

A fair exposition of allopathy : or the pathological system of medicine, with its kindred systems and branches / by Alva Curtis.

Contributors

Curtis, Alva, 1797-1881.
National Library of Medicine (U.S.)

Publication/Creation

Cincinnati : Campbell & Miller, 1850.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/vgza867n>

License and attribution

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by the National Library of Medicine (U.S.), through the Medical Heritage Library. The original may be consulted at the National Library of Medicine (U.S.) where the originals may be consulted.

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

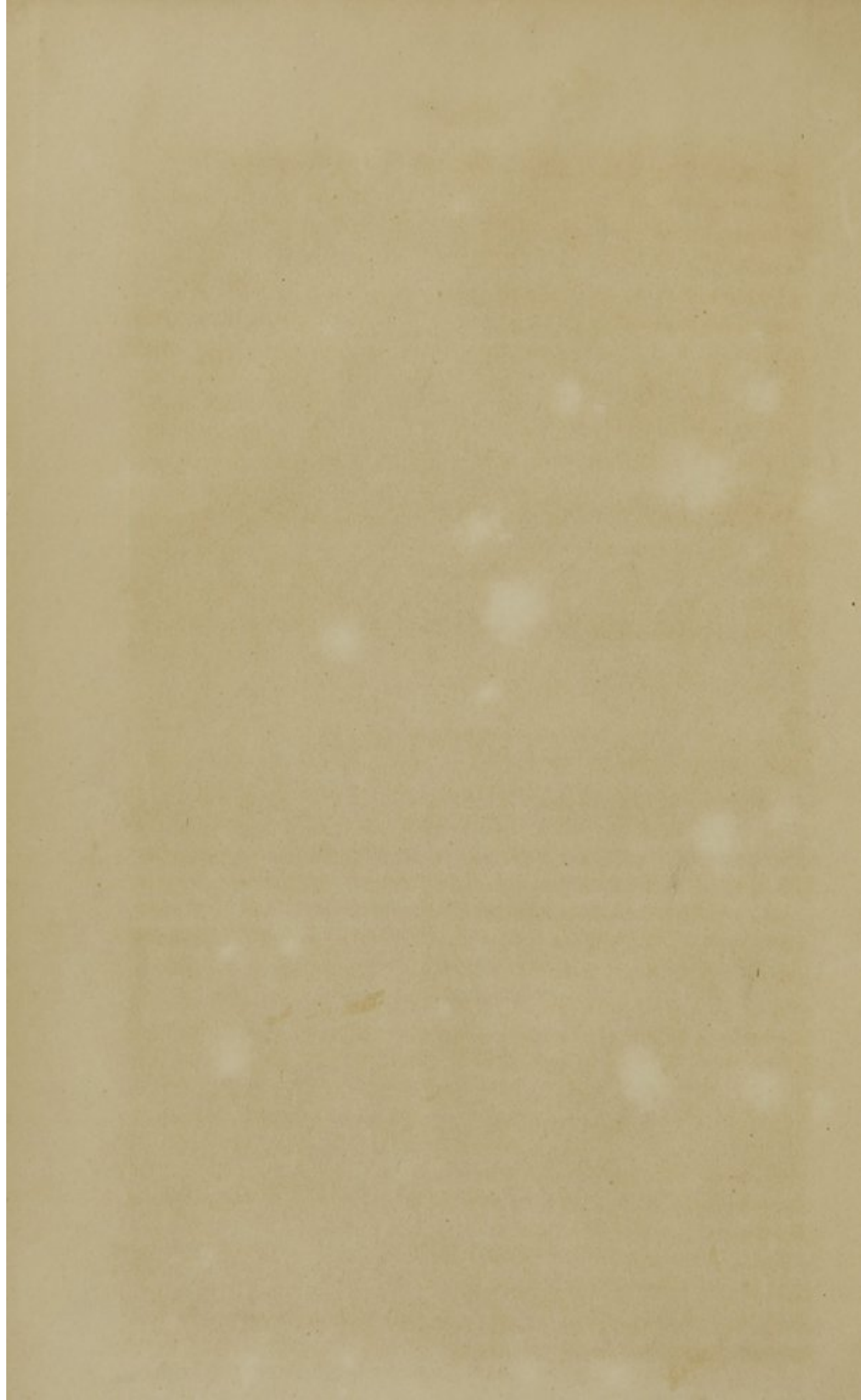
You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

WBJ
C978fa
1850





213

A
FAIR EXPOSITION
OF
A L L O P A T H Y ;
OR
THE PATHOLOGICAL SYSTEM OF MEDICINE,
WITH ITS
KINDRED SYSTEMS AND BRANCHES,

BY
ALVA CURTIS, M. D

FOUNDER OF THE FIRST PHYSIO-MEDICAL COLLEGE IN THE WORLD
VIZ: THE BOTANICO-MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO; FOR FOURTEEN
YEARS PRESIDENT OF ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND ITS PROFESSOR
OF THE INSTITUTES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE; AUTHOR
OF "A SYNOPSIS OF LECTURES ON MEDICAL SCIENCE," OF "LECTURES
ON OBSTETRICS," AND FOR FOURTEEN YEARS EDITOR OF
THE B. M. OR PHYSIO-MEDICAL RECORDER.

"Medicine is an incoherent assemblage of incoherent ideas, and is, perhaps, of all the
physiological Sciences, that which best shows the caprice of the human mind. What did e
pay? It is not a Science for a methodical mind. It is a shapeless assemblage of inaccurat,
ideas, of observations often puerile, of deceptive remedies, and of formulæ as fantastically
conceived as they are tediously arranged."—*Bichat's General Anatomy*, vol. 1, page 17.

"Absurdity, contradiction and falsehood."—*Chapman's Therapeutic's*, vol. 1, page 47.

"Ineffectual speculation."—*Bigelow, Annual Address* 1835.

"Learned quackery."—*Waterhouse, letter to Mitchell*.

The Science of guessing." "The art of conjecturing."—*Abercrombie Intel. Pow.* p. 293.

CINCINNATI.

Printed for the author, by CAMPBELL & MILLER.

1850.

Gen'l's Office
LIBRARY
21647
Washington D.C.

WBJ

C978fa

1850

Film No. 6419, no. 6

Copy Right secured, in the Southern District of Ohio, according to Law.

P R E F A C E .

