HISTORY OF ORTHOPAEDICS

Great names in the history of Orthopaedics VI — Guillaume Dupuytren

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“I have been mistaken, but I have been mistaken less than other surgeons.”
Baron Guillaume Dupuytren

THE FIRST OF SURGEONS AND THE LEAST OF MEN

With a singleness of purpose, Dupuytren threw himself into the performance of his duties with enthusiasm and devotion. His patients were the recipients of his meticulous care. He made his first ward round at 6:00 AM. He was a man whom all admired, few loved, and none understood. When a duchess presented him with a hand-embroidered purse as a token of gratitude for her treatment, he replied that his fee was 5000 francs, whereupon, she smilingly removed five 1000-franc notes from the purse and returned it, saying that it now contained exactly that amount.

In 1802 he obtained the post of assistant surgeon at the famous Hotel-Dieu in Paris. Later he became Professor of Surgery at the Faculty of Medicine, and finally in 1813, the Chief Surgeon at Hotel-Dieu.

INTRODUCTION

Dupuytren was born in the obscure French village of Pierre-Bouffiere in 1777; his father was an parliamentary attorney. He had a very unusual childhood. At the age of three, he was abducted by a strange woman from Toulouse who was captivated by his “attractiveness”; fortunately his father rescued the boy in time from the fleeing stagecoach. When he was 12 years old, a cavalry officer stationed in his village offered to send the boy to Paris for further education. The parents agreed this time. These were the tumultuous years of the French Revolution. Guillaume wanted to be a soldier; but his father insisted that he would be a surgeon. As a poor medical student in Paris, he once lived on bread and cheese for six weeks; he was said to have used the fat from cadavers as oil for his reading-lamp!

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中文摘要

紀堯姆·杜甫特倫 (1777-1835)
扈國泰

杜甫特倫伯爵是十九世紀法國外科的先驅，但他在求學時代卻有一段艱辛的生活。他曾一度六個星期以麪包和乳酪充飢，並用屍體的脂肪作為讀書室的油燈！在1802年他25歲時被巴黎著名的主宮醫院取錄為外科醫師。十一年後他已升為外科主任。在該處，杜甫特倫辛勤服務30年。他從早上六時開始巡病房，一直工作至晚上7時。他全身心傾注手術及教學工作中。他首先詳細地描述了「原發性掌筋收縮」的病因及手術矯正法，因此後世稱為「杜甫特倫式收縮」。雖然他和許多出身寒微的人一樣，對人冷淡及傲慢，但他對病人卻很慷慨。據說他每年要看一萬多病人！他的金句為「我雖有失誤之處，但是我比其他外科醫生失誤要少」。杜甫特倫於1835年2月8日死於肺炎。雖然出身寒微，他的名字是法國的驕傲，亦是歐洲大陸的首名外科大師。