

compounds did not combine together. He believed that this general law would elucidate other chemical doctrines, and might prove valuable in the prosecution of still more recondite principles. But a mind of such soaring aspirations was not likely to confine itself even to such a comparatively wide field as chemistry. The vast domain of medicine was before our student, rich in unexplored regions, abounding in all that could excite his eager spirit of inquiry, and reward his love of definite result. It was exactly at this period in the history of modern medicine that physicians were taking stock, as it were, of their old principles. Morbid anatomy, pursued in close connection with clinical medicine, was showing the defects of diagnosis. With the sagacious eye of one who was capable of seeing that the great necessity of the day was a science of diagnosis, Dr. Marshall Hall threw himself into the prosecution of this immensely important department of medicine at once. Here again we find fresh evidence of his eminently progressive spirit. No mere systematizing of what other men had gathered, but an original and comprehensive treatise resulted from the labors of his student life and early years in the profession.

In 1812 Marshall Hall took his degree of M. D., and shortly afterwards was appointed to the much-coveted post of house-physician, at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. In the following year we find Dr. Hall lecturing on the Principles of Diagnosis to a class, amongst whom were Dr. Robert Lee and Professor Grant. It was from this course of lectures that the treatise on Diagnosis, which was first published in 1817, took its origin.

In 1814 Dr. Marshall Hall left Edinburgh, after a residence there of five years. Great as was the individuality of this remarkable man, we cannot but point out that he was reared in a great school, taught by great men, and infected with an enthusiasm which pervaded, in some degree, all who came within its magical circle. Before entering upon his career as a private practitioner, Dr. Hall determined to visit some of the continental schools. We find him, therefore, shortly after his departure successively at Paris, Berlin, and Göttingen. The journey was made partly on foot, and armed. At Göttingen Dr. Hall became acquainted with Blumenbach.

In 1815, He settled at Nottingham as a physician, and he speedily acquired no small reputation and practice. After a time, the appointment of physician to the General Hospital there was conferred upon him, and in that sphere he labored until his removal to London, about ten years after his first settlement at Nottingham. It was at this period of his career, that Dr. Hall made his researches into the effects of the