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THE ADVANCEMENT OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

[1837-40]

BY

THOMAS JOSEPH PETTIGREW,

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NOTICE TO THE READER.

Since the printing of the Memoir of B. S. Albinus, the Author has been so fortunate as to meet with a Letter of this celebrated Anatomist, addressed to Dr. R. Nesbitt, the author of a well-known work on Osteogeny. The Letter announces the transmission of copies of the second volume of Albinus's Edition of Vesalius to Dr. Nesbitt, Mr. (Dr.) Mead, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Cheselden, and Mr. Barrett.

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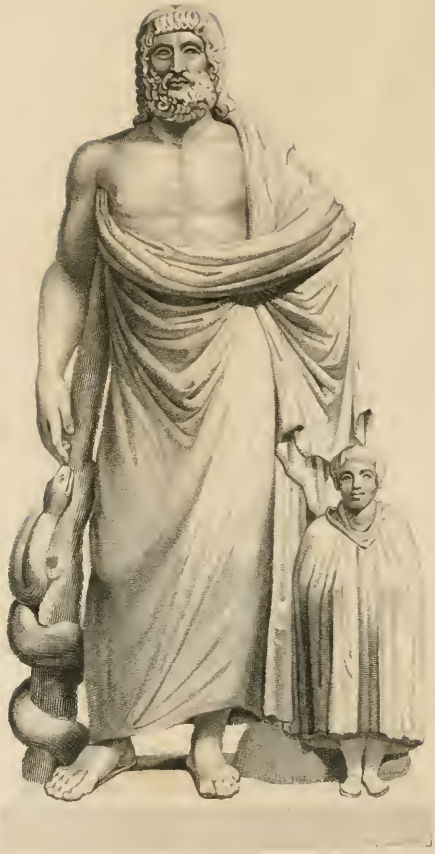


ÆSCULAPIUS.

"Homines ad Deos nullâ re propriis accedunt, quam salutem hominibus dando." CICERO.

THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE has been advantageously divided into four periods; the first of which embraces not less than 3000 years, extending from the time of the deluge to that of the Arabian physicians.

The medical art, including both Physic and Surgery, a distinction of later times, is generally admitted to have taken its rise among the Egyptians, but to have been brought to considerable perfection by the cultivation of the Greeks. All the facts connected with the earliest period of the history of medicine must be regarded with great doubt, being involved in the mystery of fabulous narration. The existence, however, of certain practices employed as remedial agents, have been handed down to us, and the records of them are to be considered as entitled to some degree of credit.

Medicine was divided into various kinds; and these divisions had their respective followers — DIETETICAL, PHARMACEUTICAL, and CHIRURGICAL. The professors were divided into sects: EMPIRICS, DOGMATISTS, METHODISTS. Many of the works of those whose names are preserved to us have perished by the hand of time.

In the FIRST period, omitting all that may be regarded as belonging to the fabulous age, are the celebrated names of Hippocrates, Plato, Aristotle, Callisthenes, Epicurus, Erasistratus, Herophilus, Themison, Thessalus, Leonidas, Plutarch, Celsus, Aretæus, Cœlius Aurelianus, Galen, Oribasius, Ætius, Alexander de Tralles, Paulus de Ægina, and Actuarius.

The SECOND period embraces the Arabian physicians, who must be looked upon chiefly as servile copyists of Galen and Aristotle. Many remedies were, however, added by these physicians, and some diseases, as, for example, the small-pox and the measles, have been, for the first time, well described; so accurate, indeed, have been the descriptions of these maladies, that little, if any thing, has been since added to their history. Among the Arabian physicians, the most renowned are Mesué, Rhazes,

Avicenna, Averröes, Haly-Abbas, Albucasis; and in this period, in Europe, Arnoldus de Villa Nova, Roger Bacon, and Basil Valentine, celebrated for his alchemical knowledge. This will be sufficient to show how much in its infancy medicine was, as a science, at this period. The foundation of the schools of Salerno and Montpellier seemed to diffuse knowledge; but the art of healing was truly given up to the empirics and to the monks. The second period did therefore but little for the advancement of medicine.

The THIRD period delivered medicine from the hands of the Arabs to those of the Europeans. Europe, however, was but slowly emerging from the ignorance which a state of barbarism had produced, and was, about the middle of the 15th century, recovering from the effects of the bloody wars in Italy, and the boundless luxury of the Roman empire. Efforts were now made to bring to light the productions of former times; princes gave encouragement to the learned to translate the MSS. of former ages; and these translations, disseminated by the invention of printing, promoted the civilization of Europe, and extended the knowledge of the medical art. Many eminent men belong to this period, as Celsus, Mercurialis, and Martianus, among the Italians; and Fernelius, Ballon, Duret, Houlier, and Jacot, among the French. Paracelsus must be mentioned as belonging to this era, although his speculations scarcely entitle him to be named as a benefactor to, or promoter of, medical science.

It is in the FOURTH period that we find the respected names of Harvey, Sydenham, Sanctorius, Gorter, Baglivi, Morton, Hoffman, Riverius, Etmuller, Stahl, Boerhaave, Mead, Freind, and others, who are familiar to us at this day, and whose observations are entitled to the most serious attention and regard.

The zeal now manifested in anatomical researches, the physiological views based upon them, and the consequent improvement of medical practice, the natural result of so correct and judicious a system, deserves the most fixed contemplation of the practitioner. The labours of Morgagni, Desault, Sabatier, Chaussier, Vicq d'Azyr, Sauvauges, Cullen, Astruc, Stoll, Fothergill, the Hunters, Jenner, &c., have contributed much to the advancement of professional knowledge; and the skill of the chemist, by the researches of Lavoisier, Fourcroy, Davy, and others, have assisted in promoting the march of science. In later times, that is, during the present century, every branch of science has rapidly advanced; and the manner in which anatomical and physiological pursuits are now conducted, the zeal with which the several tissues of which the body is composed, are developed, and the general views entertained of the whole system of nature, promise greatly for the future perfection of the science of medicine. What

can be more interesting to, or more worthy the observation of the philosopher, than to contemplate the progress of the human mind, as exhibited in the advancement of a science, the object of which is the relief of the sick, and the preservation of our fellow-creatures. Every man was, probably, at the commencement of the world, a physician; every one would study that which was calculated to assuage pain, or guard against disorder. In this sense, a French writer has marked the first, or earliest period, of medical science, as POPULAR; that it was EMPIRICAL there can be no doubt; it must necessarily have been founded on experience and imitation: it would descend from generation to generation, as we find it to have done in savage nations, from the accounts which have been handed down to us by various travellers. But their remedial agents extend little beyond those which are derived from the vegetable kingdom of nature, and are necessarily limited in their operation.

