

According to this system, like was to be cured by like. Smallpox by variolus pus, diarrhoea by fecal matter, gonorrhoea by gonorrhoeal pus, tapeworm by the ingestion of joints of the worm, etc. Be it remembered that they were to be taken internally. I consider this system one of the most disgusting known to medical history, and it will be a blot on the medical history of the century for all time.

I will now pass to what was known as the School of Physiological Medicine, established in the early part of the present century. This system was better known by the name of its founder, Broussais, a native of St. Malo, in Bretagne, who was noted in his youth for his mental and physical strength. A man of determined will, and ready to establish his views, if necessary, by physical force, if he failed by reason and argument. According to his theory life depended upon external irritation, especially that of heat. The latter was supposed to effect some chemical changes in the body, which in turn maintains regeneration and assimilation, as well as contractility and sensibility. When the heat is withdrawn death is the result. Health depends upon a moderate supply of heat, and disease upon excess or diminution. General diseases and essential fevers were not recognized, and in all cases diseases originate from local irritation of some organ or part of an organ, as the heart or the gastro-intestinal tract, especially the latter. The ganglionic system was regarded as a system of nerve centres related to the general nervous system, and transmitting irritations sympathetically like the latter and independent of the will. Such was, briefly, the basis of the system under consideration. A knowledge of the morbid changes in the gastro-intestinal canal was a key to the pathology of disease. The therapeutics were in a line with the pathology. In febrile and inflammatory diseases nourishment was withdrawn, and a system of antiphlogistic treatment adopted by the application of leeches to the organ or part of the organ affected; and while this was done the physician was strictly enjoined to watch with care the great centre, viz., the gastro-intestinal canal, and prevent the invasion by sympathy of this tract by the application of from twenty to thirty leeches to the abdomen. For instance, a child suffering from croup had a certain number of leeches applied to his larynx, sufficient to control the local irritation, while a greater number were applied to his abdomen in order to prevent the great centre from becoming affected. Some idea of the extent to which this sanguinary system was carried can be learned by the number of leeches imported into France in 1833, viz., forty-one millions, of which only eight to ten millions were exported. General blood-letting and purgation was not considered advisable, inasmuch as the latter, more particularly, caused irritation in the intestinal tract, and thus increased the gravity of the affection.

This system of medicine received strong and persistent opposition from its contemporary, the Paris School of Pathology and Diagnosis. Their views were diametrically opposite. In the latter school the trend of enquiry was in the direction of pathology, or more correctly, pathological anatomy, and the duty of the physician was to search for changes in the pathological anatomy, and to investigate the local products of disease. There was no attention given to the causative agencies producing the pathological changes; local diagnosis and local therapeutics were the order of the day. To medicine was assigned the duty of removing these products, but so much of the time of the physician was taken up in trying to enrich science with some new discovery, and to advance a step in the accuracy of diagnosis by some new physical sign, that no time was left for the consideration of any rational system of treatment or attempt at curing disease. Notwithstanding the onesidedness of this system it has given tone to the medicine of the century. If we have lost in practice