History of medicine : from its origin to the nineteenth century : with an appendix, containing a philosophical and historical review of medicine to the present time / by P.V. Renouard ; translated from the French by Cornelius G. Comegys.

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less than a revolution in physiology. I shall not pause to describe all the phases of the controversy it excited; it will be sufficient to say that it continued no less than twenty-five years, and that there was not a man at the time who made any pretension to a knowledge of anatomy and physiology, who did not take an active part in it. Even the naturalists and philosophers themselves, did not remain indifferent. René Descartes was one of the first to declare himself in favor of the new doctrine of the circulation, and supported it by some experiments, but especially by the authority of his name. John Walœus, a celebrated anatomist, and professor in the University of Leyden, confirmed it by new observations. Finally, Plempius, of Louvaine, one of the most fiery adversaries of this theory, gave way to the force of truth, and passed with a free will and publicly over to the ranks of its defenders, in 1652. This was a great triumph for Harvey, and brought so much additional support to his doctrine as nearly to silence all opposition.

During these long debates the conduct of Harvey was always dignified and firm. He mingled in the polemic which his discoveries had excited, only to add new proofs and new experiments to those he had already published. One, only, of his adversaries obtained a direct response from him. This was John Riolan, professor in the faculty of Paris, and one of the greatest anatomists of his age. Harvey attached much value to his support. In seeking to convince him, he spoke always with the greatest deference, giving him, several times, the epithet of prince of the Science. The opinion of J. Riolan was, in fact, of immense weight among his cotemporaries; but whether from excess of respect for the ancients, or from envy against moderns, he combatted, with as much violence as obstinacy, the two finest discoveries of the age, namely, that of Harvey, and that of Pecquet, which we shall soon consider.[◦]

Harvey had the satisfaction before his death, to see his theory of the movements of the heart and of the blood universally adopted. He left, besides, interesting observations on generation, in man and in animals—on midwifery—and on the structure and diseases of the uterus.

The further progress of science only confirmed the doctrine of the circulation of the blood. In 1661, Malpighi, professor at Bologna, demonstrated for the first time, by the aid of the microscope, the progression of the blood globules in the small vessels. He confirmed the reality of the communication which had been said to exist between the arteries and the veins, and gave a clear demonstration of their last branches. In 1690, Anthony de Leeuwenhoek, naturalist of Delft, was enabled to see,

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◦ See Lettres de Gui Patin, new edition, with notes by M. Reveille. Paris.

Toward the close of the seventeenth century, and during the whole course of the eighteenth, this branch of the Healing Art emerged anew from its state of stagnation, and took a development, of which no other period in its history offers us an example. Among the causes which contributed, in France, to give it a strong impulse, we shall cite, in the first place, the creation of five chairs of demonstrators of anatomy and surgery, instituted in the college of Saint Come, by letters patent, in September, 1724. G. Mareschal, first surgeon of Louis XV., and La Peyronie, his friend and colleague, who was destined to be his successor, were the first instigators of that measure. La Peyronie completed it, in adding to the five royal demonstrators, a sixth, for the course on accouchements, and six adjuncts, whose salaries he paid himself. This enlightened philanthropist did not limit his benefits to the capital; he obtained for Montpellier the nomination of four professors and four adjuncts, who were required to include in their lectures all branches of surgery. But he lacked an amphitheater, and no emoluments were attached to the chairs which were just created. La Peyronie removed all these difficulties, and provided everything from his own purse. In fine, he secured the future of these institutions, by leaving in his will provisions for their support.

It is to him, also, and to Mareschal, that France was indebted for another endowment, which exercised, during more than half a century, a powerful influence on the progress of surgical studies in Europe. The Royal Academy of Surgery, instituted in 1731, became, from its origin, a focus toward which converged the labors of a crowd of surgeons of France and foreign nations. It received, among others, communications from John Louis Petit, Ledran, Garengeot, Lafaye, Cæsar Verdier, S. Morand, Quesnay, Hévin, Fabre, Lecat, Puzos, Bordenave, Sabatier, and above all from A. Louis. To the Royal Academy of Surgery we must attach the names of Lamotte, Ravaton, Friar Come, Master John, Anthony Petit, Pouteau, etc., who shared its fame, and enriched science by their writings. Then succeeded, in the history of this Art, the School of Practical Surgery, (*Ecole Pratique de Chirurgie*) established by a decree of council, in 1750. It was here that Chopart taught with so much zeal, and where his intimate friend, P. J. Desault, commenced, as clinical professor. That clinic, the first which France offered as a model, soon acquired a European renown, and, to such a hight, that neighboring nations sent to Paris pensioned students, to follow the course of Desault. From this school came forth Anthony Dubois, A. Boyer, and so many others that the enumeration would be too long.

While, by a happy concourse of circumstances, French surgery shone thus, in the first rank, the neighboring nations advanced in the same