

or affording a single relief to suffering humanity,  
for we see that surgical cases were abandon-  
ed entirely to the care of women, and ignor-  
ant practitioners. The Priests now having the  
entire control of physic, and viewing Surgery  
as of but little consequence, and degrading to  
them, obliged their servants to attend their pat-  
ients who were the subjects of local or extern-  
al disease. These servants acted also as the barb-  
ers of the Priests, and hence the appellation and  
origin of the Barber surgeons. The barber sur-  
geons at length became very numerous, and  
of course acquired a considerable standing and  
practical tact in the performance of all the  
smaller operations: The most important of  
which was not trusted to them, but perfor-  
med by the Lay scholars of the Universities.  
By an Edict of Pope Boniface the sixth,  
at the close of the thirteenth century,  
Surgery was formally separated from ph-  
ysick. From the period just referred to, may  
be dated the separation of Medicine from Surgery.