throughout Europe: Spain, Portugal, England, Denmark, Poland, Prussia, Hungary and Transylvania. In fact, from every source where he thought some fact might be learned. From physicians and surgeons, alchemists and soothsayers, noble and humble, everywhere he sought "what were the best and most reliable remedies which were being and had been employed to cure diseased conditions." His chief works were combined in "Grande Chirurgie," three volumes appeared in 1536, and the remainder after his death in 1565. He also wrote a volume entitled "La Petit Chirurgie."

As to the condition of surgery in the fifteenth century in France, it was depicted by its rank in Paris. There the surgeons were combined under the College of St. Cosmo as a governing body. This body was not under any jurisdiction of a university and claimed great antiquity. In fact, some manuscripts gave authority to the statement that St. Louis of France founded this brotherhood in 1208, two years before his death. To further the same he gave them property on condition that they would gratuitously treat the sick poor of the district. The college gradually assumed importance, and in 1370 granted the Licentiate and Baccalaureat degrees, which up to that time had been entirely reserved to the university faculties; later was granted the title of Master of Surgery. The candidate for surgery was regularly apprenticed to a master of surgery who had been received at least four years. There he worked until he obtained his Baccalaureat after examination. He then took the oath of the profession and paid a franc to enter the brotherhood. Certain other statutes had to be observed: to the clerk he had to give two francs silver and a coat, then twelve golden crowns were paid to the magistrate for his license; to each of his examiners a good hat, double dyed in scarlet, as also gloves to match, and, finally, on his departure from the Hotel Dieu, a solemn dinner was required of him.

This surgical body attempted to control the whole surgical practice of Paris, and they admitted as few as possible into their ranks.