He caused to be established in the hospitals themselves, chemical laboratories and dissecting rooms. He drilled his pupils in the knowledge of plants, in gathering them and how to prepare them in the proper season. He collected together in this way a large number of plants, which he dried with care, and these were the beginning of a description in thirty large volumes which he has left. After the peace of Ryswick in 1697 he returned to Paris, and the following year set out for the camp at Compiegne. But the succession to the Spanish Crown having caused war to break out again, he was once more employed in the hospitals. After the Peace of Utrecht in 1713, he took up his residence in Paris where he became a member of the Academy of Sciences in 1722. Hardly three years elapsed when he obtained the professorship of Anatomy, rendered vacant by the superannuation of M. du Verney. It was the reputation he had acquired in the different branches of his art that opened to him the doors of this celebrated institution. He excelled above all in treating diseases of the eyes. He thought out and had constructed an ophthalmometer, an instrument for measuring the parts of the eye, and several other instruments to direct the hand of those who were operating. One of the most important of these was a hollow glass globe representing the eye, the lens of which was affected with a cataract.

This ingenious man died at Paris, June 18th, 1741. His writings are published in a style noted for neglect, because he had never known or wanted to know what was meant by revising a work. Completely absorbed in deeds and experiments he thought little about phrases.

Not mentioning the memoirs which he transmitted to the Academy, his principal works are "Three letters from a hospital physician of the King to another doctor friend on the new system of the brain," published at Namur 1710; "Dissertation on a new method of operating for cataract," published in Paris 1727; "Reflections on discoveries in the eye," published at Paris 1732. One of the most important structures bearing his name is the Canal of Petit, a space intersected by numerous fine interlacing fibres, existing between the anterior and posterior laminæ of the suspensory ligament of the crystalline lens. It extends from the periphery of the lens nearly to the apices of the ciliary processes, and transmits the secretion from the posterior chamber.

In connection with the Congress of Arts and Science at St. Louis, the Department of Medicine will be opened on Tuesday, September 20th, under the chairmanship of Dr. William Osler, with two general addresses by Dr. W. T. Councilman, of the Harvard Medical College, and Dr. Frank Billings, of the Rush Medical College.