

History of Anatomy and Medicine in the first quarter of this century, speaking of this tradition, quaintly remarks that "when we learn that the æra assigned to this fabulous monarch by the wild and improbable chronology of the Egyptians would carry us back to an age prior by many centuries to the formation of Adam, we can easily estimate the degree of credibility to which such a fable is entitled." Acmaeon, who flourished some time before the advent of Hippocrates, paid considerable attention to anatomy, and is said to have made dissections, principally of the lower animals. Among other things, he asserted that goats breathed through their ears.

Hippocrates, who lived four or five hundred years before the Christian era, and who has been called the Father of Medicine, was the first individual who wrote a work on anatomy; his knowledge of anatomy was superficial and often most erroneous, and probably rested more on shrewd analogical conjecture than on actual observation. He, however, had a fairly accurate acquaintance with osteology. It is asserted by Pausanias that he hung a bronze model of a skeleton in the temple of the Delphian Apollo as a testimony of his own knowledge and for the instruction of posterity. It is highly improbable that he ever dissected a human body.

Diocles of Carystius, who lived a century after Hippocrates, and who is called the second Hippocrates, is said to have devoted much of his time to the study of comparative anatomy. He did not, as was the custom in those days, make a secret of his anatomical knowledge, but taught publicly, and was the first to write a manual of Dissection of Animals, an art, previous to his time, confined to a few families, and handed down from father to son by oral instruction. Diocles also wrote on Cookery, and held it to be as much a science as that of medicine—an opinion with which Plato altogether disagreed.

It is with the appearance of Aristotle, the preceptor of Alexander, that we must first date the systematic cultivation of the science of anatomy. To him, without doubt, should be awarded the credit of having founded Comparative Anatomy. Many of his admirers, without much reason, claim for him an