

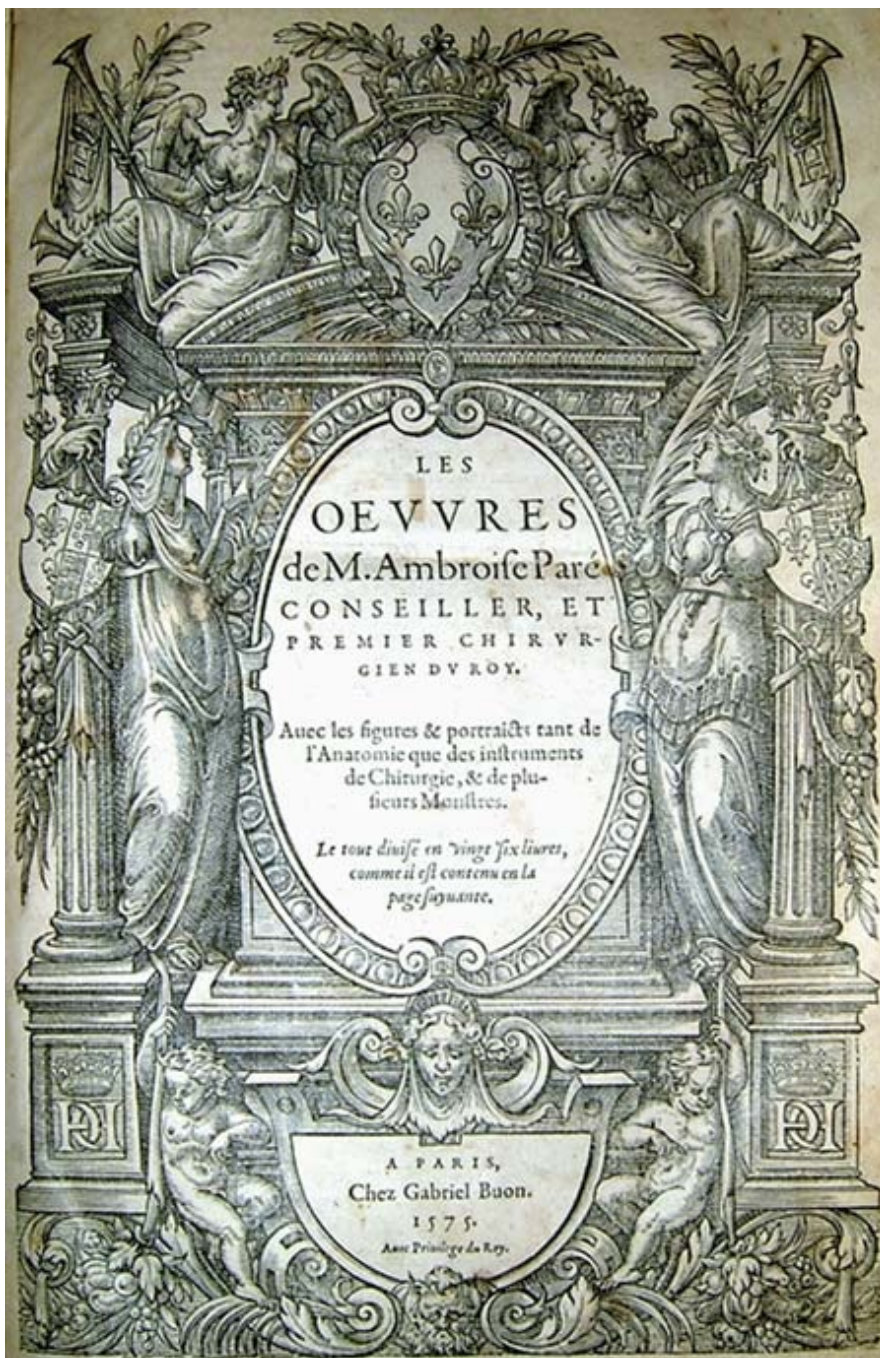
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Paré A (1575). Les oeuvres de M. Ambroise Paré conseiller, et premier chirurgien du Roy avec les figures & portraits tant de l'Anatomie que des instruments de Chirurgie, & de plusieurs Monstres..... [The works of M. Ambroise Paré, advisor, and first surgeon to the King, with figures and portraits concerning anatomy as well as surgical instruments, and several monsters] Paris: Gabriel Buon.

Title pages



The copy of the first edition of Paré's works in the Library of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, from which

