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studies. Without accepting their conclusions we may yet feel that it is important to stress that sounds are not due to closure of the valves, but to tension that can be applied only after they close in early systole, but may be applied as a result of stretching as rapid inflow reaches its peak. Nor is it necessary to rename areas in the precordium where sounds from various valves are most easily heard in normal subjects. We agree with Luisada that in people with rotated hearts or dilated right ventricles mitral sounds may be displaced far to the left, and in emphysematous old men mitral sounds may best be heard in the suprasternal notch or above the right clavicle. Yet the “classical” sites remain, and valvular origin of sounds seems more firmly established. Rouanet, Austin Flint, Skoda, Bramwell and more recent proponents of the valvular origin of heart sounds seem to have been on solid ground.17

WILLIAM DOCK, M.D.

References

Progress of Ascultation and Percussion

Auscultation and percussion made their way somewhat slowly, and, as in the case of Harvey’s discovery of the circulation, their appeal was to the young minds, such as John Forbes (1787-1861), James Jackson who in 1821 introduced it into the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, U. S. A. (Pratt), Thomas Hodgkin who in 1822 did the same at Guy’s Hospital, Charles Scudamore (1779-1849) in Observations on M. Laennec’s Method, etc. (1826), William Stokes (1804-78) of Dublin in his Introduction to the Stethoscope (1825).—Sir Humphry Davy Rolleston. The Harceian Oration. Great Britain, Cambridge University Press, 1928, p. 77.

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MITRAL STENOSIS


How Medicine Became a Science

In the latter part of the eighteenth century real scientific progress bearing on medicine was made in several directions, in chemistry, in physics and in pathology. Scheele, Black and Priestley contributed to the foundation of modern chemistry but it was Lavoisier who first looked on chemistry with the modern eye. He it was who first dissolved the mists of vague speculation and saw the true meaning of chemical reaction. His Réflexions sur le Phlogistique (1783) and particularly his Traité Élémentaire de Chimie (1789) mark the birth of modern chemistry. Lavoisier based his views upon the secure foundation of experiment and observation, and he had a firm opinion that his views would be ultimately adopted. His words are noteworthy—

"I do not expect that my ideas will be adopted at once; the human mind inclines to one way of thinking and those who have looked at nature from a certain point of view during a part of their lives adopt new ideas only with difficulty; it is for time, therefore, to confirm or reject the opinions that I have advanced."

References


Scientific Accuracy

Accuracy is the twin brother of honesty.—Tryon Edwards.


Science and the Modern World

I do not think we can maintain our position in the postwar world unless we are an exceptionally well-educated people and unless we can handle easily and with comprehension the problems and inventions of the new scientific age.—Winston Churchill.


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**Science and Reality**

It stands to the everlasting credit of science that by acting on the human mind it has overcome man's insecurity before himself and before nature.—ALBERT EINSTEIN.
The Essential Qualities of Scientific Pursuit

I value in a scientific mind, most of all, that love of truth, that care in its pursuit, and that humility of mind which makes the possibility of error always present more than any other quality. This is the mind which has built up modern science to its present perfection, which has laid one stone upon the other with such care that it today offers to the world the most complete monument to human reason. This is the mind which is destined to govern the world in the future, and to solve the problems pertaining to politics and humanity as well as to inanimate nature. It is the only mind which appreciates the imperfections of the human reason, and is thus careful to guard against them. It is the only mind that values truth as it should be valued and ignores all personal feeling in its pursuit.—H. A. Rowland.

Famous General Practitioners

One reason why the famous achievements of general practitioners have been unrecognized or overlooked comes from the very success they achieved, for the fame resulting from an important discovery has often compelled a transfer from general to consultant work. It tends to be forgotten that the essential research which brought fame was carried out while the man was still in general practice.—Zachary Cope, Kt. Some Famous General Practitioners and other Medical Historical Essays. London, Pitman Medical Publishing Co., Ltd., 1961, p. 1.