The object of a preface is to give some account of, or reasons for, the production that follows, or the author's motives for its publication. Ever since the true science of medicine was shadowed forth, by DR. SAMUEL THOMSON and other pioneers of reform, a constant crusade has been kept up against it by interested men, in the hope of rendering its doctrines and practices ridiculous and unpopular, and thus preventing that thorough regeneration of this noble science, which would greatly mitigate our sufferings, prolong our lives and multiply our pleasures. I say, by interested men, those who, having studied long and carefully the various systems of error, and found them honorable and profitable in practice, and have been therefore unwilling to acknowledge their errors and the worthlessness of their labors, to give them up for truth; and to perform more labor for less profit, for the cause of science and humanity.

Many friends of reform, and practitioners and teachers of medicine, have done what they could to develop its principles and illustrate its practice; but no one has yet attempted to furnish a full and safe defense of it, against the attacks of its enemies—especially has no one ventured to branch out from his own fortress of defense, and attack the enemy on the high seas of his own crazy craft, and to drive him into the whirlpools and the certain destruction into which he would gladly persuade us that we are most rapidly tending. Yet such a work is very much needed, and, though very conscious that his talents, his time and his circumstances all fall short of the magnitude and importance of the undertaking, the author has resolved to do what he can, in this hitherto little cultivated field; in the hope that it will be useful to philanthropists of every character, grade and condition in life, till something better shall come forth to take its place.

It is well known that the author has had a very large experience in the work of defending the cause of truth, science and humanity, and developing the true principles of medical science. And he hopes to be better able to fulfil any expectations that may arise in other minds from this knowledge, than to satisfy himself that he has done all that he might have done under more favorable circumstances.

The subjects to be discussed are the following :—

1st. Medicine as it is in the fashionable schools.

2d. Medicine as it should be.

3d. The contrast between them.

4th. The answer to the questions, what is science and what is quackery, and where may each be found.

He will occupy as much space in treating on these subjects, as his time and circumstances may admit, and his judgment may deem advisable, in consideration of what has been done and what is still needed.

INTRODUCTION.

To a powerful and well disciplined mind, thoroughly acquainted with the truths and facts of the case, it is both painful and disheartening, to perceive how extensively a few comparatively obscure men of moderate talent and little information or less discrimination and candor, have succeeded in persuading a large majority of the talented, intelligent and refined of the community, even of the professions of Religion and Law; of the Statesmen, Philosophers, Philanthropists and men of every trade or occupation, and even thousands of their own profession, to believe that the allopathic system of medicine, is based on the solid principles of science, and that its practice is worthy of the dignified title of an art, when, in fact, there can scarcely be found, in the whole ranks of the profession, in ancient or in modern times, a single man distinguished for his talents, his education, his accurate discrimination, his candor, honor and humanity, who has sincerely believed its doctrines, or placed any confidence in its practices. On the contrary, the most of them have publicly denounced its leading doctrines, as a system of "absurdity, contradiction and falsehood," and its practices as "horrid, unwarrantable, murderous quackery."—Professor N. Chapman.

Did the doctrines of allopathy work only the profit of the deceivers, we might, to some extent, excuse it; but, when it is demonstrated, that the practice daily and hourly works out the life long ruin of the poor, frail, mortal bodies of thousands and tens of thousands of our citizens, causing them to "drag out a few years of miserable existence in extreme debility and emaciation, with stiff incurvated limbs, a total loss of teeth and appetite," "a loathing to themselves and a disgusting spectacle to those around them;" while, with its millions of victims of premature destruction, it peoples, yearly, the dark and silent regions of the dead, our sorrow and chagrin at the deception are turned into deep lamentation, disgust and abhorrence; and we are constrained to exclaim—"By what unaccountable perversity of our nature" is it that we can be so wicked as thus to deceive, others, or so blind and stupid as to be deceived, in such a manner, to our own or their destruction!

Another of the **strangest** phenomena which the operations of the universe present to the contemplation of admiring man, is the fact that **TRUTH AND LOVE**, or Science and Benevolence, though the brightest angels that ever left the throne of God, on an errand of mercy to poor, ignorant and selfish man; have ever, as a general rule, met the strongest opposition and the most ungrateful treatment, from the very persons whom they have so generously endeavored to enlighten, to refine and to bless. Such angels are the truths that have heralded true medical reform, and such have been the opposition, slander and abuse they have experienced. Yet I hope that none will be startled at the assertion I now make, that nothing is easier than to prove, by the most abundant and appropriate testimony, by the most indubitable facts, logical deductions and tabular results, that this allopathic system is the most erroneous, absurd, dangerous and destructive system of quackery, and its practice the most wicked as well as the most specious humbug, that the world has ever known; and that the very attempt to convince us that its principles constitute a solid science, or its practices a noble art, is an impudent insult to our understandings, or morals, as it supposes us either ignoramuses, simpletons or knaves.

To demonstrate these propositions, will be the object of so many pages of this work, as I may deem necessary or desirable.

The subject will be systematically and scientifically treated under the following heads:—

- CHAPTER. 1. Proof that Allopathy is not a Science.
 “ 2. Proof that its practice is not an Art.
 “ 3. Proof that its fundamental doctrines are false.
 “ 4. Proof that its particular practices are injurious.
 “ 5. The character and tendency of its principles.
 “ 6. The character and tendency of its remedies.
 “ 7. What is true Science?
 “ 8. What is quackery?
 “ 9. Where may each be found.

This part of the Cyclopedia, will be neatly printed on fine paper, stitched and covered, and will contain about 200 pages, and be sent to subscribers by mail. Price \$1 in advance. Every sixth copy awarded to postmasters and others, who send us five dollars, post free or paid, with the names and offices to which we shall direct them.

EXPOSITION, &c'

CHAPTER I.

General Denunciations of Medicine as a Science.

DR. J. ABERCROMBIE, Fellow of the Royal Society of England, of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburg, and first Physician to his Majesty in Scotland, says:—

1. "There has been much difference of opinion among philosophers, in regard to the place which medicine is entitled to hold among the physical sciences; for, while one has maintained that it 'rests upon an eternal basis, and has within it the power of rising to perfection,' another has distinctly asserted that 'almost the only resource of medicine is the art of conjecturing.'"—Intel. Pow., p. 293.