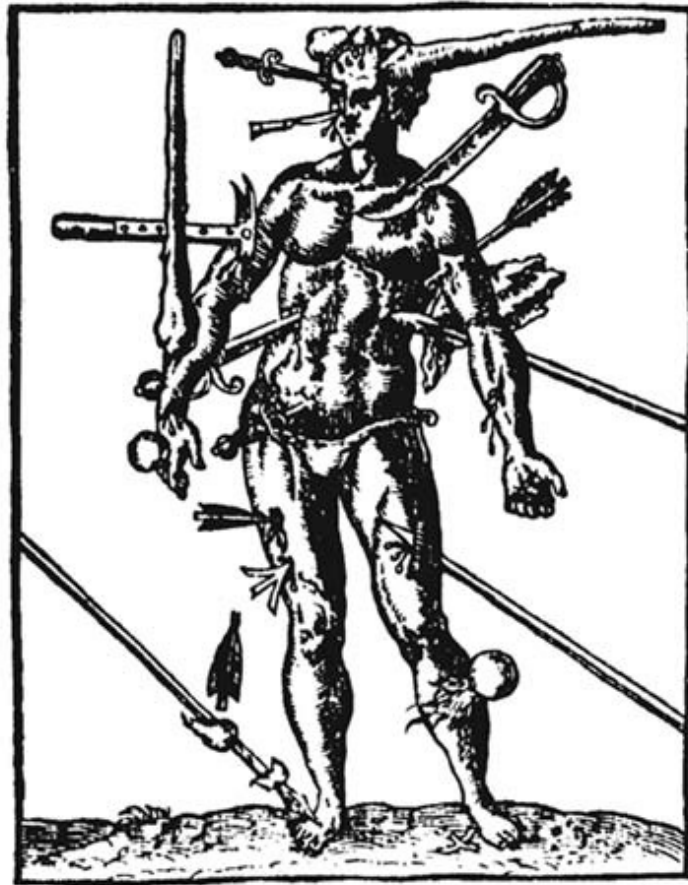
the images of the text are taken, lacks its title page. The image of the title page below is from the copy in the Alfred Taubman Medical Library at the University of Michigan and is shown here by permission of that library.

THE Method of Curing Wounds made by Gun-shot.

Also by Arrowes and Darts, with their Accidents.

Written by AMBROSE PARÉ of Laval, Counsellor and chiefe Chirurgian to the French King.

Faithfully done into English out of the French Copie, by
Walter Hamond Chirurgian.



London printed by Isaac Iaggard, and are to be sold in Barbican. 1617.

Since it was his new method of treating gunshot wounds that made his international reputation, it is not surprising that the first English translation of any of Paré's works was a version of his treatise on this subject translated by Walter Hamond, an English surgeon. Since Hamond mentions Paré's 'booke of voyages and travels' which first appeared in the 1585 edition of the Oeuvres it is clear that the translation was made from one of the French editions of the work published between 1585 and 1614. The 'man of wounds' on the title page does not appear in any of Paré's own works but versions of it appear in other works of the period on surgery. Hamond's translation is now exceedingly rare; only two copies are known and one of these is imperfect. The image below is from the copy in the Bodleian Library of the University of Oxford with whose permission it is shown here.

THE
WORKS
Of that Famous CHIRURGEON
AMBROSE PAREY,
Translated out of *Latin*, and compared with the *French*,
BY
T. H. JOHNSON:
Together with
THREE TRACTATES
Concerning the
Veins, Arteries, and Nerves:
Exemplified with large Anatomical Figures.
Translated out of **ADRIANUS SPIGELIUS.**

*Ne fallare vide, neu qua sunt parva saluti,
Veritat in exitium, non solers cura medentis.*

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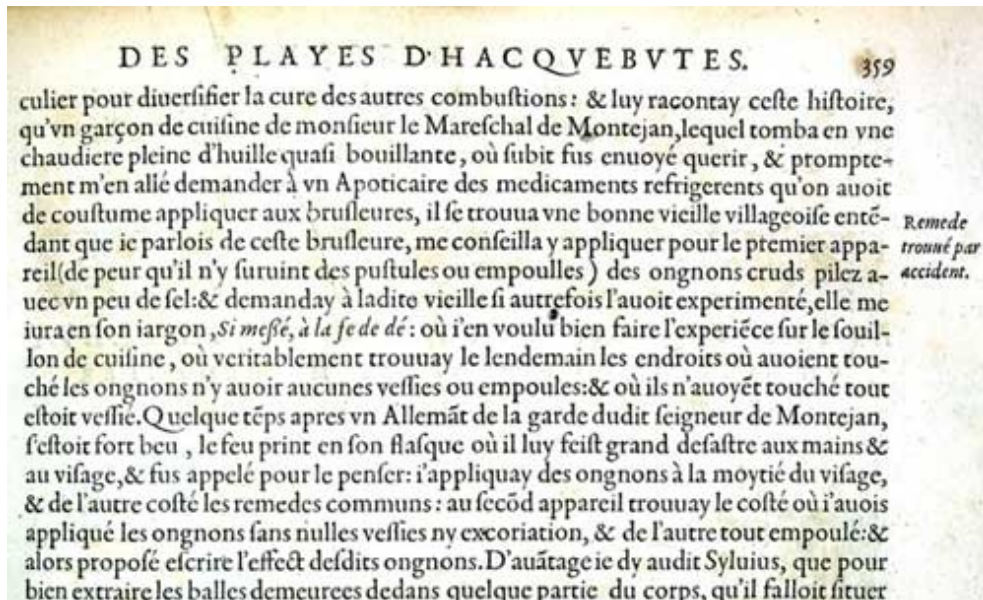


LONDON,
Printed by *Mary Clark*, and are to be sold by *John Clark* at *Mercers Chappel*
at the Lower End of *Cheapside*. MDCLXXVIII.