Among the Babylonians and the Egyptians, according to Herodotus and other authorities, the sick were exposed to the passers-by, who were expected not only to discover the ills of the afflicted, but to prescribe the remedies that might be necessary for their cure. These means for the relief of disease, we learn, were afterwards collected together, and inscribed either in the sacred books of the priests, or, as Iamblichus reports, upon columns, and preserved in the temples. Of the antiquity of medicine there cannot exist a doubt; but its earliest history is so enveloped in fable, that it is impossible to unravel it. Menes is the most ancient king of Egypt of whom we possess any records. His son Athotis is mentioned by Manetho as the author of several books on anatomy; which would of itself demonstrate some progress in the science, and a removal from that empirical character with which it must necessarily have commenced. Next to this illustrious professor of the medical art, must be mentioned Hermes Trismegistus, who has been confounded with the Thoth of the Egyptians—the Egyptian Mercury—who is reported to have been the inventor of all the arts and sciences. The priests of Egypt were the possessors of all the knowledge and learning of the Egyptians: this knowledge is said to have been contained in the Hermetic books, forty-two in number, (according to Clement of Alexandria), of which the last six related to medicine.

The Egyptians divided the human body into thirty-six parts, each of which they believed to be under the particular government of one of the decans, or aerial demons, who presided over the triple divisions of the twelve signs; and Origen says, that when any part of the body was diseased, a cure was effected by invoking the demon to whose province it belonged. A kind of theological anatomy has thus been made out by the

late Mr. Champollion,* from the great funereal ritual, or book of the Manifestations. This is expressed, on various mummy-cases, in hieroglyphical characters; and may we not in this trace the first attempt to assign the different parts of the body to the several planets, which has been continued down to the present day in the renowned and popular astrological almanack of Francis Moore, physician?

The Egyptian Horus, son of Osiris and Isis, has been looked upon as the Grecian Apollo,† and usually regarded as the god of physic; and from Apollo, Æsculapius springs. Bacon says, "The variable composition of man's body hath made it as an instrument easy to distemper; and therefore the poets did well to conjoin music and medicine in Apollo: because the office of medicine is but to tune this curious harp of man's body, and to reduce it to harmony."

The Egyptian must not be confounded with the Grecian Æsculapius. The history attaching to the former is exceedingly obscure. Mr. Salt first discovered Æsculapius as a deity in the island of Philæ, where there was a small sanctuary, having a Greek inscription dedicating the temple to him. Mr. Wilkinson informs us‡ that he was worshipped at Memphis, and on a certain mountain on the Libyan side of the Nile, near the City of Crocodiles, where he was reported to have been buried, if he were the first Æsculapius, the reputed inventor of medicine. But it must be recollected that the Egyptians admitted two deities of this name. Macrobius makes Æsculapius the beneficent force of the sun, which pervaded the souls and bodies of man; but Mr. Wilkinson thinks it more probable that he was the healing power of the Creator, which averted misfortunes and illness from mankind.

Hermes is looked upon, in the Egyptian mythology, as the god of letters. He is the same as Taut or Thoth, Mercury or the Moon. He has been confounded with Hermes Trismegistus;§ but *Trismegistus* does not in any way apply to letters, but simply means, "thrice great." There is great difficulty in making out this Egyptian deity, from the variety of appellations he bears, in accordance with the different characters ascribed to him. It would occupy too much space, and at the same time, be inconsistent with the design of the sketches in this work, to enter upon an enumeration of them in this place; but that mentioned by Horapollo must be noticed,

* See Pettigrew's History of Egyptian Mummies.

† Millin says, (Mem. Med. Soc. d'Emulation, t. 5. p. 344.) Apollo is first mentioned as the god of medicine, in the Orphic Hymns. (xxxiii. 1. Argon. 173.)

‡ Materia Hieroglyphica. § Tourtelle Hist. Phil. de la Médecine.

for this author describes Thoth, or Hermes, as holding a palm-branch, emblematic of a year and a month; and to this is attached the symbol of life and man in embryo, under the form of a frog.

The mythological veil under which all traces of the history of Egyptian medicine are to be found, serves only to demonstrate that the whole is to be regarded as allegorical, as far as relates to the personages mentioned. No human being was ever admitted into the order of the Egyptian gods, and no Egyptian god could ever have lived upon earth. The whole matter, then, reduces itself to fabulous history. Medicine, however, took its rise in the East, passed into Egypt, thence into Greece, and so was disseminated throughout the civilized world. The profession of medicine in Egypt was confined to the priests, and it descended hereditarily with them. If the account of the Hermetic books is to be relied on, there were treatises on different parts of the body, the structure and diseases of the eye, and the operations necessary for their cure. Every Egyptian was required to follow the profession of his father; and Herodotus tells us,* that the science of medicine was distributed into different parts; every physician was for one disease—not more: so that every place was full of physicians; for some were doctors for the eyes, others for the head; some for the teeth, others for the belly; and some for occult disorders. Their number must necessarily have been very great. Herodotus says, παντα δε ιητρων εριπλεα. The Æsculapius of Greece must date at least 1000 years posterior to the Egyptian. The celebrated mythologist, Jacob Bryant, makes him to be the same as Jupiter and Apollo—the same as Osiris, Hermes, Thoth, and Apis the physician. Many temples were dedicated to him in Asia Minor: he had several temples at Pergamus;† and Aristides reports that he was worshipped under the title of Ζευς Ασχληπιος, or Jupiter Æsculapius. At Memphis, the ancient Misr, the capital of Egypt, a live serpent, as the Æsculapian emblem, was kept, and treated with religious reverence. Serpent worship, however, was very general, not confined to one part of the globe, and it may be traced in almost every religion, through ancient Asia, Europe, Africa, and America.‡ The serpent has been employed as the symbol both of Good and Evil: the Egyptians used it as typical of the good demon (Agathodæmon). Thoth is not the only Egyptian deity symbolized by the serpent; Kneph, and Isis, and many others, were also distinguished by it. How the serpent applied to Hygæia, is to be considered as the symbol of

* Euterpe. † Lucian.

‡ See the Rev. J. B Deane's excellent work on the Worship of the Serpent, 8vo. 2d edit. Lond. 1833.

health, is not easy of explanation. Pliny states the reason of its consecration to be from the use formerly made of the flesh of these animals in medicine. But the more probable conjecture is, I think, that which refers it to the renovation of life and vigour, typified by the periodical change of its skin. In the Grecian mythology, as in the Egyptian, the symbol of the serpent is sacred to nearly all the gods and goddesses, to Saturn, Jupiter, Apollo, Bacchus, Mars, Æsculapius, Rhea, Juno, Minerva, Diana, Ceres, and Proserpine.

