

with such remarkable skill as to render its subjects capable of resisting the ravages of time and preserving them intact for our wonder and admiration after the lapse of thousands of years—this, again, most materially strengthens the claim. Chiron, the centaur, with his healing plants and medicinal herbs; and Æsculapius, the son of Apollo, reputed to be the inventor as well as the god of medicine, and his sons, immortalized by Homer in his renowned epic, 1200 years before the Christian era, proclaim the theme. And as we continue to unroll the records of time the spirits of our forefathers will dart from every page, and Pythagoras with his philosophy of medicine; Hippocrates, the physician of Cos, the father of medicine, whose theories and practices have come down to us from 400 years before the birth of Christ, along with Herophilus and Erasistratus, originators of the practice of human dissection; Xenophon, reputed to have been the first to arrest hemorrhage by means of the ligature; and other early devotees, each in succession, will form up into line and illuminate the records of ancient times.

And, passing from the Alexandrian to the Roman period, our attention would be arrested, in the first century, by Celsus, who contributed a valuable work, consisting of a comprehensive digest of all the reliable medical and surgical knowledge of his time. His method of performing lithotomy, his operation for cataract by means of depression, his rules for distinguishing fractures, his directions for the reduction of hernia, his operation for hare-lip—each and all emphasize him as the embodiment of the surgical knowledge of the world in his time.

Following him, after a lapse of about one hundred and fifty years, comes the brilliant genius Galen, the voluminous writer and skilful surgeon, whose cures were considered so remarkable that they were attributed to magic, or alleged to be derived from enchantment. His career was one of unqualified success as a public lecturer; his skill in dissection and the application of surgical apparatus added materially to the advancement of the profession of which he was, in his time, an able exponent.

For a long period after this distinguished landmark, science and art were lost sight of in the clouds of ignorance and barbarism that prevailed till, in the year 550 A.D., Actius ap-

peared. His operations extended to cutting out tumors, operating for aneurism, attempts at dissolving calculi, and he devoted much attention to inflammation, hernia, diseases of the eye, and other important branches of surgery. About the middle of the seventh century, Paulus Ægineta contributed valuable additions to medical science and performed many of the operations which are common in our day. From the time of Paulus till the beginning of the twelfth century neither Greece nor Rome produced any surgeon of note. The capture of Alexandria by the Saracens having diverted the channel of learning towards Arabia, one Albucasis appears to have been awarded the palm, about the end of the eleventh century, of being the chief surgeon of note, and his operations for lithotomy, the arrest of hemorrhage by cauterization, and his advocacy of the free use of surgical instruments, more or less paved the way for his successors.

From the twelfth to the fifteenth century an intellectual shadow brooded over the land, and the daylight of science, which had so auspiciously dawned, sank into the night of darkness and oblivion.

With the fifteenth century, however, and contemporary with the invention of printing and its powerful influence in the dissemination of knowledge, surgery effectually revived. Men of talent, enlightenment, and progressive ideas embraced it, and it began to arrogate to itself its proper place in the front rank of the liberal professions. Simultaneous with this revival, and indeed one of the potent factors in its origin and expansive influence, we have prominently brought before us the name of Ambrose Paré, the eminent French military surgeon, who, during his various campaigns, acquired an experience in gunshot wounds which directed his attention to the subject of hemorrhage and the best means for its arrest. He revived and improved the ligature practice and discounted the prevailing use of caustics and styptics. Though he incurred the abuse and persecution of his jealous brethren by his strenuous advocacy of a treatment ill at accord with such a primitive and absurd practice as admitted of the opinion that "it were better to let the limb drop off than cut it off," yet his persistency prevailed; he rose to the height of popular-