

(blood-mixtures) which induced him, and still more his followers, to believe in a croupous crasis, which was subdivided into an α , β , γ class, and an albuminous, aphthous, exanthematous, and a puerperal crasis. His colleague, Engel, fought him; it took a Virchow, however, to annihilate him, and never was Robitansky greater than when he acknowledged his defeat by the young giant of Berlin.

Joseph Skoda (1805-81) published an essay on pericarditis in 1834, his first paper on percussion in 1836, and his monograph on percussion and auscultation in 1839. In his studies and methods he followed the great Frenchman Laennec. It is true he adopted the ontological character of Laennec's reasoning, even crases were accepted under the influence of Laennec and Rokitansky, but both Rokitansky and Skoda cut loose from the verbose ignorance and supercilious stolidity of German medicine. Helm the obstetrician, Kolletschka the pathologist, Schuh the surgeon, and Hebra the dermatologist were eager followers and co-operators. Thus you may well imagine that Vienna became the Mecca both of Germans and of foreigners.

Meanwhile criticism was not idle.

One of the involuntary jokers, a Dr. Philipps of Berlin, that had not yet been waked up by Virchow, made himself ridiculous by trying in 1845 to ridicule Skoda's work of 1839, and in the same year a Dr. Krüger-Hansen in "Praktische Fragmente" annihilated auscultation in the following way. Listen:

1. A chaste maiden would not submit to uncover her bosom to the inspection of a young Aesculapius who is a stranger to her or who may not enjoy the best reputation.

2. If auscultation were necessary deaf practitioners who all wish to continue their practice would be badly off.

3. It is impossible to express or to systematize by language, inadequate as it is, the sounds and murmurs inside the chest. Literally, he says: "Any scientist is hereby challenged to express in words the song or the din of birds."

4. It is only a hiding of practical ignorance "for the practitioner to apply his ear and to look learned as if sitting on the Delphian tripod."

5. Only such as have weakened eyes and ears should aid them by spectacles and stethoscopes.

6. "How great would be the expenditure for patients living in the country if it were necessary to call a doctor even for one's servants in order to establish an indication by means of a stethoscope."

7. But "if one would send such an instrument into the country and ask for a report; how would an uncouth workman who is used to the flail manage the thing, and what sort of nonsense would be his report?"