DR. JOHN EBERLE, Professor successively in Philadelphia, New York, Cincinnati and Lexington, Ky.; says, of the fashionable theories of medicine:—

2. "The judicious and unprejudiced physician will neither condemn nor adopt unreservedly any of the leading doctrines advanced in modern times."—Pref. to Prac., page 1.

That is, not a tyro, mark it, but "the judicious and unprejudiced physician," the man who is best instructed in them, and the most capable of distinguishing between truth and falsehood, even such a man is not certain whether, not a few wild notions of some idle theorist, but "the leading doctrines," the fundamental principles of modern medicine, are right or wrong! Shade of Dr. Eberle! you surely will not haunt me for trying to determine this unsettled question!

The "*New York Medical Enquirer*," commenced in January 1830, the name of which was changed, in July following to the American Lancet, published in the city of New York, and conducted by an association of Physicians and Surgeons." Vol. 1. No. 1. Advertisement, says:—

3. "If we take a retrospective view of the science of Medicine with its alterations and improvement in the last two centuries, the medical annals of this period will present us with a series of learned dissertations by authors whose names alone are now remembered, while their writings, under the specious term *improvement*, have left us only the deplorable consolation of knowing that their works have heaped system upon system, precept upon precept, error upon error, each in turn yielding to its follower. Year after year produces a new advocate for a new theory of disease, each condemning its predecessor, and each alike to be condemned by its successor.

"Happy had it been for the world, if the medical systems which have been obtruded upon it, were only chargeable with inutility, absurdity and falsehood. But alas! they have often misled the understanding, perverted the judgment, and given rise to the most dangerous and fatal errors in practice.—A short view of the history of physic will convince us of this melancholy truth.

"We wish a more rational mode adopted for the promotion of medical knowledge, than hair-brained theories and doubtful facts. Observation, practice and experience, in the administration of medicine, with its effects on the system, may take the lead of scholastic learning and hard names. We must have facts instead of opinions, reasons instead of theory, knowledge instead of titles and certificates.

The following is the declaration of Bichat, one of the greatest of French Pathologists:—

4. "Medicine is an incoherent assemblage of incoherent ideas, and is, perhaps, of all the physiological Sciences, that which best shows the caprice of the human mind. What did I say? It is not a Science for a methodical mind. It is a shapeless assemblage of inaccurate ideas, of observations often puerile, of deceptive remedies, and of formulæ as fantastically conceived as they are tediously arranged."—Bichat. General Anatomy, vol. 1, page 17.

"DR. L. M. WHITING, in a Dissertation at an annual commencement in Pittsfield, Mass., said:—

5. "The very principles upon which most of what are called the theories involving medical questions, have been based, were never *established*. They are and always were false, and consequently, the superstructures built upon them were as 'the baseless fabric of a vision'—transient in their existence—passing away upon the introduction of new doctrines and hypotheses, like the dew before the morning sun."—B. M. & S. Journal., vol. 14, page 183.

"Speculation has been the garb in which medicine has been arrayed, from that remote period when it was rocked in the cradle of its infancy, by the Egyptian priesthood, down to the present day; its texture varying, to be sure, according to the power and skill of the manufacturer, from the delicate, fine-spun, gossamer-like web of Darwin, to the more gross, uneven and unwieldy fabric of Hunter; its hue also changing by being dipped in different dyes as often as it has become soiled by time and exposure. And what has been the consequence? System after system has arisen, flourished, fallen and been forgotten, in rapid and melancholy succession, until the whole field is strewn with the disjointed materials in perfect chaos—and, amongst the rubbish, the philosophic mind may search for ages, without being able to glean from it hardly *one solitary well established fact*.

"If this is a true statement of the case, (and let him who doubts take up the history of medicine;) if that enormous mass of matter which has been, time out of mind accumulating, and which has been christened Medical *Science*, is, in fact, nothing but hypothesis piled on hypothesis; who is there among us that would not exult in seeing it swept away at once by the besom of destruction?"—Ib. page 187-8.

5. Professor Jacob Bigelow, of the Medical department of Harvard University, says :—

“Medicine in regard to some of its professed and important objects [the cure of disease] is still an ineffectual speculation.”—Annual address before the Massachusetts Medical Society, 1835.

6. DR. RUSH, in his lectures in the University of Pa. says :—

“I am insensibly led to make an apology for the instability of the theories and practices of physic. Those physicians generally become the most eminent, who soonest *emancipate* themselves from the tyranny of the schools of physic. Our want of success is owing to the following causes : 1st. our ignorance of the disease. 2d. Our ignorance of a suitable remedy.”—Page 79.

7. DR. CHAPMAN, Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic in the University of Pennsylvania, remarks :—

“Consulting the records of our Science, we cannot help being disgusted with the multitude of hypotheses obtruded upon us at different times. No where is the imagination displayed to greater extent ; and, perhaps so ample an exhibition of human invention might gratify our vanity, if it were not more than counterbalanced by the humiliating view of so much absurdity, contradiction and falsehood.”—Therapeutics, vol. 1, page 47.

“To harmonize the contrarieties of medical doctrines, is, indeed a task as impracticable as to arrange the fleeting vapors around us, or to reconcile the fixed and repulsive antipathies of nature.”—*Ib.*, page 23.

8. DR. GREGORY, of London, in his Practice, page 31, says :—

“All the vagaries of Medical Theory, like the absurdities once advanced to explain the nature of gravitation, from Hippocrates to Broussais, have been believed to be sufficient to explain the phenomena, [of disease,] yet they have all proved unsatisfactory.

“The Science of medicine has been cultivated more than two thousand years. The most devoted industry and the greatest talents have been exercised upon it ; and, though there have been great improvements, and there is much to be remembered, yet upon no subject have the wild spirit and the eccentric dispositions of the imagination been more widely displayed. * * Men of extensive fame, glory in pretending to see deeper into the recesses of nature than nature herself ever intended ; they invent hypotheses, they build theories and distort facts to suit their ærial creations. The celebrity of many of the most prominent characters of the last century, will, ere long, be discovered only in the libraries of the curious, and recollected only by the learned.”—Page 29.

I must here add that Dr. Gregory's statements respecting medical theories, are endorsed by his American editors, Professor Potter, of the University of Maryland, and S. Calhoun, M. D., Professor in Jefferson Medical College, Pennsylvania. They are therefore sanctioned by the famous school of Baltimore, which disputes with the Pennsylvanian, for the honor of being ranked the first in the United States.

