

# Notice.



WILLIAM HARVEY.

By far the most important physiological discovery in any age was that made less than three hundred years ago by the English physician, William Harvey. An enquiry into the procedure adopted by medical practitioners before the circulation of the blood—one of the primary considerations in all cures—had been acknowledged would be most interesting, but it is one which might lead the reader to imagine that doctors of medicine even now, sometimes, employ remedies on speculation, without much knowledge as to the ultimate results.

Harvey was born in Folkstone, Kent, on the first of April, 1588. He received a grammar school education at the Canterbury school, went to Caius College, Cambridge, in 1593, there took his degree of B. A., and went to Padua about 1598, where he attended the lectures of Fabricius ab Aquapendente, and other eminent professors of medical science, graduating in 1602. He then returned to England, settling in London. In 1607 he was admitted a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and two years later was appointed physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, a position which he held uninterruptedly for thirty-five years. In 1615 he became Lecturer on Anatomy and Surgery in the College of Physicians. It is supposed that it was while discharging his duties, in connection with this office in 1619, that the great discovery which has perpetuated his memory was made, although his treatise on the subject, entitled *Exercitatio Ana-*

*tomica de Motu Cordis et Sanguinis in Animalibus*, did not appear till nine years later, the interval being employed in experimenting and perfecting the discovery.

This discovery, probably more than any other, shows the hand of a Creator and design in the formation of man. The heart is one of the principal organs employed in circulating the blood. It is a hollow muscle, separating and forming four cavities, two at the left and two at the right of the organ, but all acting in unison. The two upper cavities are called the auricles, and the two lower ones the ventricles, so that there is a right and left auricle and a right and left ventricle. This being understood, it is not difficult to obtain some idea of the wondrous system of building up the body. Black or venous blood is gathered from all parts of the body by the veins and flows into the right auricle, and by this chamber is propelled into the right ventricle. By it is sent to the organs of respiration, the lungs, through the pulmonary artery. Here the venous blood becomes purified and reddened by the action of the air, and is sent back to the heart through blood vessels called the pulmonary veins. It is received into the left auricle, thence into the left ventricle, and by it forcibly expelled into a large blood vessel called the aorta; thence into the smaller arteries, by which it is distributed to all parts of the body.

The facts first clearly demonstrated, in connection with this system by Harvey, are; 1. That the movements