

clopedias of the existing knowledge of nature, and celebrities like Boerhaave, Linnæus, and Haller in more modern times have been the living centres of all the natural sciences. The same uniting bond has not been wanting in our century, when it has again, as many times before, manifested its powerful influence, has brought together researches which were on the point of falling asunder, and infused new life and interest into the driest of studies. As I have had occasion to remark above, the modern school of medicine originated in the attempt—begun by Lavoisier in France, but carried out on the largest scale in the chemical and physiological laboratories of Germany—of making the new discoveries in physical science and chemistry fruitful for medical purposes and the treatment of pathological cases. The discovery of galvanism gave probably the earliest impetus, and was, to the discredit of an exacter treatment, largely misused in the earlier part of the century, till Du Bois Reymond, in the middle of the period, based his elaborate researches on more correct methods, and created nearly all the knowledge we now possess of the electrical currents in the nervous system. Somewhat earlier, Liebig led the study of the phenomena of animal heat and of the food relations of the animal and vegetable kingdom; the brothers Weber had introduced dynamics into the theory of the motion of the heart and the limbs; whilst Johannes Müller and his numerous school about the same time laid the foundations of physiological and pathological acoustics and optics. Quite independently of these applications of the mechanical and physical sciences, which led some over-hastily to imagine that in the doctrine of the

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Physical  
science  
applied to  
medicine.