9. PROFESSOR JACKSON, of the University of Pennsylvania, tells us, in the preface to his "Principles of Medicine," page 1, that—

"The discovery of new facts, has shed a light which has changed the whole aspect of Medical Science, and the works which have served as guides, are impaired in importance and value; they lead astray from the direction in which the Science progresses, and new ones are demanded, to supply the position in which they become faulty.

"The want of a treatise on the Practice of Medicine, in the room of those usually placed in the hands of students and young practitioners, had long been felt." * * "At first I contemplated merely a practical book, compiled in the usual manner, founded on the experience of preceding writers, compared with, and corrected and extended by my own. I had made a considerable progress in this method, when I was arrested by the conviction that it was essentially defective; that it did not meet the spirit of the age; that it did not answer the purposes of a rational instruction; that it did not supply the deficiency I had felt to exist in the commencement of my profession; that it had been followed in a servile spirit, from the remotest eras of the Science, and is, most probably, the cause that, after so long a period after its cultivation, its practice still continues of uncertain and doubtful application."

He therefore strikes out an entirely new path, and writes a large book which is no sooner out of the press than Dr. J. V. C. Smith, of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, pounces upon it with a severity almost equal to that of Dr. Pattison upon Broussais. So they go.

10. Menzel, in his specimens of Foreign Lit. and Science, says:—

"The Science of Medicine enjoys an immeasurable literature, which, unhappily has not yet been able to be collected into a Bible. It numbers creeds and sects enough; and, as Theological parties finally come together in faith, Medical parties unite at the most in unbelief."—Menzel's German Literature, vol. II, page 223.

"The history of Medicine, which has been most thoroughly written by Court Sprengel, furnishes a melancholy proof how much the human race have been always groping about in error, upon one of the most important subjects to them. We need but compare the systems of the most celebrated and best known physicians, to discover, every where, contradictions of the grossest kind. What one derives from the fluids another explains from the solids; what one wants to cure with heat, another does with cold; where an opposite is recommended by one, a remedy similar to the [cause of the] disease, is recommended by another. If one wants to cure the body by the mind, another wants to cure the mind by the body.

"But, if it is asked how all these strangely, contradictory systems could have come into being, the answer is almost always to be found in the prevailing fashion of the times, which, originally had nothing whatever to do with medicine."—Ib. page 226.

Thus,—“The age of vapors, of coquetish fainting fits, interesting paleness and the like,”—“was the golden age of the doctors and apothecaries, and mankind were obliged to let blood after Stahl; to

vomit after Hoffman; to purge after Kampf; and exhaust deep alembics after prescriptions a yard long, full of every stench of the old world and the new, in order to go back again finally to Helmont's theory, that the real seat of disease was the stomach disordered by "ctoring."—lb. page 230-281. See the whole article.

11. Medicine is still in its infancy, M. Louis, see Paine's Commentary, page 331,2.

"Men have for ages devoted themselves to therapeutics, and the *Science* is still in its infancy"—"Physicians scarcely agree except on points which are admitted without any examination, or as established by long usage which has nothing to recommend it but time."—"The reader will be astonished, undoubtedly, that, in the nineteenth century, *authority* could have been invoked in a Science of observation, without remarking that what we call experience, *even now*, is nothing but authority!"—"In fact, to what authorities do those most celebrated for the wisdom of their precepts, refer, unless it be to the practice of their predecessors?"—"If the experience so justly scorned by Quesnay, is an uncertain guide in practice, it is because it possesses nothing of true experience; but the reverse; because it is, in truth, only the common usage, not justified by rigorous observation."—"The pretended experience of authors is worth nothing, and, after all their assertions and denials, we are no further advanced than before; the experience to which he refers, is evidently tradition, custom, common belief,—an almost worthless thing,—a compound of vague recollections."

C. Hering, in his Introduction to Hahneman's Organon, says:—

"Innumerable opinions of the nature and cure of diseases, have successively been promulgated; each [author] distinguishing his own Theory by the title of *System*, though directly at variance with every other, and inconsistent with itself. Each of these refined productions dazzled the reader at first with its unintelligible display of wisdom, and attached to the system-builder crowds of adherents, echoing his unnatural sophistry; but, from which none of them could derive any improvement in the art of healing, until a new system, frequently in direct opposition to the former, appeared, supplanting it, and, for a season acquiring celebrity. Yet none were in harmony with nature for experience,—mere theories spread out of a refined imagination, from apparent consequences, which, on account of their subtilty and contradictions, were practically inapplicable at the bed side of the patient, and fitted only for idle disputation.

"By the side of these theories, but unreconciled with them all, a mode of cure was contrived, with medicinal substances of unknown quality compounded together, applied to diseases arbitrarily classified, and arranged in reference to their materiality, called *Allopathic*.—The pernicious results of such a practice, at variance with nature and experience, may be easily imagined."—Page 25, 26.

12. This author is one of the most distinguished disciples of Hahnemann, and advocates of Homœopathy, and yet he says, page 17.

"For myself I am generally considered as a disciple and adherent of Hahnemann, and I do indeed declare, that I am one amongst the

most enthusiastic in doing homage to his greatness, but nevertheless I declare also, that, since my first acquaintance with Homœopathy (in 1821,) I have never accepted a single theory in the Organon, as it is there promulgated. I feel no aversion to acknowledge this, even to the venerable sage himself."

13. D'ALEMBERT.—"The following apologue," says D'Alembert, "made by a physician, a man of wit and philosophy, represents very well the state of that science." "Nature is fighting with disease; a blind man armed with a club, that is, a physician, comes to settle the difference. He first tries to make peace. When he cannot accomplish this, he lifts his club and strikes at random. If he strikes the disease, he kills the disease; if he strikes nature, he kills nature." "An eminent physician," says the same writer, "renouncing a practice which he had exercised for thirty years, said, 'I am weary of guessing.'"—Abercrombie, *Intel. Pow.*, page 293.

DR. ABERCROMBIE says:—

"The uncertainty of medicine, which is thus a theme for the philosopher and the humorist, is deeply felt by the practical physician in the daily exercise of his art."—*Intel. Pow.*, page 293.

