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Aneurysms, based on this retrospective study, are presented.

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**References**


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René Théophile Hyacinthe Laënnec was born on the 17th February 1781, the year which saw Johnson’s Lives of the Poets, and the second and third volumes of Gibbon’s Decline and Fall. Wordsworth was a lad of eleven. Napoleon, a little older, was already two years on with his military education at Brienne. John Hunter was in his prime at fifty-three. Seven years before, Priestley announced the discovery of oxygen. Albrecht von Haller, the “prince of physiologists,” died four years ago. Morgagni had already been dead ten years. But the most important date near by was that, nineteen years earlier, on which Rousseau’s Contrat Social appeared; and his opening words, “Man is born free and is everywhere in chains” had not been lost upon his generation. Adam Smith had taught something of the wealth of nations; Voltaire had outraged established orders and amused the others; and Burke was still in his grandest vein. No one had any reason to suppose that the infant son of a Breton country lawyer was destined to reach an equally enduring fame. Certainly the good people of Quimper, the little port about thirty miles from Brest, could not have guessed. For the Laënnecs, though respectable Celts and reputable lawyers, had never achieved anything but a local name; and in point of fact, René’s father was a rather shiftless improvident character who neglected his family and lived on his sons later in life.—Dr. Clifford Hoyle (Brit. J. Tuberc., 1944). The Quiet Art: A Doctor’s Anthology. Compiled by Dr. Robert Coope. Edinburgh & London, E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1952, p. 82.

**Giovanni Battista Morgagni, the Founder of Pathologic Anatomy**

Apoplexy greatly intrigued Morgagni, as it did his contemporaries, and, here, also, he made an outstanding contribution, but his progress in this subject was not so revealing as in other topics that he touched. He retained the ancient classification of serous and sanguineous apoplexy and, in doing so, he assigned to this category cases that probably were cerebral softening and cerebral edema. However, he brought additional evidence in support of Valsalva’s masterly observation that the paralysis ensuing from cerebrovascular accident occurs on the side opposite the lesion (as I mentioned before). Morgagni also made reference to the role that rupture of small aneurysms of the cerebral vessels (first described by Wepfer and Brunner) may play in the occurrence of cerebrovascular accident, but he put more emphasis on some sort of disorder in the choroid plexus as the most frequent cause of the hemorrhage. Here, his reasoning has a touch of ancient humoral medicine, but, even so, the recital opened new avenues of thought.—C. G. Tedeschi, M.D. *Giovanni Battista Morgagni, The Founder of Pathologic Anatomy: A Biographic Sketch On the Occasion of the 200th Anniversary of The Publication Of His “De sedibus et causis morborum per anatomen indagatis.”* The Boston Medical Quarterly 12: 123, 1961.


Chaucer's Doctor

With us ther was a DOCTOVR OF PHISIK:
In all this world ne was ther noon hym lik.
To speke of phisik and of surgerye:
For he was grounded in astronoyme.
He kepte his pacient a ful greet deel
In houres, by his magyk natureel.
Wel koude he fortunen the ascendent
Of his ymages for his pacient.
He knew the cause of everich maladye,
Were it of hoot, or cold, or moyste, or drye,
And where they engendred and of what humour:
He was a verray parfit practisour.
The cause y-knowe and of his harm the roote,
Anon he yaf the sike man his boote.
Ful redy hadde he his apothecaries
To sende him drogges and his letuaries.
For ech of hem made oother for to wynne.
Hir friendshipe nas nyt newe to bigynne.
Wel knew he the olde Esuclapius
And Deyscorides, and eek Rufus,
Olde Ypocrates, Haly and Galyen,
Serapion, Razis and Ayvene,
Averrois, Damascien and Constantyn,
Bernard and Gatesden and Gilbertyn.
Of his diete mesurable was he,
For it was of no superfluitee,
But of greet norisseyng and digestible.
His studie was but litel on the Bible,
In sangwyn and in pers he elad was al.
Lyned with taffata and with sendal.
And yet he was but esy of dispence,
He kepte that he wan in pestilence.
For gold in phisik is a cordial.
Therefore he lovede gold in special.—

Concerning the Effects of Electricity on Muscular Motion

In my desire to make that which, with no inconsiderable expenditure of pains, after many experiments, I have succeeded in discovering in nerves and muscles, so far useful that both their concealed properties might be revealed, if possible, and we might be able more surely to heal their diseases, nothing seemed more suitable for fulfilling such a wish than if I should simply publish my results, just as they are, for general judgment. For learned and eminent scholars, by reading my discoveries, will be able, through their own meditations and experiments, not only to amplify and extend them, but also to attain that which I indeed have attempted, but perhaps have not fully achieved.—LUIGI GALVANI. Commentary on the Effect of Electricity on Muscular Motion. Translated by ROBERT MONTRAVILLE GREEN, M.D. Cambridge, Massachusetts, Elizabeth Licht, Publisher, 1953, p. 23.

