

unless combined with other circumstances calculated to confirm the diagnosis.

Much of Laennec's knowledge was empirical and his close observation of clinical facts often led to a correct opinion even when he could give no definite reason for the facts noted. This fact is well shown by one of his illustrative cases where he diagnosed mitral stenosis from the presence of a bellows murmur preceded by a rough sound like the rasping of a file on wood.

The teaching of Laennec awakened the greatest interest in the diagnosis of thoracic disease. His pupils carried his teaching to all parts of Europe and eventually established it as a part of the routine examination of patients.

Like many other great discoveries the use of the stethoscope made its way slowly. In an autobiography Dr. C. T. B. Williams after studying with Laennec, tells of his being engaged to travel with a wealthy patient suffering from a delicate throat. He met two leading London physicians to receive instruction about the patient. Williams ventured to ask if an examination had been made with the stethoscope and received a reply in the negative "with as much contempt of manner as politeness would allow." Subsequent examination showed a considerable disease of both lungs, and the development of pneumothorax fully bore out the opinion of the young physician. Another incident is related of Hope at St. George's Hospital. Dr. — said he would choose half a dozen cases, write the diagnosis, and defy all the auscultators with their pipes, to throw more light on the case than he had already done. One case was chosen. Dr. — said it was "hydrothorax." Dr. Hope diagnosed "hypertrophy and dilatation of the heart, hydropericardium. Lungs gorged and emphysematous. Little or no hydrothorax." An autopsy subsequently confirmed Hope's opinion and silenced his opponent. Even as late as 1838 Sir Henry Acland states that he was ridiculed by a distinguished London physician for using the stethoscope, although in the Dublin school it had held its place for more than ten years.

Passing across the channel we may briefly refer to some of the early writers on chest disease.

James Hope 1801-1841 attained a great reputation for his work on the heart. He determined by experiment the cause of the sounds of the heart, and was therefore in a clearer position than Laennec in treating of valvular affections.

As a student he was President of the Medical Society in Edinburgh. After a period of study on the continent especially in Paris, he settled in London and followed closely the practice of St. George's Hospital, taking notes particularly of cardiac cases, to be afterwards used in his