The Egyptian origin of Æsculapius, and the connexion between the serpent and the god of medicine, are questions of little interest at the present day; but that the hereditary claims of the wise reptile should be still maintained among a people professing the Mohammedan religion, so hostile as it has always been to the least semblance of idolatry, is a remarkable and curious fact, and one which the traveller is surprised to find in the Valley of the Nile, though ever the cradle of superstition, and of so many fables of paganism. The juggling performances of the Háwees, or snake-players, may be traced to the feats of the Psylli; but the object of these, like similar contrivances in India, or the sleight-of-hand of European conjurers, is little more than to obtain money; and whatever notions may be connected with the disgusting ceremony of tearing live snakes with the teeth, during the *Wooled*, or birth-day festival of the Prophet, this is not directly attributable to any superstitious respect for the reptile, nor in in any way referable to the emblem of the son of Apollo.

At the tomb of Shekh Hereédee, in Upper Egypt, the case is otherwise; and the cures believed to be performed there are attributed to the influence or direct agency of a sacred serpent. The name of the saint has extended from his tomb to the whole mountain on which it stands; and between E'Siout and E'Khmim, and nearly opposite Tahta, the projecting corner of the Mokuttum chain, is known by the appellation of Gebele 'Shekh Hereédee. Ascending near the centre of these precipitous cliffs, a celebrated Egyptian traveller informs me, you arrive at a tomb concealed from the view of those below by a projecting eminence, where the saint is said to be buried, and whither the sick are invited, by the well-known reputation of that holy personage and his miraculous powers, to repair, to obtain alleviation of their sufferings. To gain permission to consult him, or rather to invoke his aid, is readily granted by the guardian of the sepulchre, who is, at the same time, supposed to be entrusted with the power and privilege of interpreting his patron's wishes; and the pious devotee anxiously expects the manifestation, or the promises of the saint. An awful silence is preserved; he takes the shoes off his feet, and nothing is heard save the

repetition of the *Fat-hah* (or evening prayer of the Koran), which the supplicant recites at the door of the tomb. At length, the guardian, having a knobbed staff fancifully decorated with tattered shreds of coloured cloth, approaches from the interior of the sepulchre, and unites with him in repeating the Fat-hah. The Shekh is supposed to be propitious—the snake, his emblem, under whose form he is believed to appear, glides from a dark recess—and thus, by his manifestation, having promised the wished-for boon, the credulous man humbles himself before it, and withdraws with the full persuasion of his own incipient cure, or of the recovery of the afflicted friend who had sent him to offer his adoration and presents to the all-potent saint.

The Grecian Æsculapius is generally esteemed as the son of Apollo and the nymph Coronis:—

Υιον Απολλωνος ὀν εγεινατο δια Κορωνις. HOMER.

Pausanias says, no woman of mortal race was his mother: θνητην γυναικα θεμιαν μητερα.* Coronis was worshipped at Sicyon, where, also, was a temple dedicated to Apollo, in which two live serpents were maintained. The serpent is to be regarded as the ordinary emblem of Æsculapius; but he is frequently depicted with a cock, as typical of vigilance; with an eagle, as denoting judgment and length of life. With the eagle, the head of a ram is also found, the former being placed on the right, and the latter on his left hand. The ram's head is conceived to have reference to the divinations of the deity. The serpent usually entwined around a club, to represent the exercise of prudence and discretion, as necessary to the sustaining of life. But to return to the Egyptians.

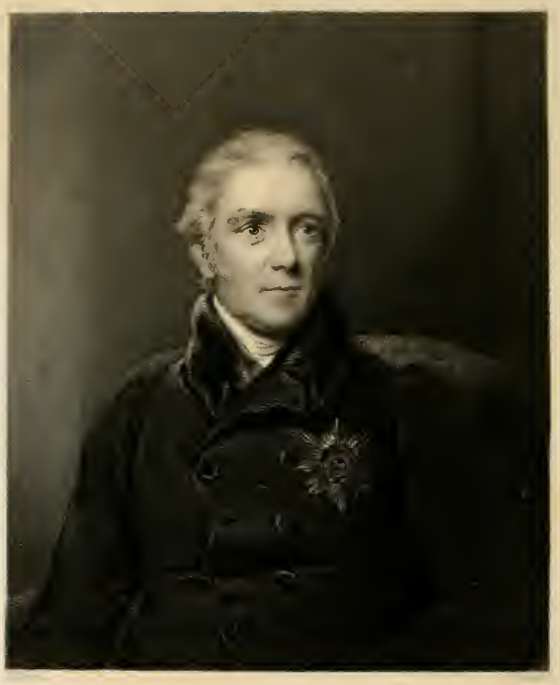
The Egyptians have been held forth for their knowledge of Anatomy, Botany, and Chemistry. With respect to the former, it has been inferred, rather than shewn, to have existed from the practice of embalming. The operations, however, embraced in this process, are scarcely entitled to the appellation of dissection; they consisted of little more than an evisceration of the contents of the head, chest, and belly, and a knowledge of the distinctive characters of most of the organs contained in these cavities, would be acquired without the aid of much anatomical research. The *Botanical* knowledge of the Egyptians is entitled to greater distinction. They were well acquainted with the use of various medicinal plants. Pliny, Dioscorides, and Theophrastus, mention several as worthy of notice, and demonstrative of the learning and civilization of the Egyptians.

* L. vii. p. 583.

Their knowledge of *Chemistry* is worthy of consideration. It is evidenced in the embalments; and it has been endeavoured to be shewn that the word, Chemistry, is derived from a hieroglyphical name by which Egypt has been distinguished: *Khemi*, the tail of the crocodile. *Chame* literally means "the black colour."

Bleeding in the veins, and also in some of the arteries, the application of the actual cautery, the administration of enemata, the operation of paracentesis of the abdomen for a dropsy—these are given upon the authority of Prosper Alpinus, a writer of good credit, but probably refer to the more modern practices of the Egyptians.

The engraving which accompanies this sketch is taken from the celebrated statue in the Louvre, where the god Æsculapius is seen attended by Telesphorus, the god of recovery.



Henry Halford

SIR HENRY HALFORD, BART., G.C.H.

PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

> ——————"Me they sent
> To wait on pain, and silent arts to urge,
> Inglorious, not ignoble; if my cares
> To such as languish on a grievous bed,
> Ease, and the sweet forgetfulness of ill,
> Conciliate."
>
> AKENSIDE.

THE study of the science of medicine cannot but be regarded as one of the noblest and most interesting pursuits that can engage the attention of the human mind. To contemplate the wonders of creation—to behold them as exhibited in the intricate structure and extraordinary mechanism of the human frame—to mark the changes which ensue at the various periods of life, and under a variety of circumstances—to render, by a diligent study of these phenomena, nature itself tributary to the comfort and happiness of mankind—to relieve the pains of suffering humanity—to restore the bloom to the cheek of faded beauty—to dispel the gloom of disordered intellect—and to assuage the agonies of expiring nature—these are among the objects and the duties of the physician. The faculty of accomplishing these falls to the lot of comparatively but few, and requires the possession of varied and powerful talent. The union of literary taste and graceful scholarship with professional knowledge, which can never fail of affording delight and exciting interest, is strongly evidenced in the writings of the subject of the present memoir.

