

THE STUART PERIOD FROM A MEDICAL STANDPOINT.

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Little has been written of the medical history of Charles I. It is probable that he was a man who enjoyed good health all his life. Mayerne was still chief physician, while amongst the medical advisers of the court were Bates and Harvey. Bates was a medical vicar of Bray; whether Roundhead or Cavalier was in power, he always found himself in favor. The medical attendant of Cromwell himself, at heart he was a Royalist. In his record of his own times, entitled "*Elenchus Motuum Nuperorum in Anglia*," the character of the Protector is thus portrayed: "*Egregius simulandi et dissimulandi artifex, qui sublatis in cœlum oculis, dextraque pectori applicata, Dei nomen invocabit, lacrymabitur, precabitur et aget pœnitentiam donec sub quintâ costâ trajecerit alloquentem.*" The malice of the King's enemies, he says, pursued him even after his death. He mentions in the *Elenchus*, with great disgust, one Trapham who embalmed the King's body, and during the operation uttered several coarse jests and unfeeling expressions. This Trapham was surgeon-in-chief to the army of Oliver Cromwell, and though he did say that he was stitching on the head of a goose, yet he did his work well. After 165 years the features of the King were plainly recognizable, bearing a striking resemblance to his portrait in coins, busts and paintings. The fourth cervical vertebra was found smoothly divided transversely.

Successive generations of Harveian orators at the Royal College of Physicians of London, have left little to be said about Harvey. I wish merely to attempt to do away with the prevalent notion that Harvey was a loser by his discovery, contemporary writers, Aubrey for instance, saying that his practice fell off. It must be remembered that the laborious research which led to his glorious discovery left little time for the cultivation of private practice. Still more unjust