This translation, first published in 1634, went through a number of editions. It is unfortunate that this, the only fairly complete English edition of Paré's works, was derived from the less than perfect Latin editions; though the title claims 'compared with the French' it seems that Johnson's French was not equal to the task. In spite of this, the Jacobean English of the translation suits Paré's often racy style very well and the book is in many ways delightful, if not always very accurate. It also contains Paré's Apology and Treatise, his fascinating account of his travels and military adventures first published in the Oeuvres of 1585, translated from the French by George Baker. The image below is from the copy in the Library of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.



Key passages



Translation

.... as for burns caused by gunpowder, I have never found anything special that distinguishes their treatment from that of other burns.

I then told him [Sylvius]¹ this story about a kitchen boy of monsieur le Marshal de Montejan who fell into a cauldron of almost boiling oil. When this happened I was sent for and at once went to ask an apothecary for the refrigerant medicines that one was accustomed to apply to burns. A good old village woman, hearing that I was speaking of this burn, advised me to apply, for the first dressing, (for fear that pustules or blisters would result), raw onions crushed with a little salt; I asked the old woman if she had used this in the past and she answered, in her dialect, 'Yes, sir, by God's faith'. Then I was agreeable to trying the experiment on this kitchen scullion; and, truly, the next day, the places where the onions had been had no blisters or pustules, and where they had not been all was blistered.

Some time later a German of the guard of the said seigneur de Montejan was very drunk and his flask ² caught fire and caused great damage to his hands and face, and I was called to dress him. I applied onions to one half of his face and the usual remedies to the other. At the second dressing I found the side where I had applied the onions to have no blisters nor scarring and the other side to be all blistered; and so I planned to write about the effects of these onions.

apres pendus & estranglez sur les creneaux de la porte de la ville , à fin de donner exemple & crainte ausdits foldats imperiaux n'estre si temeraires & si fols vouloir tenir telles places contre vne si grande armee. Or tous les fufdits foldats du chasteau voyant venir nos gens d'une tresgrande furie firent tout deuoir de se defendre, tuerent & bleferent vn grand nôbre de nos foldats à coups de picques & d'haquebutes, où les Chirurgiens eurent beaucoup de besongne taillee.

Or i'estois en ce temps là bien doux de sel, parce que ie n'auois encores veu traicter les playes faites par haquebutes: il est vray que i'auois leu en Iehan de Vigo liure premier des Playes en general chap. 8. que les playes faites par bastons à feu participent de venenosité, à cause de la pouldre, & pour leur curation commande les cauteriser avec huile de sambuc, en laquelle y soit meslé vn peu de theriacque. Et pour ne faillir parauant qu'vser de ladite huile feruente, sçachant que telle chose pourroit apporter au malade extreme douleur, ie voulu sçauoir premieurement que d'en appliquer, cōme les autres Chirurgiens faisoient pour le premier appareil, qui estoit d'appliquer ladite huile la plus bouillâte qu'il leur estoit possible dedans les playes avec tentes & cetons: dont ie prins hardiesse faire comme eux: en fin mon huile me manqua, & fu contraint d'appliquer en son lieu vn digestif fait de iaune d'œuf, huile rosat & terebenthine. La nuit ie ne peu bien dormir à mô aise, pefant que par faute d'auoir cauterisé ie trouuaifse les blesez où i'auois failly à mettre de ladite huile môrts empoisonnez, qui me fist leuer de grand matin pour les visiter. Où outre mon esperance trouuay ceux auxquels i'auois mis le medicament digestif sentir peu de douleur à leurs playes sans inflammation & tumeur, ayant assez bien reposé la nuit: les autres où lon auoit appliqué ladite huile, les trouuay febricitants, avec grande douleur, & tumeur aux enuiron de leurs playes: adonc ie me delibere de ne iamais plus bruller ainsi cruellement les pauures blesez de harquebutades.

Remede
trouué par
accident.

Translation

Now, at that time I was very inexperienced because I had not yet seen the treatment of wounds made by the arquebus; it is true that I had read in the first book of Jean de Vigo³ about wounds in general, chapter 8, that wounds made by firearms are poisoned because of the powder and for their cure he commands that they be cauterized with oil of elderberry to which a little treacle⁴ should be added. Not to fail in the use of this burning oil and knowing that such treatment could be extremely painful for the wounded, I wanted to know before I used it how the other surgeons carried out the first dressing; this they did by applying the said oil as nearly boiling as possible to the wounds using tents and setons⁵ so I plucked up courage to do likewise.

At last I ran out of oil and was constrained to apply a digestive⁶ made of egg yolk, oil of roses and turpentine. That night I could not sleep easily thinking that by the default in cautery I would find the wounded to whom I had failed to apply the said oil dead of poisoning; and this made me get up at first light to visit them. Beyond my hopes I found those on whom I had put the digestive dressing feeling little pain from their wounds which were not swollen or inflamed, and having spent quite a restful night. But the others, to whom the said oil had been applied, I found fevered, with great pain and swelling around their wounds.

From then I resolved never again so cruelly to burn poor men wounded with arquebus shot.

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