SIR HENRY HALFORD was born on the 2nd of October, 1766, and is the son of Dr. James Vaughan, Physician to the Leicester Infirmary, known to the public and the profession as an able practitioner, and the author of some "Observations on Hydrophobia; on the Cæsarean Section; and on the Effects of Cantharides in Paralytic Affections." Sir Henry received his education at Rugby, and went afterwards to Christ Church

College, Oxford, at which university he graduated. He took the degree of A.B. in 1787, M.A. in 1789, M.B. in 1790, and M.D. in 1794. He was elected a Fellow of the London College of Physicians also in 1794. Distinguished by the elegance of his manners, and the extent of his learning, it is not surprising that he should have excited attention in general society; and in March, 1795, he contracted a marriage with the Hon. Elizabeth Barbara St. John, third daughter of John, eleventh Lord St. John, and thus became established in the circle of the highest rank and fashion. Here his merits became duly appreciated, and he rapidly rose into notice as a medical practitioner. George III. appointed him one of his physicians, and all other medical honours were now before him. By the death of his mother's cousin, Sir Charles Halford, of the county of Leicester, he became possessed of an ample fortune, and changed his name, in 1809, by Act of Parliament, from Vaughan to that of Halford, and by royal favour a Baronetcy was conferred upon him in September of the same year.

There are few situations in the life of a professional man which, even in ordinary instances, are more painful, or incur a greater responsibility, than those which relate to attendance upon cases of disordered intellect. When, however, an aberration of mind affects the Sovereign and Ruler of the country, what task can be more arduous, and what talent is necessary to be exercised under such circumstances! Sir Henry Halford incurred this heavy responsibility, along with others no less sensible of its importance; and the manner in which the medical attendants of George III. acquitted themselves has been matter of praise and satisfaction. By virtue of their office, the Queen's counsellors had the nominating of the person to whose care the Sovereign should, under such unhappy circumstances, be committed; and the Rev. Dr. Willis, whose experience in insanity had been great, was selected. It is said, that Dr. Willis's treatment in the first two illnesses had made a lasting impression upon the monarch's mind, and that he could never, after his restoration to health, hear the name of Dr. Willis mentioned, without experiencing a shudder, and suffering an agony which was visible to all around. During Sir Henry's attendance, therefore, on the Princess Amelia, His Majesty desired him, in case of His Majesty experiencing a relapse of his malady, to take the care of him, adding, that Sir Henry must promise never to leave him, and that, if he wanted further help, he should call Dr. Heberden, and, in case of farther need, which would necessarily occur if Parliament took up the matter, Dr. Baillie. The introduction of these physicians when His Majesty became ill again, as he did very soon after, conciliated the confidence of the Queen and the Prince of Wales, who added the name of Sir Henry to the list of his

physicians in ordinary. The condition of the King is now matter of history, and the annals of Parliament give all necessary information upon the subject. The confidence reposed in Sir Henry by the Prince of Wales, was continued when the Prince became George IV., and thence descended to William IV., and to the present Sovereign, the Queen Victoria: thus has Sir Henry been physician to four successive Sovereigns. No other physician has attained such honours. Caius was physician to Edward VI. and the Queens Mary and Elizabeth; Sir Theodore Mayerne to Henry V., Louis XIII., and James of England. Ambrose Paré was surgeon to Henry II., Francis II., Charles IX., and Henry III.

Almost every member of the royal family, from the time of George III. has been under the care of Sir Henry. His attentions to the late Duke of York were so unremitting, that to manifest the sense entertained of them, certain augmentations and supporters were, by royal warrant, granted to the arms of Sir Henry in 1827. And, upon the decease of George the Fourth, a very splendid clock, surmounted by a bust of His Majesty, was presented to him by the Royal Family, in proof, as the inscription states, "of their esteem and regard, and in testimony of the high sense they entertain of his professional abilities and unwearied attention to their late "beloved sister, the Princess Amelia, Her late Majesty Queen Charlotte, "His late Majesty King George the Third, His late Royal Highness the "Duke of York, and lastly, of His Majesty King George the Fourth."

Sir Henry has hitherto published but little, and that which has appeared consists principally of Essays and Orations, written for the Transactions, or read before the evening meetings of the College, to which he has most liberally contributed. He delivered the Harvæian Oration in 1800, and again in 1835, in consequence of the death of Sir George Tuthill, who had been appointed to that honourable office. These orations are distinguished by their classical elegance. The latter contains deserved tributes to the memory of Dr. Maton, Dr. Ainslie, and Dr. Powell.

The following extract will offer a good specimen of the President's latinity: "Et Ricardo Powell, et Henrico Ainslie, utrique contigit, in "medio vitæ cursu, et in maximâ utriusque utilitate, morbo defecisse; huic "vesicæ hæmorrhagiâ, illi paralysi.—Num id incommodo eorum et detri-"mento, an potius lucro apponam? Lucro sanè; Mens etenim humana "præsentire in posterum amat, et in futurum cupit prospicere. Sed in "hac festinatione urbis ac vitæ, in hac ambitionis occupatione et conten-"tione, earum rerum contemplationem, ad quas seriò et præcipuè animum "intendere debemus, quippe quæ ad immortalitatem, et æternam nostram "felicitatem spectant, facilè differre solemus, quia, quanquam aliorum

"officiis otiosi semper simus, nobismet ipsis, tamen, nostrisque curis "nunquam vacamus. Imperanda est igitur, et cogenda præteriti tem- "poris accurata recordatio, ut vitæ futuræ felicitas, certis conditionibus "promissa nobis, pietate et pœnitentiâ sedulo expetatur et elaboretur. Hoc "iis emolumento fuit, hoc Dei Optimi Maximi benignitas voluit, et propterea "forsàn, morbis eos plecti jussit."

"Me, si Deo placuerit ingravescentibus annis, imbecillitate valetudinis "impediri,—esto.—Id omne benevolentiæ Ejus acceptum referam. Sin "otii fructus detur, cum sanâ mente in corpore sano, ad vitam anteactam "recogitandam, et vestem, quasi colligendum, quæmadmodum Imperatori "ante cadendum in Capitolio curæ fuit, ut decorè, et cum dignitate dis- "cederet, laudem Deo majorem, majoresque gratias debiturus solvam."

