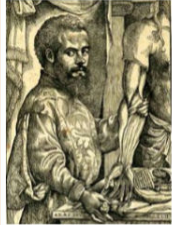


Britain: Health and the People 2. The beginnings of change.

Key individuals



Andreas Vesalius



Ambroise Paré



William Harvey



John Hunter



Edward Jenner



Thomas Sydenham

Other key people
William Clowes, Nicholas
Culpepper, Lady Mary Wortley
Montague

Impact of the Renaissance on Britain

Through careful observation and dissections Vesalius proved that some of Galen's findings were wrong. This encouraged people to question the knowledge used for 1400 years. His books inspired the work of people in England.

Paré was a surgeon who changed ideas about surgery and cauterisation. He ran out of cautery oil and used Vigo's oil of roses, egg yolk and turpentine mixture. He found they slept well and their wounds healed quickly. He also used ligatures and made false limbs.

Investigated and proved that the heart acted as a pump, that blood circulated rather than being burned up and that veins had one way valves. It was 50 years before the University of Paris taught his ideas. His discovery was not immediately useful without further scientific discovery.

Key dates

1400s	The Renaissance - a period of history when there was a 'rebirth' of ancient Greek and Roman ideas.
1525	Vigo published Of wounds in General
1543	Vesalius published The Fabric of the Human Body
1575	Paré published Works on Surgery
1588	William Clowes published Proved Practice
1628	Harvey published De Motu Cordis
1665	The Great Plague
1685	King Charles II died
1796	Edward Jenner's cowpox vaccination

Dealing with disease

King Charles was given 58 drugs some of which would have contributed to his death. Ordinary people still went to barber-surgeons, apothecaries, wise women and quacks. New medicines were being brought back on voyages of discovery. The Great Plague hit again in 1665 and there was still no cure. In the 18th century hospitals began to be built. John Hunter the scientific method and collected anatomical specimens for his collection.

Prevention of disease

Inoculation - giving a weakened form of live germs to build up immunity. It could be fatal but had been the most popular method of dealing with smallpox. Jenner had noticed that milkmaids did not get smallpox but did get cowpox. From this developed a vaccination from the latin vacca - cow. He could not explain his findings scientifically so his ideas were not embedded until a £10,000 research grant from parliament in 1802. In 1853 vaccination was compulsory.

KEY VOCABULARY/TERMS

Renaissance, anatomy, blood, illustrations, Barber-Surgeons, bec de corbin, cauterisation, ligature, surgery, amputation, oil of roses, egg yolk, turpentine, circulation, arteries, veins, valves, quack, purgative, emetic, enema, Great Plague, watchmen, searchers, quarantined, epidemic, leeches, poisoned air, apothecary, hospitals, dispensary, specimens.