

have actuated the ancients in the study of Anatomy by human dissection.

Galen, one of the earliest writers on Anatomy, and whose works form the basis of modern treatises on that science, received much of his information from the records of Herophilus and Erasistratus, it appears that he never dissected the human body, but contented himself with the inspection of the bodies of animals. The auriculo-ventricular valve of the right side of the heart, received the name "Tricuspid" from Erasistratus, and in the brain we have the Calamus Scriptorius still retained to signify that portion of the floor of the fourth ventricle, supposed to resemble a writer's pen, which name was given to it by Herophilus, as also the name "Ducdenum" to the first portion of the intestines proceeding from the stomach.

Although the study of Anatomy was until modern times, surrounded with unsurmountable difficulties, yet it would appear that the human skeleton was exempted from superstitious dread. The ancient philosophers regarded as essential an intimate knowledge of the bones of the human frame, hence it was the custom of the disciples of the various schools of philosophy to repair to Alexandria for the purpose of studying the human skeleton. Time has not changed the fashion of this method of study, and what was deemed essential to the student 2,000 years ago, still holds good in this nineteenth century.

The study of the bones is freely admitted to be dry and uninteresting, but a thorough knowledge of them is indispensable to Anatomical research. The student cannot at first see the utility of committing to memory the various processes, fossæ, ridges and furrows, designated by unlikely names; but useless and wearisome as these details at first appear, you will find if you examine the subject a little closer, that they present an inexhaustible field of valuable instruction.

Do not be content with the instruction you receive in the classroom, but follow it up by endeavouring to teach yourselves; this can be done to advantage by systematically taking any one bone and ascertaining to what part of the body it belongs, whether it forms a part of the trunk or of the extremities, whether it is of the right or left side, what is its exact position, what duty it has to perform in that situation, how it is adapted to perform its functions, by what means it is attached to other bones, in fact make yourselves thoroughly acquainted with the minutest particular concerning it. But this is not all, you should ascertain its internal structure and conformation, and its mode of development. This method of study cannot but be pleasurable and