14. DR. JAMES GRAHAM, the celebrated Medico-Electrician of London, says of Medicine:—

"It hath been very rich in theory, but poor, very poor in the practical application of it. Indeed, the tinsel glitter of fine spun theory, of favorite hypothesis, which prevails wherever medicine hath been taught, so dazzles, flatters, and charms human vanity and folly, that, so far from contributing to the certain and speedy cure of diseases, it hath, in every age, proved the bane and disgrace of the healing art."—Graham's *Electric remedies*, page 15.

The following is the testimony of Dr's Brown and Donaldson, who were educated in Edinburg, Scotland, then called the Medical Athens of the world, a school to which physicians from every country lately went to finish their education:—

15. DR. BROWN, who studied under the famous Dr. Wm. Cullen, of Edinburg, lived in his family and lectured on his system, (a system that has had as many advocates and practitioners as any other of modern times,) says, in his preface to his own work, "The author of this work has spent more than twenty years in learning, scrutenizing and teaching every part of medicine. The first five years passed away in hearing others, in studying what I had heard, implicitly believing it, and entering upon the possession as a rich inheritance.—The next five, I was employed in explaining and refining the several particulars, and bestowing on them a nicer polish. During the five succeeding years, nothing having prospered according to my satisfaction, I grew indifferent to the subject; and, with many eminent men, and even the very vulgar, began to deplore the healing art, as altogether uncertain and incomprehensible. All this time passed away without the acquisition of any advantage, and without that which, of all things, is the most agreeable to the mind, *the light of truth*; and so great and precious a portion of the short and perishable life of man,

was totally lost! Here I was, at this period, in the situation of a traveler in an unknown country, who, after losing every trace of his way, wanders in the shades of night."

I would here remark, once for all, that I do not always agree with the authors in all the sentiments quoted. I receive no man's mere opinions as infallibly true, till I have demonstrated them by evidences that will not admit of a doubt. For example, I cannot admit with Dr. Brown, that he "had spent all that time without the acquisition of any advantage." He had discovered many a valuable fact for future use. If he had not learned, directly, what medicine was, he had discovered, indirectly, what it was not; and thus narrowed the limits of his fruitless researches, as well as stored up experience as the foundation of his future medical philosophy.

Testimony of DR. DONALDSON, a Scotch Physician of high repute.

16. "I was educated in the Gregorian doctrines of the Edinburgh school of medicine. I was taught the theory of medicine as delivered in his *Conspectus*, and was exercised in the Cullenian discipline, divested of all his hypothetical errors of spasm and atony of the extremities of arteries. I learned all the branches of the medical science under the distinguished and erudite professors of the most celebrated university and school of medicine in the world, I always embraced plausible truths, and rejected visible errors, in theory and practice.—I admitted doubtful hypotheses to have no place in my mind, to influence my future practice. Even during my discipleship, I thought for myself, and digested their instructions with an unfettered and independent judgment and reasoning, and I had no sooner completed my studies of the theoretical and practical science of medicine, and other branches of learning, in the College of Edinburgh, than I repaired to the schools of London, so famous for anatomy and physiology.

Having finished my intended course in the metropolis of the British empire, I launched into practice, under the auspices of a real imitator of the Edinburgh school, and a follower of Clarke, Lind, Thomas, &c., and soon had ample opportunities of witnessing the great insufficiencies of the medical practice of the present day, in the hands of the most skilful administrators and practitioners. In this situation I soon had occasions to dissent from the doctrines of the schools, but years elapsed before I could bring myself to deviate from the practice which they, and the most esteemed authors, taught in their instructions and works. I hesitated in the old road until I should discover a new way by experience and observation to keep me from stumbling on the dark mountains of doubts and errors. I consulted all the most celebrated writings of ancient and modern physicians; I searched for light in vain, to direct my steps.

During my travels in the East Indies, in the years 1810, '11, '14, '15 and '16, I had many opportunities of trying every method of curing diseases of all descriptions, and of proving the virtues and efficacies of all remedies commonly employed by practitioners, as well as of making all necessary alterations in former modes of treatment, and

in the choice of remedies. Fevers, fluxes, inflammations, affections of the spleen and liver, apoplexies, palsies, spasms, &c., were the great diseases that attracted my attention, being under my own care and treatment in those warm regions, and I was extremely mortified to find all my remedies ineffectual to reduce inflammation or subdue many of those diseases, by the common method of treatment; and my pride was humbled at the repeated disappointments I encountered, in being baffled to cure them with the common remedies, carried to the same extent, and administered with the same diligence, as recommended in books, or by professors of medicine; I administered purges, barks and wine, with the utmost rigor, in all classes of inter and remittent fevers; I exhibited saline purges, opiates, mercurials, sudorifics and nutrients, in cases of dysentery, and found them all ineffectual to arrest the progress of fevers, or to cure the affections of dysentery, in many severe cases. I could not produce an immediate crisis in fevers, nor remove the agonies of fluxes; they still continued to return, or to torture my patients, in defiance of all the remedies that have been recommended by Drs. Blane, Lind, Clarke, Chisholm, Cullen, Thomas, Philip, Hoffman, Boerhaave, Brown, Farriar, Fordyce, Currie, Darwin, Jackson, Wright, Fowler, Trotter, Haygarth, Heberden, Lieutaud, Huxham, Russell, Macgregor, Falconer, Desgenettes, Milne, Dewar, Bisset, Warren, Pringle, Buchan, Churchill, Friend, McCord, &c. who are supposed to have delivered the sentiments of the medical schools in their days. Neither were the remedies employed by the most noted of the ancients, as Hippocrates Celsus, Galenus, Asclepiades, &c., &c., more successful in curing febrile distempers. Having read and studied medicine of the ancient and moderns, I was able to choose those remedies, proposed in their writings, best calculated to cure disorders of the human frame, in all climates of the earth, and to employ them to the greatest advantages but, without the knowledge of the real nature of fevers and fluxes, I still labored in the dark, and could not effect, in all cases, by the use of such remedies, a solution of the disease under my care, with any degree of certainty of success in the commencement. I was unacquainted with the principle on which those remedies acted to bring to a favorable crisis. I longed for that day when my knowledge of the nature of the diseases, and of the virtues of the remedies employed to cure them, would enable me to cure the severest of them at pleasure, and to liberate my fellow creatures from the iron grasp of mortal afflictions, and I began to lament the universal ignorance of the professors of medicine, respecting the nature of diseases.

