

knowledge consisted in the doctrines of Hippocrates and Galen, and such crude experience as they themselves had obtained. Without doubt they were as zealous and earnest in their professional duties as we as a profession are to-day, and their treatment was as certainly unfettered and unrestrained by any scepticism as to the theories they had been taught, or doubts as to the efficiency of their remedies for disease. But this period was the dawn of a new era in science and medicine. Harvey's great work "On the movements of the heart and blood" and Bacon's "Novum Organon" had recently been given to the world, and the seventeenth century was a time of the greatest activity and discovery in geography and in science.

What a gulf separates that medicine of 250 years ago from that of to-day! In tracing how it has been bridged, it is right that we should justly apportion the influence that various spheres of activity have exercised in reaching our present position.

*The Study of Anatomy*—We must in the first place ascribe the greatest importance to the study of anatomy. Vesalius and Sylvius, Fallopius and Fabricius had already advanced it to a very high point, but the study had been confined to the leisured few. Gradually our knowledge of every detail of naked eye anatomy has been gained, and at the present time every one practising medicine must have a competent knowledge on the subject gained by dissection. The same systematic study has extended to Comparative Anatomy, and great, for its time, as was the knowledge of Aristotle it has undergone an entire revolution by the application of scientific methods to increased data of information by such workers as Cuvier, Darwin and Owen. It is now taught as a branch of medical education. Physiology could have no scientific basis until anatomy was fairly advanced. The facts on which it was at first based were founded on medical observations, but in the seventeenth century direct observations and investigations were commenced by Haller, Hunter, Spallanzani and Hewson. It has since been prosecuted with the greatest energy and success, and the position of physiology at the present time is that of a science, explaining the action and interaction of the organs and tissues, and the forces of the body which are the true foundation of scientific medical knowledge—the institutes of medicine. Morbid Anatomy could not exist until normal anatomy was fairly complete, but from that time, in the eighteenth century by the laborious researches of Morgagni and numerous other workers until now the broad facts of Morbid Anatomy have been accumulating until we have at the present day a fairly accurate knowledge of the principal pathological changes found in the body. The rise of physics and chemistry in the seventeenth