In the middle of the sixteenth-century under the direct influence of Vesalius's works there arose in Spain a movement devoted to the renewal of anatomical knowledge. It was one of the initial forces in the spread of the Vesalian reform, but in spite of that it has been almost completely ignored by specialized historical research. The purpose of this article is to provide a general study of the movement with special emphasis on the conditions which determined its development.

In the first place I should make it clear that the renewal in question did not arise from the relationship that Vesalius maintained throughout his life with Spanish anatomists. R. R. von Toeply, "Geschichte der Anatomic," in Handbuch der Medizin, ed. M. Neuburger and J. Pagel, vol. II (Jena: G. Fischer, 1903), made an exceptional effort and summarized the information then available. Recently, G. Wolf-Heidegger and A. M. Cetto, Die Anatomische Sektion in bildlicher Darstellung (Basel and New York: S. Karger, 1967) have limited themselves to offering a resumen of what he wrote.

A similar tendency is detectable in the abundant literature devoted to Vesalius and his influence. A work of such importance as H. Cushing, A Bio-Bibliography of Andreas Vesalius, 2nd ed. (London: Archon, 1962), while supplying details of the editions of Valverde's treatise, ignores the "Vesalian" publications that appeared in Spain itself, with the exception of two second-hand references taken from A. Hernández Morejón, Historia bibliográfica de la medicina española, 7 vols. (Madrid: Jordán, 1842-1852).

For years, C. D. O'Malley's attitude was similar to that of Cushing, as is reflected in his great monograph on Vesalius, Andreas Vesalius of Brussels, 1514-1564 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1964). But after discovering the principal Spanish sources, he was the first to offer an outline of Spanish anatomy in the sixteenth century in the context of European medicine of the time. See O'Malley, "Pedro Jimeno: Valencian Anatomist of the Mid-Sixteenth Century," in Science, Medicine, and Society: Essays to Honor Walter Pagel, ed. A. G. Debus (London: Heinemann, 1972), pp. 69-72; and "Los saberes morfológicos en el renacimiento: La anatomía," in Historia universal de la medicina, ed. Pedro Lain Entralgo, IV (Barcelona: Salvat, 1973), 43-77.
his life with numerous Spanish physicians,² nor from his sojourn in the Court of Philip II between 1559 and 1564. As we shall see, the Spanish Vesalian movement belongs chronologically to the decade prior to Vesalius's Spanish period. Furthermore, the great anatomist's presence in Spain did not affect the movement's later evolution.

The circumstances surrounding Vesalius's stay in Spain help to explain this apparently surprising fact. He lived at the Court and not in the university centers, where his anatomical theories were taught and his followers and admirers were to be found. In Madrid, furthermore, he was to suffer the professional jealousy aroused by his scientific fame and the great esteem in which he was held by the monarch, in addition to the hostility the Flemish aroused among the Spanish courtiers during the reign of Charles I of Spain and V of Germany.³ In all, the Madrid court did not provide Vesalius with either the appropriate ambiance or the minimum means required for anatomical investigation, as Vesalius himself states in the well-known text of his *Anatomicarum Gabrieleis Falloppii observationem examen*, written at the end of 1561.⁴

The Spanish Vesalian movement must be placed in another historical context and be seen as very much a part of the close relations which the Crown of Aragon had been maintaining with the leading medical and university centers of Italy since the early Middle Ages. It was owing to these relations that the regular practice of the dissection of human corpses became widespread in Aragon throughout the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. At Montpellier — the great medical school of the Crown of Aragon, then at its height — practical anatomical studies were introduced by the statutes of 1340. An important role in its actual development a quarter of a century later was played by the Valencian physician Francisco Cunill, whose post as professor at Montpellier did not prevent him from keeping closely in touch with the city of his birth and with Barcelona, as Arnau de Vilanova had done before him. At later dates the dissection of human cadavers was regulated at the University