On June 25, 1825, the New College of Physicians in Pall Mall East was opened, and Sir Henry delivered an Oration on the occasion in the presence of their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of York and Sussex, many of the nobility, and persons of distinction. This was the most splendid meeting ever held by the College, and an elegant collation was provided for the numerous assembly at Sir Henry's expense. The oration, which, like to the Harvæian, was delivered in Latin, is distinguished by the purity of its style, and is particularly valuable, as affording the testimony of the President, and the late Dr. Baillie, to the religious character and opinions of the medical profession. Sir Henry did well to avail himself of such an opportunity, to repel the assertions so constantly made by the superstitious, more animated with zeal than enlightened by knowledge, in subjects of physical inquiry, as to the scepticism and infidelity of the profession.

The Essays (published in 1831) are six in number, and have for their subjects:—

1. On the Climacteric Disease. 2. On the Necessity of Caution in the Estimation of Symptoms in the Last Stages of some Diseases. 3. On the Tic Doulourenx. 4. On Shakspeare's Test of Insanity. 5. On the Influence of some of the Diseases of the Body on the Mind. 6. On the Καυσος of Aretæus.

Essay I. That condition of the human frame which marks the decline of its powers, and tends to its decay, has been regarded as the grand climacteric, and this Sir Henry seems disposed to consider rather as a disease, than a mere declension of strength, and decay of the natural powers. He describes it as "a falling away of the flesh in the decline of life, without any obvious source of exhaustion, accompanied with a quicker pulse than natural, and an extraordinary alteration in the expression of the countenance." This, however, it must be remarked, is a

condition frequently connected with other complaints; hence, it has not been before described as a disease *sui generis*. Sir Henry has observed that it is better characterized in males than in females, and he traces the occurrence of a common cold as one of the immediate causes of the disease. Mental anxiety operates strongly in its production. A disease founded in a decadence of vital powers is not to be remedied; it may, however, be checked by proper medical treatment, and by the exhibition of appropriate means for imparting tone to the system.

Essay II. On a Cautious Estimation of Symptoms in the Last Stages of some Diseases, may be read by all the younger members of the profession with great advantage.

In Essay III. Sir Henry has endeavoured to trace the origin of several cases of Tic Douloureux, and he has been successful in referring it to a lesion of the bony fabric, either by a carious condition, or by a preternatural deposition. He has confined himself principally to those cases in which the fifth pair of nerves have been affected, and in one instance he found an exostosis of the alveolar process, in another a disease of the antrum highmorianum, and in a third, a most remarkable case, the skull of the patient of which was exhibited at the College, an extensive deposit on the internal surface of the cranium, which must have inevitably caused considerable pressure upon the brain during the life of the patient, and the result of which was the termination of this, as of many other cases of neuralgic affection, in a fatal attack of apoplexy. The late lamented and amiable Dr. Pemberton, who was literally a martyr to the Tic Douloureux, and reduced by it from a comely person of portly stature, to that of a decrepit and emaciated figure, died apoplectic, and the skull, in his case, was found to be materially thickened, and a bony deposition laid upon the *dura mater;* and it is well worthy of remark, that Dr. Pemberton, prior to the full development of his disease, had been at times affected with abscess of the frontal sinuses. Sir Henry does not profess to account for all cases of this disease as proceeding from a disordered condition of the bone; but he has satisfactorily shewn that, in several cases, that state of parts is an attendant upon it, and it is one which ought not to be lost sight of by the practitioner, as an attentive observation of the phenomena presented may be the means of eliciting some satisfactory mode of cure. Sir Henry does not fail to trace the ordinary cases of neuralgia to some disorder of the digestive organs.

Essay IV. One of the very trying and difficult positions in which professional men chance sometimes to be placed, is well illustrated by Sir Henry, and his sagacity on this occasion cannot but be admired. It affords

an illustration of the advantages arising from a liberal education, and an attention to polite literature, in the exercise of an arduous profession. The immortal Shakspeare has left us a test of madness. Sir Henry proved the correctness of the test in a very interesting case:

> "———————— Ecstacy!
> My pulse as yours doth temperately keep time,
> And makes as healthful music. It is not madness
> That I have uttered: bring me to the test,
> And I *the matter will re-word, which madness*
> *Would gambol from.*" *Hamlet, Act III. Scene 4.*

"A gentleman of considerable fortune in Oxfordshire, about thirty-five years of age, sent for his solicitor, to make his will. He was in habits of strict friendship with him, and stated that he wished to add five hundred pounds a year to his mother's jointure, if she got well, she being then (to the knowledge of the solicitor and himself only) confined as a lunatic; to make a provision for two natural children; to leave a few trifling legacies; and then, if he died childless, *to make him, the Solicitor, his heir.* His friend expressed his gratitude, but added that he could not accept such a mark of his good opinion, until he was convinced that it was his deliberate judgment so to dispose of his property, and that decision communicated to him six months afterwards. In about six weeks' time the gentleman became deranged, and continued in such a state of excitement for a whole month, (during which he was visited constantly by Sir George Tuthill and myself,) as to require coercion every day. At the expiration of that time he was composed and comfortable. But his languor and weakness bore a proportion to his late excitement, and it was very doubtful whether he would live. On entering his room one day, to my question—how he found himself, he answered,—"Very ill, sir: about to die; and only anxious to make my will first." This could hardly be listened to under his circumstances, and he was persuaded to forego that wish for the present. The next day he made the same answer to the same question, but in such a tone and manner, as to extort from common humanity, even at the probable expense of future litigation, an acquiescence in his wish to disburden his mind. The Solicitor was sent for, and having been with him the preceding evening, met us, at our consultation in the morning, with a will prepared according to the instructions he had received *before the attack of disease, as well as to those given the last night.* He proposed to read this to the gentleman in our presence, and that we should witness the signature of it, if we were satisfied that it expressed clearly his

intentions. It was read, and he answered, 'Yes—yes—yes,' distinctly to every item, as it was deliberately proposed to him. On going down stairs with Sir George Tuthill and the Solicitor, to consider what was to be done, I expressed some regret that we, the physicians, had been involved in an affair which could hardly be expected to terminate without an inquiry in a court of law, in which we must necessarily be called upon to justify ourselves for permitting this good gentleman, under such questionable circumstances, to make a will. It occurred to me then, to propose to my colleague to go up into the sick room, to see whether our patient could *re-word the matter*, as a test, on Shakspeare's authority, of his soundness of mind. He repeated the clauses which contained the addition to his mother's jointure, and which made provision for the natural children, with sufficient correctness; but he stated that he had left a namesake, though not a relation, ten thousand pounds, whereas he had left him five thousand pounds only; and there he paused. After which I thought it proper to ask him, to whom he had left his real property, when these legacies should have been discharged,—in whom did he intend that his estate should be vested after his death, if he died without childreu? 'In the heir-at-law, to be sure,' was the reply. 'Who is your heir-at-law?' 'I do not know.' Thus he 'gambolled' from the matter, and laboured, according to this test, under his madness still."