From that day till the present, I never have used the remedies commonly prescribed by writers on medicine, neither have I followed the doctrines of the schools in the treatment of febrile diseases. I determined that no other patient of mine should ever become a victim to the common old treatment pointed out by the professors of medicine, and authors of medical books. In the full belief of the doctrine which experience had taught me, I soon had the pleasure of seeing almost all my patients recover from fevers, in the space of two, three, four or five days, whereas, according to the old method of treatment followed by my cotemporaries, patients labored a month, six weeks,

two or three months, under a violent fever and its fatal dregs, and either died or were restored by the mere efforts of nature, or languished under the irremediable consequences of such disease, during the remainder of their lives, in misery and infirmity.

Thus it may be perceived, by the foregoing collection of facts, how I came to possess a new doctrine and theory of fevers, and to institute a new method of treatment on the foundation of a sure and certain principle of practice, deduced from this doctrine, in the use and application of remedies more rational and successful than appear in any system of medicine ever exhibited in ancient or modern times, as far as I know, by the annals of medicine; and I now come forward to open the discovery for the general benefit of mankind. In doing this, I shall be under the absolute necessity of exposing and rejecting all former opinions respecting the proximate causes or nature of diseases; I shall have to combat the errors of the learned and ignorant, both in the theory and practice of medicine; I shall be forced to reject all the erroneous doctrines of the schools in which I was educated; I shall have to defend my sentiments against all the invidious malignities and contumelies of my enemies, on the basis of infallible principles, deduced from and depending on the truths and facts which I have discovered in the nature of these diseases, by experience, observation, reflecting and reasoning, so absolutely necessary to be known before we can succeed in practice. Many self-confident and ignorant pretenders to the science and art of medicine, are inclined to suppose that no errors can exist, in the present theories of the enlightened schools of Europe and America, to combat, in the treatment of diseases.

In fact, no physician whose works I have read, no professor of medicine whom I have heard speak on the nature of diseases, has ever discovered, or even hinted at the cure of fevers; all have delivered theories, which amount to open acknowledgements of their ignorance of it; or have candidly professed the universal ignorance of all physicians in the world, of the former and present times, respecting the nature of these diseases.

I observed the plan of cure followed by the East Indians in fevers. I saw the practitioners cure the most vehement cases of intermittent fevers in a single day, with such a mathematical precision and certainty, as I never beheld in any region of the earth—by purging, vomiting, sweating, &c. I perceived that they also cured without knowing the nature of disease, or the principles of their practice; and was led to believe all diseases curable, if we could only discover the remedies against them, and would apply those remedies in due time and to sufficient extent, to effect these possible ends. Their method of treatment consisted in the administration of a medicine that effectually purged and vomited their patients, who were obliged at the same time, *to use the steam bath, and drink abundantly of warm teas, until copious or profuse sweat was produced*, and the fever was mechanically reduced, leaving nothing to be done by feeble nature, as the ancient and modern practitioners of Europe were accustomed to do many ages prior to the days of Bottalus and Sydenham.

Having acquired a knowledge of these things relative to the nature

of febrile diseases, I was induced to abandon the common plan of treatment, and to institute a new method of curing them with the use of new remedies.

17. DR. W. HENDERSON, Professor of Medicine and General Pathology in the University of Edinburgh, in 1847, says :—

“Some 30 or 90 per cent. of the patients who employ medical practitioners, would be better off without them.”—Forbes's *Young Physic*, page 94.

18. DR. JOHN FORBES, whose titles would fill a quarter of this page, I give here only F. R. S., F. G. S., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London, Editor of the *British and Foreign Medical Review*, or *Quarterly Journal of Practical Medicine and Surgery*.—Physician Ordinary and Extraordinary to Princes, Hospitals, &c., and member of almost all the Medical societies in Europe, after drawing a close comparison between Homœopathy and Allopathy, says :—(Young Physic, page 98.)

“The most important inferences unfavorable to Allopathy are :—

1. That, in a large proportion of the cases treated by Allopathic physicians, the disease is cured by nature, and not by them.

2. That, in a lesser, but still not a small proportion, the disease is cured by nature in spite of them; in other words, their interference opposing instead of assisting the cure.

3. That, consequently, in a considerable proportion of diseases, it would fare as well or better, with patients, in the actual condition of the medical art, as now generally practised, if all remedies, at least all active remedies, especially drugs, were abandoned.”

“We repeat our readiness to admit these inferences as just, and to abide by the consequences of their adoption. We believe they are true. We grieve sincerely to believe them to be so; but so believing, their rejection is no longer in our power; we must receive them as facts, till they are proved not to be so.”

CHAPTER II.

THE PRACTICE IS NOT AN ART.

The preceding quotations which might be accompanied by others of a similar character to any extent, the material being unlimited in quantity, prove, beyond all controversy, that the medical theories of the schools, are not the doctrines of science:—that they “never were established; but are, and always were false.”

The following quotations will prove that “the superstructures built upon them,” the practices of medicine, are “baseless as the fabric of a vision.” (Whiting,) and wholly unworthy of the dignified title of an ART—that, what is often called “THE ART DIVINE” in honor of what it *should* be, is, in fact the most absurd and mischievous quackery in the world.

19. EXPERIENCE OF LITTLE VALUE.—“When, in the practice of medicine, we apply to new cases the knowledge acquired from others which we believe to have been of the same nature, the difficulties are so great that it is doubtful whether in any case we can properly be said to act from experience, as we do in other departments of science.” * * “The difficulties and sources of uncertainty which meet us at every stage of such investigations, are, in fact, so numerous and great, that those who have had the most extensive opportunities of observation, will be the first to acknowledge that our pretended experience must, in general, sink into analogy, and even our analogy too often into conjecture.”—Abercrombie, Intel. Pow., page 299.

“What is called experience in medicine,” says Professor Jackson, “daily observation and reflection confirm me in the conviction, is a fallacious guide, not more entitled to the implicit confidence claimed for it, than when it was thus characterized by the great father of the science—*fallax experientia*. In fact, experience cannot exist in medicine, such as it is in those arts in which experiments can be made under circumstances invariably the same,” &c.

CHARACTERS OR SYMPTOMS OF DISEASE.—“Since medicine was first cultivated as a science, a leading object of attention has ever been to ascertain the characters or symptoms by which particular internal diseases are indicated, and by which they are distinguished from other diseases which resemble them. But with the accumulated experience of ages bearing upon this important subject, our extended observation has only served to convince us how deficient we are in this department, and how often, even in the first step of our progress, we are left to conjecture. A writer of high eminence, (Morgagni,) has even hazarded the assertion that those persons are most confident in regard to the characters of disease, whose knowledge is most limited, and that more extended observation generally leads to doubt.”—Intel. Pow. pages 294–5.

