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The history of prosthetics date back to the Egyptian dynasty. The earliest recorded artificial limbs were around 500 BC. It was written that a prisoner who took his own foot to escape and later replaced it with a wooden substitute to walk to the nearest town.

During the dark ages, prosthetics didn't make much advancement except for the hand hook and peg leg. Prosthetics during this time were more for show rather than to better ones life. Only the rich had prosthetics that could assist them.

In 1529, amputation was introduced by Ambroise Pare, a French surgeon. He began scientifically experimenting with prosthetic limbs and developed of artificial limbs for the elbow and arm. Considered the father of modern prosthetics, he made contributions to the leg prosthesis. It had an adjustable harness and knee lock which are still used in today's models. Others such as Gotz von Berlichengen contributed to the development by creating the first prosthetic that could move at the joints. Prosthetics were being made of iron, steel, copper and wood.

One of the biggest contributions to the development of prosthetics was from a man named Pieter Verduyn. He developed the first non-locking below knee prosthesis. It was basically the blueprint for the current joint. "In 1800, a Londoner, James Potts, designed a prosthesis made of a wooden shank and socket, a steel knee joint and an articulated foot that was controlled by catgut tendons from the knee to the ankle". (Norton)

The biggest advancement in the development of prosthetics was the addition of the suction sock for the above knee purposes.

The only problem was that because the prosthetics were made of steel and iron, it was heavy and didn't function as well as it was supposed to until aluminum was introduced as an idea by Gustav Hermann. The use of aluminum wasn't official until 1912.

As a result of the Civil War, the amount of amputations rose therefore opening the field of prosthetics. The advancement of prosthetics came about with the advancement of technology. The American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association or AOPA was created in order improve the lives of those using artificial limbs.

Each prosthetic now is specifically designed for a certain function. There are ones used for walking and the others used for running. This makes it possible for those with artificial limbs to take part in activities and it also makes their lives easier.

Works Cited

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