

it is there asserted, "is accompanied by a vein; the former are filled only with breath or air."³ But whether or no this passage be Aristotle's, he held opinions equally erroneous; as, that the windpipe conveys air into the heart.⁴ Galen⁵ was far from having views respecting the blood-vessels, as sound as those which he entertained concerning the muscles. He held the liver to be the origin of the veins, and the heart of the arteries. He was, however, acquainted with their junctions, or *anastomoses*. But we find no material advance in the knowledge of this subject, till we overleap the blank of the middle ages, and reach the dawn of modern science.

The father of modern anatomy is held to be Mondino,⁶ who dissected and taught at Bologna in 1315. Some writers have traced in him the rudiments of the doctrine of the circulation of the blood; for he says that the heart transmits blood to the lungs. But it is allowed, that he afterwards destroys the merit of his remark, by repeating the old assertion that the left ventricle ought to contain spirit or air, which it generates from the blood.

Anatomy was cultivated with great diligence and talent in Italy by Achillini, Carpa, and Messa, and in France by Sylvius and Stephanus (Dubois and Etienne). Yet still these empty assumptions respecting the heart and blood-vessels kept their ground. Vesalius, a native of Brussels, has been termed the founder of human anatomy, and his great work *De Humani Corporis Fabricâ* is, even yet, a splendid monument of art, as well as science. It is said that his figures were designed by Titian; and if this be not exactly true, says Cuvier,⁷ they must, at least, be from the pencil of one of the most distinguished pupils of the great painter; for to this day, though we have more finished drawings, we have no designs that are more artistlike. Fallopius, who succeeded Vesalius at Padua, made some additions to the researches of his predecessor; but in his treatise *De Principio Venarum*, it is clearly seen⁸ that the circulation of the blood was unknown to him. Eustachius also, whom Cuvier groups with Vesalius and Fallopius, as the three great founders of modern anatomy, wrote a treatise on the vein *azygos*⁹ which is a little treatise on comparative anatomy; but the discovery of the functions of the veins came from a different quarter.

³ *De Spiritu*, v. 1078.

⁶ *Encyc. Brit.* 692. Anatomy.

⁷ *Cuv. Sc. Nat.* p. 32.

⁴ *Spr.* i. 501.

⁵ *Leçons sur l'Hist. des Sc. Nat.* p. 21.

⁸ *Ib.* p. 34.

⁹ *Ib.* ii. 152.