John Cheyne 1771-1831

It is ironic that the founder of the Dublin School had served with the British Army at the defeat of the Irish Rising of 1798 on Vinegar Hill. John Cheyne (1771-1831) entered Ireland first as a surgeon with the British Forces, and only ten years later did he emigrate back to become a practitioner in Dublin. He served as the first professor of medicine at the College of Surgeons and as physician to the Meath Hospital. In addition to his well known description of the respiratory pattern in severe coma, he provided the first report of acute hydrocephalus.—K. M. Cahill, M.D. The Golden Era of Irish Medicine The New England J. Med. 266: 544 (March), 1962.

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that are worth emphasizing: none of the serum lipid levels was related significantly to the amount or concentration of extractable lipid in the cerebral arteries, or to the presence or absence of those sequelae of cerebral sclerosis that can be identified at autopsy.

References

The Internal Environment

Considered in the general cosmic environment, the functions of man and of the higher animals seem to us, indeed, free and independent of the physico-chemical conditions of the environment, because its actual stimuli are found in an inner, organic, liquid environment. What we see from the outside is merely the result of physico-chemical stimuli from the inner environment; that is where physiologists must build up the real determinism of vital functions.

Living machines are therefore created and constructed in such a way that, in perfecting themselves, they become freer and freer in the general cosmic environment. But the most absolute determinism still obtains, none the less, in the inner environment which is separated more and more from the outer cosmic environment by reason of the same organic development. A living machine keeps up its movement because the inner mechanism of the organism, by acts and forces ceaselessly renewed, repairs the losses involved in the exercise of its functions.—Claude Bernard, M.D. An Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1927, p. 79.
PULMONARY FUNCTION WITH SEPTAL DEFECT

work of breathing, the dual abnormality separating them from patients with only slight dyspnea on exertion.

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**References**


**Empirical Induction**

"Empirical induction" in the natural sciences proceeds from a particular series of observations of a certain phenomenon to the statement of a general law governing all occurrences of this phenomenon. The degree of certainty with which the law is thereby established depends on the number of single observations and confirmations. This sort of inductive reasoning is often entirely convincing; the prediction that the sun will rise tomorrow in the east is as certain as anything can be, but the character of this statement is not the same as that of a theorem proved by strict logical or mathematical reasoning.

In quite a different way mathematical induction is used to establish the truth of a mathematical theorem for an infinite sequence of cases, the first, the second, the third, and so on without exception.—RICHARD COURANT and HERBERT ROBBINS. *What is Mathematics? An Elementary Approach to Ideas and Methods*. England, Oxford University Press, Tenth Printing, 1960, p. 10.

Professional Ethos

I hold every man a debtor to his profession; from which as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves, by way of amends, to be a help and ornament thereunto. This is performed, in some degree, by the honest and liberal practice of a profession; where men shall carry a respect not to descend into any course that is corrupt and unworthy thereof, and preserve themselves free from the abuses wherewith the same profession is noted to be infected; but much more is this performed, if a man be able to visit and strengthen the roots and foundation of the science itself; thereby not only gracing it in reputation and dignity, but also amplifying it in profession and substance.—Francis Bacon (Essays). The Quiet Art: A Doctor’s Anthology. Compiled by Dr. Robert Coope. Edinburgh & London, E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1952, p. 204.
studied by selective phlebography. Surgery revealed that the obstruction was caused by an anomalous venous valve, diaphragm-like, at the middle third of the subclavian vein. The removal of the anomalous valve resulted in complete relief of the obstruction.

This is the only known case of venous obstruction caused by a malformed valve.

The authors suggest that the term "primary venous obstruction" of the upper extremity be used instead of "traumatic thrombosis" or "Paget-Schroetter" syndrome, in cases in which the etiology has not been ascertained.

References

An Old Gibe

By means of an instrument called the stethoscope, applied to the breast bone, some modern medical writers profess to discover what is going on within. This new art is called auscultation, and the internal sounds pectoriloquism. By means of this new discovery a learned physician professes to have heard a "metallic tinkling" at the heart or in the lungs of a patient. A bystander, however, thinks the "metallic tinkling" was only audible from two pieces of coin which found their way into the palm of the doctor.— Observer, April 1830 (11 years after the appearance of Laennec's classical work). The Quiet Art: A Doctor's Anthology. Compiled by Dr. ROBERT COOPE. Edinburgh & London, E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1952, p. 119.
ALTERNATION OF THE HEART


Concerning the Effects of Electricity on Muscular Motion

I thought, therefore, that I should be doing something worth while, if I reported a brief and accurate account of my discoveries and findings in the order and relation in which partly chance and fortune presented and partly diligence and industry revealed them to me; not so much lest more be attributed to me than to fortune, or more to fortune than to me, but that either I might hand on a torch to those who had wished to enter this same pathway of experiment, or might satisfy the honest desire of scholars who are wont to be interested in things which contain some novelty either in origin itself or in principle.—LUIGI GALVANI. Commentary on the Effect of Electricity on Muscular Motion. Translated by ROBERT MONTRAVILLE GREEN, M.D. Cambridge, Massachusetts, Elizabeth Licht, Publisher, 1953, p. 23.