PROGRESS OF DISEASE.—“If such uncertainty hangs over our knowledge of disease,” says Abercrombie, “it will not be denied that at least an equal degree of uncertainty attends its progress. We have learned, for example, the various modes in which internal inflammation terminates—as resolution, suppuration, gangrene, adhesion and effusion: but, in regard to a particular case of inflammation before us, how little notion can we form of

what will be its progress or how it will terminate!—Abercrombie, page 295.

20. ACTION OF EXTERNAL AGENTS.—An equal or even a more remarkable degree of uncertainty attends all our researches into the action of external agents on the body, whether as causes of disease or as remedies; in both which respects their action is fraught with the highest degree of uncertainty. Intel. Pow., page 295.

“In regard to the action of external agents as causes of disease, we may take a single example in the effects of cold. Of six individuals who have been exposed to cold in the same degree, and, so far as we can judge, under the same circumstances, one may be seized with inflammation of the lungs, one with diarrhœa, and one with rheumatism, while three may escape without any injury. Not less remarkable is the uncertainty in regard to the action of remedies. One case appears to yield with readiness to the remedies that are employed; on another which we have every reason to believe to be of the same nature, no effect is produced in arresting its fatal progress; while a third, which threatened to be equally formidable, appears to cease without the operation of any remedy at all.” Pages 295-6. See, also, page 23.

21. D'ALEMBERT.—“The following apologue,” says D'Alembert, “made by a physician, a man of wit and philosophy, represents very well the state of that science.” “Nature is fighting with disease; a blind man armed with a club, that is, a physician, comes to settle the difference. He first tries to make peace. When he cannot accomplish this, he lifts his club and strikes at random. If he strikes the disease, he kills the disease; if he strikes nature he kills nature.” “An eminent physician,” says the same writer renouncing a practice which he had exercised for thirty years, said—“I am weary of guessing.” Dr. Abercrombie continues—

“The uncertainty of medicine, which is thus a theme for the philosopher and the humorist, is deeply felt by the practical physician in the daily exercise of his art.”—Intel. Pow., page 293.

22. PROF. CHAPMAN, says: “Perhaps we shall ultimately learn to discriminate accurately, the diversified shades of morbid action, and to apply to each its appropriate remedies. As it is, we are plunged into a Dedalian labyrinth, almost without a clue. Dark and perplexed, our devious career resembles the blind gropings of Homer's Cyclops around his cave.”—Therapeutics, vol. 1 page 49.

23. DR. JAMES THACHER, author of the “American New Dispensatory,” of “The American Modern Practice,” “The Biography of American Medical Men,” &c., says, “The melancholy triumph of disease over its victims, and the numerous reproachful examples of medical impotency, clearly evince that the combined stock of ancient and modern learning is greatly insufficient to perfect our science. * * Far, indeed, beneath the standard of perfection, it is still fraught with deficiencies, and altogether inadequate to our desires.”—Modern Practice, page 8.

24. DR. JACOB BIGELOW, Professor in Harvard University, says, in his Annual Address before the Medical Society in 1835, “The premature death of medical men, brings with it the humiliating conclusion that, while the other sciences have been carried forward within our own time, and almost under our own eyes, to a degree of unprecedented advancement, medicine in regard to some of its professed and important objects, (the cure of disease,) is still an *ineffectual speculation*.”

25. DR. BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE, of the Harvard University at Cambridge, near Boston, Massachusetts, who was one of the three professors first ap-

pointed in the Medical Department of that Institution, after lecturing in it for twenty years, retired, saying of all he had been so long and so zealously teaching—"I am sick of learned quackery."

26. DR RUSH, in his lectures in the University of Pennsylvania, says, "Dissections daily convince us of our ignorance of the seats of disease, and cause us to blush at our prescriptions."—"What mischiefs have we done under the belief of false facts and false theories! We have assisted in multiplying diseases, we have done more—we have increased their mortality."—Robinson's Lectures, page 109.

"Our want of success is owing to the following causes: 1st. Our ignorance of the disease. 2d. Our ignorance of a suitable remedy."—Rush, Robinson's Lectures, page 79.

27. Dr. L. M. Whiting said, in his Lecture at Pittsfield, Mass. "Were we to see a sportsman standing beside a grove, continually loading and discharging his piece without aim among the trees, and at the same time declaring his intention to be the destruction of a bird, whose song he heard somewhere within it, we should without hesitation pronounce him not only *non compos*, but also a *dangerous* individual, and fit only for the strait jacket or a mad house. Yet such, if we mistake not, is very nearly the course pursued by many a routine practitioner, in the treatment of morbid conditions of the body by medication. Shoot away! is the motto; perchance we may hit the mark; if not, the law is our safeguard, and we have the *satisfaction* of feeling that we have done the best we could."—B. M. & S. Journal, vol. xiv. page 190.

The above quotations will suffice for the present, because I shall treat, in following chapters, of the particular means and processes which constitute the art. It may be said that Dr. Whiting here objected only to a "routine practice." True, but what is a routine practice? Is it not one according to rule or science? Are not the operations of mathematics all routine? What would be thought of the Surveyor, the Navigator, the Chemist, the Botanist—any scientific man but a doctor—if he should abandon his rules and go to experimenting? The beauty and excellence of science consist in the fact that all its operations are governed by fixed rules, by strict adherence, to which, all desired results are insured. Medicine is the only exception. Talk to the Astronomer about abandoning his routine method of calculating the phenomena of the heavens, and trying this that or the other experiment, as physicians do in the practice of medicine, and what would he say? His answer would be, "I know that my rules are true and my tables are correct. If I have not correctly solved my problem, the fault has been mine

the application. I shall try no new plan nor means; but make a perfect application of the old."

So it will be in medicine, when medicine becomes a science, and its practice an art. The routine practice will then be the only one approved.

Nos. 6. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. all prove the worthlessness of the practice, as well as the errors and mischiefs of the theories of the system of the schools of phre-

CHAPTER III.

THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES OF ALLOPATHY ARE FALSE.

This is proved by the testimony of its most intelligent and faithful friends: (Nos. 7. 10. 15. 16.) and by facts and sound reasoning.