But Shakspeare does not stand alone in the accuracy of his description of madness; its character, Sir Henry has shewn, is also well displayed by Horace, (Epist. lib. ii. 2, 128; and Sat. lib. ii. 3, 104,) and, in short, references might be appropriately made to numerous other ancient poets and philosophers. The pictures drawn by those masters of antiquity are applicable to all times and persons. Human nature remains the same. Nor is Shakspeare's test of insanity to be considered as sufficient to the detection of all the forms of this dreadful disease. So varied are its shapes, and so delicate often the shades of its character, that nothing is more difficult than a description of madness.

Essay V. Sir George Baker, Dr. Falconer, and others, have directed their attention to the effects of the passions of the mind in the production of diseases of the body. Sir Henry is anxious to draw attention to the influence of the diseases of the body upon the powers of the mind, and he has commenced the subject by noting the effects of some of the more marked simple chronic diseases on the mental powers. It is a subject well worthy of the physician's regard.

Essay VI. is upon the Καυσος, or Burning Fever of Hippocrates and Aretæus, which is the Brain Fever of the moderns. An interesting illus-

tration of this disease is given at pp. 96, 98. The illumination of mental powers at the last moments of life has ever been a subject of astonishment, and but unsatisfactorily accounted for by philosophers. "The flickering lamp blazes with unusual brightness just as it expires." "The fit gives vigour, as it destroys."

Sir Henry's description of the phenomena of death is distinctly marked, and accurately delineated, and it leads him to the discussion of a point in medical ethics of the highest importance:—the propriety of making known to a patient, labouring under a fatal malady, the probable consequence of his disease. This is often a matter of the most delicate and difficult nature. The communication of such intelligence frequently involves the risk of shortening even the period of existence that may belong to the sufferer. Moral and religious considerations relating to the individual himself, and a sense of duty to those with whom he may be connected, will often impel one to the exercise of a task which, physically speaking, may be open to censure or condemnation. The experience of such a man as Sir Henry Halford is of great moment on such a subject, and he has well stated it in the following passage:

"And here you will forgive me, perhaps, if I presume to state what appears to me to be the conduct proper to be observed by a physician in withholding, or making his patient acquainted with, his opinion of the probable issue of a malady manifesting mortal symptoms. I own I think it my first duty to protract his life by all practicable means, and to interpose myself between him and every thing which may possibly aggravate his danger. And, unless I shall have found him averse from doing what was necessary in aid of my remedies, from a want of a proper sense of his perilous situation, I forbear to step out of the bounds of my province in order to offer any advice which is not necessary to promote his cure. At the same time, I think it indispensable to let his friends know the danger of his case, the instant I discover it. An arrangement of his worldly affairs, in which the comfort or unhappiness of those who are to come after him is involved, may be necessary; and a suggestion of his danger, by which the accomplishment of this object is to be obtained, naturally induces a contemplation of his more important spiritual concerns, a careful review of his past life, and such sincere sorrow and contrition for what he has done amiss, as justifies our humble hope of his pardon and acceptance hereafter. If friends can do these good offices at a proper time, and under the suggestions of the physician, it is far better that they should undertake them than the medical adviser. They do so without destroying his hopes, for the patient will still believe that he has an appeal to his

physician beyond their fears; whereas, if the physician lay open his danger to him, however delicately he may do this, he runs a risk of appearing to pronounce a sentence of condemnation to death, against which there is no appeal—*no hope;* and, *on that account*, what is most awful to think of, perhaps the sick man's repentance may be less available. But, friends may be absent, and nobody near the patient in his extremity, of sufficient influence or pretension, to inform him of his dangerous condition. And, surely it is lamentable to think that any human being should leave the world unprepared to meet his Creator and Judge, "with all his crimes broad blown!" Rather than so, I have departed from my strict professional duty, and have done that which I would have done by myself, and have apprized my patient of the great change he was about to undergo."

In addition to these Medical and Medico-Literary performances, Sir Henry has favoured the public with a curious account of the discovery of the head of the unfortunate King Charles, upon the opening of his coffin in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, April 1, 1813. The original MS. of this account is deposited in the British Museum, authenticated by the signature of the Prince Regent, who was present at the examination.

Since the publication of the "Essays and Orations," in 1831, Sir Henry has published some others, read at the meetings of the College.

In addition to those already noticed, in 1833 appeared a paper "On the Treatment of the Gout;" another "On Phlegmasia Dolens;" a third "On the Treatment of Insanity, particularly the Moral Treatment;" and a fourth "On the Deaths of some Illustrious Persons of Antiquity."

The gout is now, from the improved habits and manners of society, a disease of much less frequent occurrence than in former times, and the resources of art for the alleviation of its severe pains have been very effectually employed in the exhibition of various preparations of the colchicum. Discretion in the administration of such a remedy is, however, essential. Sir Henry does not usually employ it until the disease has fixed itself upon some one particular part of the body. He then orders the vinous preparation made from the root of this vegetable, and has never known a single instance of any untoward effect from it. The colchicum is not a new remedy for the disease; Sir Henry traces it under the name of Hermodactyls, employed by Alexander of Tralles in the sixth century. He satisfied himself on this head by engaging one of the king's messengers to procure for him at Constantinople some of the hermodactyls; and he laid them before the College of Physicians, to shew, by a comparison with some specimens of the roots of colchicum, the identity of the two substances. Few parts of the human frame appear to be free from the visitations of the

gout: Sir Henry has seen it in the kidneys, urethra, and prostate gland, also in the tonsils; and some practitioners contend for its having occurred in the organ of vision.

Phlegmasia Dolens is a disease generally supposed only to afflict the female sex: the occurrence of it, as connected with the pregnant condition of the system, has led to this error. Modern pathologists, and more especially Dr. David Davis, Dr. Robert Lee, and Dr. Sims, have shewn this disease to consist of an inflammation of particular veins, and have described it under the more appropriate name of Phlebitis. Consistently with this view of the malady, we cannot be surprised to learn that instances of it have been known to occur in the male sex, and Sir Henry has seen it in three cases within the last few years. Two of these are given in detail; and one is that of a late statesman, the Earl of Liverpool. The obstruction to the circulation of the blood, occasioned by this condition of parts in the venous system, was probably the cause of that disease of the brain which incapacitated him for the business of the ministry towards the close of his career, and ultimately proved fatal.

The Moral treatment of Insanity is a subject of peculiar interest, and there is much truth in the observation of Sir Henry, that 'there is no disease which appeals more forcibly to our best feelings, or which deserves better the serious attention of the philosopher, and the sympathy of the philanthropist; no one which requires the best skill of the physician, more than insanity' This is a subject to which attention will be directed on some future occasion.

