

## Key people

### Surgeons

#### Ambroise Pare

Army surgeon. Made a new mixture to cauterise wounds and found it to be much more effective than hot oil. Also used Galen's methods with ligatures to tie-off wound after amputation rather than cauterise. Later helped to develop artificial limbs.

#### Andreas Vesalius

Trained at Paris and Padua. Carried out his own dissections and believed anatomy was key to understanding how the human body works.

#### John Hunter

Most famous as a teacher of anatomy and strong belief that deep wounds should be left as much as possible for nature to heal.

#### William Harvey

Discovered circulation and wrote *An anatomical account of the motion of the Heart and Blood*.

### Physicians

#### Edward Jenner

Developed vaccination for Smallpox from the Cowpox virus

#### James Lind

Discovered a cure for Scurvy (killed more sailors than war). Used Vitamin C from lime juice

#### Nicholas Culpepper

Published his *Complete Herbal* (Which is still in print today) to help ordinary people. It was written in English, not Latin.

#### Thomas Sydenham

Known as the English Hippocrates. Based his treatments on observation of the whole person and minimal intervention.

### Other notable people

#### Lady Johanna St. John

Lady of the manor who looked after local people and compiled recipes for herbal cures.

#### Leonardo Da Vinci

Artist who studied the human body and corpses to help him draw accurately. He also used dissection to see how muscles worked.

## Key words

### Anatomy

The study of the human body and how it works

### An Essay on Health and Long Life

George Cheyene published in 1724 and argued that people should take responsibility for their own health.

### Continuity

Things or ideas that stayed the same over time

### Inoculation

Introducing a mild form of disease through a small scratch on the body to make the person immune to that disease.

### Laissez-Faire

Style of government. To not interfere in peoples lives

### London Treacle

A medicine that was solve to cure the Plague. It contained herbs, spices, honey and opium

### Mortality Bill

A document in each parish in London which recorded who had died and what had killed them.

### Pesthouse

A hospital for people suffering from infectious diseases, e.g. the Plague.

### Physiology

The workings of the body

### Quack

Sold medicines fully understanding they did not do what they said they would.

### Renaissance

– this was a time of change (re-birth) when people became interested in all things Greek and Roman.

### Royal College of surgeons

Had to have a licence to practise surgery, you couldn't practise within 7 miles of London without one. Marks the start of the regulation of surgeons.

### Royal Society

A group of people interested in science who met weekly. They had a laboratory with microscopes. King Charles II was a patron.

### The King

People still believed that the King could cure diseases such as **scrofula** (a skin disease). Being touched by the King was as close as you could get to being touched by God.

### The Midwives Book

Written by Jane Sharp Combined medical knowledge with an argument that only women should be midwives

### The Printing Press

Introduced to England by William Caxton enabled the more rapid spread of ideas across Britain.

### Vaccination

Injection of a mild form of disease to give immunity to that disease

## Key events

### Causes of disease

There were some connections being made between dirt and disease. This was seen in the way the Plague was responded to. The keeping of large animals in London was banned, as was the assembly of large crowds at events such as plays.

### Treatments

During this time, there were significant scientific discoveries such as William Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood in 1628, and Anton van Leeuwenhoek's observation of bacteria in 1683. However, despite these discoveries:

- doctors still did not know that germs caused disease – until the middle of the 19th century, they blamed a 'miasma' (a bad smell)
- doctors were too expensive for most people

Many people resorted to using quack doctors (someone without real medical knowledge or qualifications).

New drugs/herbs came from newly discovered lands like America. For example, Tobacco. It was prescribed for everything from wind to snake bites. A lot of treatment was about making the room and the patient smell nice. They also continued odd superstitions like touching the King to cure Scrofula.

### Surgery

There was some progress in surgery on a 'trial-and-error' basis.

Ambroise Paré's *Treatise on Surgery* (1564) published his ideas on how surgeons should treat wounds and amputations. Paré also invented surgical instruments and the first artificial limbs. The discovery of circulation by Harvey and the increased accuracy of anatomical drawings pioneered by Vesalius increased understanding of what was inside the body. The problem was that there was no anesthetic or antiseptic. As such, death rate was still high.

### Public health

In the area of public health, however, many historians believe that conditions in Early Modern times were worse than medieval times as towns were larger.

- People did not take much care of their personal cleanliness – **Queen Elizabeth I** bathed four times a year, whether she needed it or not.
- Towns were filthy and rubbish and human waste was thrown into the streets.

However, it would be wrong to think that people did not care about dirt and disease:

- Henry VIII insisted that everyone at court was healthy, and courtiers were sent away even if they had a cold.
- Although people thought bad smells caused disease, this led them to do things which improved health – eg cesspits were cleared regularly, and housewives spent a lot of time boiling underclothes, to keep them smelling nice.
- The Government provided funding for the work of Edward Jenner. This funding pushed forward the work on vaccination. It was also the first time the government passed direct laws about people's health.

### Hospitals

There was a boom in hospital building. Five new hospitals were added to the existing 2 in London and nine more were built throughout the country. Most of these hospitals had a religious or charitable supporter behind them. It was about getting into heaven rather than actually driving medicine forward.

There was also a move towards specializing hospitals. Some focused on women and children for example. There were those who started to use hospitals as centres of learning.

