

beliefs to lose their power. The inductive method of reasoning, gradually forcing itself forward, called into existence the first indications of experimental science. This dawn of a new era in thought, which ushered in both chemistry and medicine, found its most powerful expression in the Reformation itself. Although chemistry did not entirely free itself from the fascinations of the hermetic doctrines until a much later period, another aim came into prominence, which gave it a distinctly scientific character. Medicine and chemistry were to be conjoined in the most intimate manner, for their mutual benefit and advancement. The leading physicians of the period became the chemists; as chemists they discovered new remedies, prepared them carefully, and determined their constitution, while as physicians they tried and explained their physiological and therapeutic action. It is to this interaction of medicine and chemistry that this period in the history of science owes its peculiar characteristics. The result was an enriching of both.

Chemistry passed from the cloisters and private laboratories to the universities—passed gradually from the control of vain dreamers and charlatans to that of a learned, and, for the period, scientific profession. Medicine, on the other hand, received from this union the greatest impetus in its history. Doctors became sceptical regarding the infallibility of the works of Galen and Hippocrates, and began to observe and record for themselves. The spirit of independence induced by laboratory experiment and observation extended to their daily practice, and a more careful study of the symptoms of disease followed. The fundamental object of chemistry then became not to make gold, but to prepare and examine medicines; and the knowledge of chemistry thus acquired led to the doctrine that the healthy human body is but a conjunction of certain chemical matters—a receptacle containing chemicals acting in a fixed way. When these underwent change, illness resulted, and the latter, therefore, could be cured only by means of chemical medicines. The spread of this doctrine resulted in the overthrow of the old school of Galen; but, of course, any successful treatment based on such an hypothesis could only be possible when chemistry had attained a higher development.