The "Essay on the Deaths of some Illustrious Persons of Antiquity," is a very curious and interesting paper. We have room only for one extract, which is important, as it appears to assist in fixing some of the discriminative signs by which the exhibition of a particular poison may be determined. There are few persons unacquainted with the Trial of Captain Donellan for the murder of Sir Theodosius Boughton, Bart., by an exhibition of laurel-water with a purgative mixture. The effect was to produce an epileptic fit, and immediate death. Sir Henry saw the face of Sir Theodosius when the corpse was disinterred, and gives his testimony to its particular hue resembling that of "a pickled walnut." He thinks it probable that, considering all the circumstances of the narrative of Tacitus, (Annal. lib. xiii. c. 15,) of the death of Britannicus, that he was poisoned by Nero by means of a similar preparation. "The historian states, that when Nero had determined to despatch the ill-fated youth, he sent for Locusta, a convicted female poisoner, who had been pardoned, and was kept for state purposes. Nero ordered her to prepare a poison which

should produce its effect immediately, in distinction from one of those which should prove fatal at some distant given day; for the notion prevailed then, that poisoners could devise a draught which would operate at any given period. Locusta prepared one which killed a goat after five hours. This would not serve the tyrant's purpose—he ordered her to provide a more speedy instrument, to prepare it in his own chamber, and in his presence. The boiling began, and was urged to the *effectual* moment, in proof of which it was tried on a hog, and the animal was killed by it immediately. Dinner is served; the young members of the imperial family are sitting at the foot of the table. The Emperor and his guests reclining on their sides. The unhappy youth calls for water—the prægustator tastes it, and then serves it. It is too hot; some of it is poured off, and the glass is filled up with a fluid resembling water—but this contains the poison. The young man drinks it, and is seized instantly with an epileptic fit, in which he expires. He is buried the same night." Dio Cassius alludes to the lividness of the face of Britannicus, and he says that Nero was tempted to conceal it by paint, lest it should betray the secret that he had perished by foul means; and Sir Henry seems to suspect that Juvenal makes reference to this remarkable circumstance in his First Satire, in the lines:—

> Instituitque rudes melior Locusta propinquas
> Per famam, et populum *nigros* efferre maritos.

In 1834, he published a paper "On the Education and Conduct of a Physician," in which he ably contends for a classical education, as exhibiting the best models of order and of taste. To the physician Sir Henry looks upon classical knowledge as peculiarly attractive, because he perceives in the ancient historians the origin of many of the terms of his art; the earliest mention of some remedies, whose value has since been confirmed by time and use; and in the poets, the most touching description of the effects of moral causes upon the health of the human system; to say nothing of the pure delight of such sources of innocent amusement as those which are opened in these fountains, and which are so well calculated to heighten the pleasure of future success, and to soften the adversities of possible disappointment. The study of Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Botany, Chemistry, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, &c. is properly insisted on, and their relative importance distinctly marked. Moral qualifications are no less ably descanted upon. The Essay concludes with an appropriate eulogy of Lord Grenville, the late Chancellor of Sir Henry's Alma Mater, whose fondest wishes are justly stated to have been for the

"prosperity of his country; his recreation, literature; and his comfort, religion."

In 1835, Sir Henry printed a paper "On the Deaths of some Eminent Persons of Modern Times," and he relates some curious particulars relative to Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, the elder daughter of Henry VIII., Cardinal Wolsey, Oliver Cromwell, Charles II., William III., Dryden, Swift, George I., II., III., IV., and the Duke of Gloucester. Henry VIII., who died of dropsy at the age of fifty-six, was a great dabbler in physic. He not only offered medical advice on all occasions which presented themselves, but he also made up the medicines, and administered them. He therefore combined the three offices of physician, apothecary, and nurse, and a very curious collection of his recipes is preserved in the British Museum. In the last illness of Charles II., (a fit of apoplexy) one of the prescriptions is signed by no less than fourteen physicians, and one of the articles prescribed is "twenty-five drops of the spirit drawn from human skulls!"

At the commencement of the last Session of the Evening Meetings of the College of Physicians, Sir Henry, according to custom, delivered the Introductory Essay, and chose for his subject the "Effects of Cold." It afforded another opportunity of displaying the President's knowledge of classical and general literature. The operation of cold upon the human body is a subject alike extensive, complicated, and difficult. The effects vary according to the degree of cold, the state of the system, and the manner in which it is applied. The diversity is indeed so great, that no little confidence in theoretical reasoning, is necessary to give credit to the possibility of one principle producing such variable results. Sir Henry alluded to many striking incidents, and the loss of human life, connected with the history of Xenophon's memorable retreat, of the effects of cold in the Swedish army, of Napoleon's Expedition to Russia, of the Travels of Banks, Solander, &c. The President coincides with the opinion of some other pathologists, as to death being produced in this case by apoplexy. The records of Greenwich and Chelsea Hospitals serve to demonstrate that the longevity of the soldier exceeds that of the sailor, and this Sir Henry accounts for by reference to their different habits. The sailor is most exposed to the vicissitudes of climate, has to contend with storms and tempests, and is also less prudent when on shore, all of which doubtless tend to abridge the period of his existence.

Sir Henry received from George IV. the honour of Knight Commander of the Guelphic Order, on the day upon which the New College of Physicians was opened, and from King William IV., the further distinction of Grand

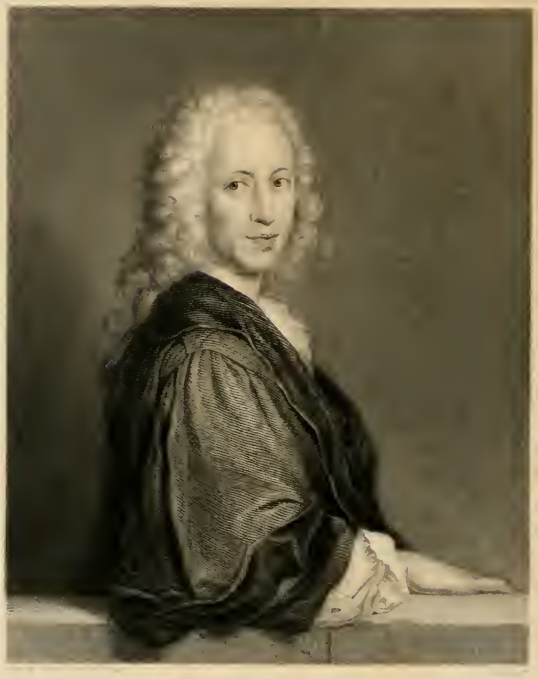
Cross of the same Order. He is a Fellow of the Royal and Antiquaries' Societies, and attached to many other literary and scientific institutions. By virtue of his office of President of the Royal College of Physicians, the chair of which he has filled during eighteen years, he is also one of the Trustees of the British Museum. Sir Henry has given evidence on various subjects connected with Medicine before Committees of the Houses of Parliament, of which Reports will be found in the printed Journals.

