

Bartholomei, one learns about the nature and extent of the studies of the physician of the fourteenth century. Medical practice at that period was sometimes carried on by a layman or an ecclesiastic. The priory and hospital of St. Bartholomew were founded by Rahere in the reign of Henry I. In his writing, John Mirfeld speaks of his master. He tells us that his master cured a case of hydrocephalus by applying sulphur ointment to the head and then binding it up for a month in warm wool. He then tapped the head in front by a cautery, and later on he tapped the back of the head, and more water came out. In a year the girl was well. He closed the wounds with tents. This same master treated a man who stabbed himself, and food, fluid and air came out through the wound. He joined the parts and applied powders and bandages. The wound healed. A woman lost her speech, and he rubbed the palate with some preparation. She recovered and praised his skill. A youth was brought to this famous master with a large carbuncle on his neck. He treated him with large doses of tyriacum, and the youth recovered beyond all expectation. On this case Mirfeld's master said: "that he had never seen anyone else who had recovered after being in a faint and tremor, and especially without pulse." Here we have an indication that at that period there was a knowledge of the value of pulse taking.

The tyriacum of that period is said to have been handed down from mithridates, King of Pontus. It was called mithridatium and later on theriaca. At first it contained thirty-eight ingredients, then fifty-three, and finally seventy-five. An important constituent in it was opium. In 1745, Dr. William Heberden wrote an article attacking its use.

Nicholas Tyngewick was physician to Edward I. He lectured on physic at Oxford, and is mentioned in two documents of 1306. Mirfeld states that Nicholas Tyngewich rode forty miles to see a woman who had a cure for jaundice, and paid her a sum of money to be taught her method. The documents mentioning Nicholas Tyngewick are one by Edward I, conferring on him a Living, and the other that of Pope Clement V confirming the same.

John Mirfeld belonged to the priory of St. Bartholomew, and represented the convent in 1392 and 1393. He was granted a chamber on the south of the church, and was a liberal benefactor of the priory. It is thought that he attended the lectures of Nicholas Tyngewick in 1336, when quite young.

John of St. Giles was a very learned man of the reign of Henry III, and was physician to the Bishop of Lincoln. He studied at Oxford, Paris and Montpellier. He became physician to Philip Augustus of France. He lived in Paris in the hospital of St. James, which he had