

ity; he became the darling of the soldiers; was favored by the successive sovereigns of his time, and left works of genius of credit to himself and of value to the profession.

The middle of the seventeenth century welcomed the first British surgeon of note in the person of the celebrated Wiseman, surgeon to Charles II., and who, amid the horrors and bloodshed of the civil war, had ample opportunity for the prosecution of the study of his profession. In military practice he advocated immediate amputation in cases where the preservation of the injured limb seemed impossible, and dissipated the idea that gunshot wounds were of necessity envenomed with powder and ball and hence had to be subjected to a severe dressing treatment. Cotemporary with Wiseman was Harvey, whose discovery of the circulation of the blood exercised such a potent influence on medicine in general and surgery in particular.

In France, about this time, the scientific world opened its ranks to Petit, whose treatise on the diseases of the bone, invention of the screw-tourniquet, and other valuable contributions, have given him a foremost place in the annals of surgery; while Desault, an eminent teacher of surgical anatomy, clinical lecturer on surgery, as well as noted for the invention, improvement, and adaptation of various surgical instruments, claims honorable place by his side.

In England, about the middle of the eighteenth century, Percival Pott, the distinguished author, skilful operator, and practical surgeon, left his indelible mark among the historical records of this science. His treatment of fractures: his discrimination between injuries requiring amputation and those which do not; his especially valuable suggestions with respect to diseases of the head; his description and treatment of vertebral disease, and his commendable reform in the limitation of cautery treatment; these, among other practices and treatises, stamp him as the man of his time.

In Scotland there appeared contemporaneously John Hunter, a pupil of Pott, the eminent physiologist and pathologist, one of the most gifted surgeons the world has ever produced. Among his important discoveries and skilful operations may be especially selected the cure of popliteal aneurism by ligation of the

femoral artery. His first operation of this nature was performed in 1785. Brilliant as was this discovery, and beneficial as it was in its results, its distinguished author was not allowed to claim it without subjecting himself to the envy and detraction of his jealous rivals. Of him, as well as of others whose names are mentioned in this hurried sketch, it may be truly said in the words of the poet:

"He who ascends the mountain top shall find
The loftiest peaks most wrapt in clouds of snow;
He who surpasses or subdues mankind
Must look down on the hate of those below.
Though high above the sea of glory glow,
And far beneath: the earth and ocean spread,
Round him are icy rocks, and loudly blow
Contending trumpets on his naked head,
And thus reward the toil that to those summits led."

Such is a brief outline of the history of the healing art from the earliest time down to the end of the eighteenth century. And though at that date it had reached a high state of perfection, yet it is in the nineteenth century, and mostly within our own times, that its greatest achievements must be recorded.

Up to 1847 there was no agent known in the profession that would produce complete insensibility to pain, although opium, cannabis indica, and other narcotics, were used with partial success for that purpose; but about this date chloroform and ether appeared on the scene, each capable of producing the most complete anæsthesia or insensibility, and under the influence of either of these agents surgical operations, no matter how difficult or formidable, could be performed and the patient remain through the whole ordeal in a state of calm and peaceful slumber.

These anæsthetics have proved a priceless boon to humanity. No one can estimate the amount of suffering they have already saved in the hands of the surgeon and the accoucheur. In connection with these grand discoveries the name of Sir James Simpson, of Edinburgh, who first proclaimed to the world the use of chloroform, and Dr. Jackson, of Boston, that of ether, will go down to posterity and be held in grateful remembrance long after the names of kings and queens shall have been forgotten, or perhaps only exist in the musty and neglected pages of history.

Surgery now entered upon a new era. The