The extensive practice Sir Henry has for so many years enjoyed, united to his intimate acquaintance with his profession, and the advantages derived from his habits of reading and study, has rendered him a practitioner of great celebrity and success. The writer of this has had frequent opportunities of meeting him in consultation, and it is but justice to say that no one he ever met shewed quicker perception as to the nature of the disease, or more readily seized upon all the principal points of a case. In this respect, as a consulting physician, Sir Henry Halford is of the highest value, and is well appreciated by his professional brethren, who cannot but feel that much also is due to him for shedding a splendour around the College, and labouring very zealously towards placing the members of a liberal profession in that station in society to which their merits, their education, and their utility, justly entitle them. This is a point of no little importance to the profession, the members of which certainly do not hold the rank they merit in a country so advanced in civilization. The difficulties which attend the acquisition of a knowledge of medical science, and the importance of that science to society, have been always admitted. Is the error, then, with the public, or with the profession itself? Does not the fault chiefly rest with its own members? Have they not, by the practice of arts to gain a temporary popularity, and to raise themselves above their brethren, tended to produce this effect, and lessen the estimation of society for the members of a *liberal* profession? There is a want of self-respect, and a want of union among medical practitioners. Why should this be?—Surely no class of men are exposed to greater dangers in the performance of their duties. If malignant diseases spring up, they are never found backward to examine into their nature; heedless of personal security, the abodes of pestilence are visited, and hospitals, crowded with "contagious death," receive their unremitting attention. The vocation of the physician is with the sick and dying; and this he pursues, and must pursue, with serenity and thoughtfulness: his equanimity is never permitted to be disturbed. In the midst of an infectious atmosphere, he is calmly meditating on the horrors which surround him, and devising means for the relief of the diseased, and

those on the confines of death. Even with the dissolution of the patient, his zeal suffers no relaxation: the art of dissection is employed, often at the peril of his own existence, to trace the hidden causes of disease, and thereby to counteract the malady, or afford alleviation to the afflicted. Are these services of little value or consideration? Let them be duly regarded, and then say, in what estimation the medical practitioner deserves to be held in society. Are his toils, his dangers, his merits fully acknowledged?

These observations apply, of course, to the members of the profession as a body; individually, there are exceptions, but they are of great rarity. Sir Henry Halford is deservedly one of these: he is entitled to it by his learning and his liberality. He moves in the first circle, and is in the full enjoyment of intercourse with all ranks of society; and in taking leave of him on this occasion, the writer would fain address him in the language of his favourite Horace, and say,

"Vitâ cedat, uti conviva satur."



B. S. Albinus.

à Leide ce 5 Juillet 1726.

BERNARD SIEGFRIED ALBINUS, M.D.

"Omni miraculo quod sit par hominem majus miraculum est homo."
St. August. de Civit. l. 10, c. 3.

Bernard Siegfried Albinus was the son of an eminent physician, Bernard Albinus, and a professor at the university of Leyden. He was born at Frankfort, Feb. 24, 1697 He was instructed in latin by Sommers and Nesterhoff; in philosophy, by Person and Gronovius; and professionally educated by his father, by Rau, Bidloo, Decker, and Boerhaave. In 1718 he visited Paris, and made the acquaintance of Winslow and Senac. At the expiration of six months he was recalled to Leyden, in consequence of the death of Rau, and was appointed his successor as teacher in anatomy and surgery; and he received a degree of Doctor of Medicine without examination. Upon the death of his father, in 1721, he was chosen to succeed him as professor of anatomy; and upon his admission to the chair, he read a paper, entitled, "De Vera Via ad Fabricæ Humani Corporis Cognitionem ducente," in which he forcibly demonstrated the importance of Comparative Anatomy; and by the excellence of this installation address, he obtained much reputation.

His first publication, in which he pays a just and elegant tribute to the memory of his teacher and predecessor, Rau, was made in 1725, under the title of "Index Supellectilis Anatomiæ Ravianæ." The following year he put forth his well-known work on the Bones, which was reprinted in 1762, accompanied by plates of extraordinary fidelity and elegance. His "Historia Musculorum Hominis" appeared in 1734. The descriptions are most faithful, and the plates wonderfully accurate. Haller declared this work to be "the best ever executed in anatomy." To these publications succeeded his "Dissertatio de Arteriis et Venis Intestinorum Hominis," in 1736, accompanied by a coloured plate, shewing the anastomosis of the arteries; and his tract "De Sede et Causa Coloris Æthiopum," appeared in 1737. Also his "Icones Ossium Fœtus Humani" with a brief history of the growth of bone.

In 1741 he published "Explicatio Tabularum Anatomicarum," and in 1744 the plates of Bart. Eustachius, with explanations. He published "Tabulæ Sceleti et Musculorum Corporis Humani," in 1749, in large folio, at London. He published also "Annotationes Academicæ" in 1760, in four vols. 4to. which are illustrated by beautiful plates; and he likewise edited the works of Harvey, Vesalius, and Fabricius de Aquapendente. These various publications are held in high esteem to the present day, and the fidelity of the delineations and descriptions is universally allowed.

Albinus is to be regarded as the first anatomist of his age, and he held the chair of anatomy at the university of Leyden during nearly fifty years. He died Sept. 9, 1770, at the age of 73 years. His zealous application to anatomical researches is perhaps to be attributed to his being a strong advocate of the mechanical theory of Boerhaave. In accordance with this doctrine, he necessarily devoted himself to the study of minute anatomy. He is one of the first to have followed up the views of his celebrated teacher, and to have noted with great precision the intimate structure and disposition of the several parts of the human body. No other individual can be said to have paid equal attention to the arts of design, to illustrate his works. He took uncommon pains to ornament and render attractive his various anatomical productions, but he is never found to have sacrificed the truth of nature to the beauty of delineation.

The autograph of B. S. Albinus is of very great rarity. I am assured by the director of the Anatomical Collection at Leyden, of which Albinus was himself, for many years, the conservator, that among all the documents belonging to that department, it is not to be found. I have, however, been fortunate enough to meet with a Letter of this celebrated Anatomist, addressed to Dr. Robert Nesbitt, the author of a well-known work on Osteogeny. The letter announces the transmission of copies of the second volume of Albinus's edition of the Works of Vesalius to Dr. Nesbitt, Mr. (Dr.) Mead, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Cheselden, and Mr. Barrett. The signature affixed to the portrait of Albinus is taken from this letter. The fac-simile of his writing given beneath the autograph is taken from a MS. entitled *Prima Delineationes Tabularum Sceleti et Musculorum Corporis Humani*, in the library of the Leyden University, and may be depended upon as the genuine handwriting of this celebrated professor.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Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, Surgeon to the Female Orphan Asylum, &c. &c.

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