But what are these doctrines.

28. GREGORY says, "The doctrines of fever are of paramount importance, and therefore constitute, with great propriety, the foundation of all pathological reasoning."—Practice, vol 1, page 44.

29. PROF. MARSHALL HALL says, page 98, No. 362, endorsed by Profs. Bigelow and Holmes, of Harvard University, Boston Mass:—"The doctrine of inflammation is the most important in the Theory of medicine and Surgery." And No. 365, they all refer us to Profs. Hunter and John Thomson's works on Inflammation, as "absolutely necessary," to give us an "intimate acquaintance with this important subject."

30. JOHN THOMSON, page 32, testifies as follows; "It has long been acknowledged in the schools of medicine, that the formation of a rational education in physic must be laid in a *minute and accurate* acquaintance with the appearances and treatment of the *different kinds* of fever, but, that the knowledge of the phenomena of inflammation, is not less extensive in its applications to practice, nor less necessary to the acquirement of proper education in the art or science of surgery, seems to be only beginning to be perceived by medical men. That this view, however, of the subject of inflammation is just, must appear obvious, when we reflect that, *of all the morbid affections* to which the human body is liable, inflammation is not only one of *the most distinct in its forms*, and important in its consequences, but it is also by far the most frequent in its occurrence. Indeed, there are no external injuries of which inflammation is not almost the immediate *effect*, and but few, if any local diseases, of which it is not, in some degree or other, to be regarded as a *concomitant, cause, symptom or consequence*."

[Verily, inflammation must be something very remarkable to be a cause, a concomitant and an effect of the same thing!]

"It is but just to the late Mr. Hunter, to remark that he appears to have been amongst the first Surgeons who became fully aware of the importance of a minute knowledge of those curious and singularly diversified appearances which inflammation produces in the different textures and organs of the body. We learn from his writings and by his invaluable collection and descriptions of diseased parts, that he spent upwards of thirty years in the investigation of this subject. The grand results of his labors, have been bequeathed to posterity in his Treatise on Inflammation, a work which, *by establishing the pathology of Surgery upon the solid basis of observation, experiment and accurate analysis*, forms a new era in the history of this art. In most points relative to inflammation, I shall endeavor to follow that distinguished pathologist, as my best and most accurate guide."

And Prof. Thomson does follow Hunter, most strictly, in these doctrines, and from this fact, and the declaration of Hall, Bigelow and Holmes above quoted, it is evident that the testimony of Hunter will either sustain or condemn all later writers on the subject, and the doctrines of the schools which they establish and sustain. But first, more about the importance of fever and inflammation.

31. PROF. WATSON says, (page 94) "Inflammation must needs occupy a large share of the attention, both of the Surgeon and of the physician. In nine cases out of ten, the first question which either of them asks himself upon being summoned to a patient is—Have I to deal with inflammation here? It is continually the object of his treatment, and watchful care."

32. PROF. PAINE says, "The most important principles in medicine, are those which especially relate to inflammation and fever."—(Inst., page 464.

33. PROF. CLUTTERBUCK says; "Fever is a disease of almost daily and universal occurrence."—Work on Fever, Preface, page 17.

IGNORANCE OF FEVER AND INFLAMMATION.

34. DR. SOUTHWOOD SMITH, Physician to the London Fever Hospital, says: "Among the objects contemplated in the establishment of this Institution, two things were conceived to be of paramount importance; first, the accumulation of facts, by which the true nature of fever might be more certainly ascertained; and secondly, the cautious trial of remedies by which a more sure and successful mode of treating this *fatal disease* might be discovered." S. Smith on fever, page 1.

35. PROF. GREGORY says: "Fever has proved a fertile theme on which the ingenuity of physicians in all ages has been exerted; and a glance at the attention which it has received from every medical author, both ancient and modern, would be sufficient to impress upon any one the importance of the doctrines it embraces.

"How *difficult* is the study of fever, may be inferred from this that, though so much has been written concerning it, there is no one subject in the whole circle of medical science, which still involves so many disputed points." Still, much as they are disputed, the Doctor adds, "The doctrines of fever are of paramount importance, and therefore constitute, with great propriety, the foundation of all pathological reasoning."—Practice, vol. 1, page 33-4.

"It has been a favorite topic of inquiry among all writers on fever, What is its nature? In what particular state of the fluids or solids does it consist? The subject has been prosecuted with great dilligence, but the result of the investigation is very unsatisfactory. * * All their theories are open to many and strong objections."—ib., pages 49, 50. "The pathology of fever is so obscure, that it affords but little help in determining the plan of treatment."—Page 35.

36. DR. THACHER, the venerable author of the American New Dispensatory, says:

"Notwithstanding the great prevalence of fever in all ages and in all climates, and the universal attention which it has excited among medical observers ever since the days of Hippocrates, the disease still remains the subject of much discussion; and its essential nature, or the proximate cause of its symptoms, is still a problem in medical science."—Practice, page 198.

FURTHER.—Numerous hypotheses or opinions respecting the true nature and cause of inflammation, have for ages been advanced, and for a time, sustained; but, even at the present day, the various doctrines appear to be considered altogether problematical."—Practice page 279.

37. PROF. EBERLE says, "The history of Practical Medicine consists of little else than a review of the doctrines which have risen and sunk again concerning the nature and treatment of fever." * * "It is in this department that observation and research have been most industrious in accumu-

lating materials, and that hypothesis has luxuriated in her wildest exuberance."—Practice, vol. 1, page 13.

38. "Fever," says GREGORY, "is the most important, because the most universal and the most fatal of all the morbid affections of which the human body is susceptible." * * "The physician must always be prepared to expect its occurrence. It is that by the presence or absence of which all his views of treatment are to be regulated; whose rise, progress and termination, he always watches with the closest attention. [He surely ought to have learned something about it by this time, if he has so watched it for four thousand years.] Some idea may be formed of the great mortality of fevers from the statement of Sydenham, who calculated that two-thirds of mankind die of acute diseases, properly so called; and two-thirds of the remainder, of that lingering febrile disease, consumption."

The above quotations show us that the doctrines of fever and inflammation are the foundation stones, or fundamental principles of the Allopathic system, and that they are very uncertain and unsettled. The following, as well as many of the above, show that, in all the books of practice, fever and inflammation are counted as disease.

INFLAMMATION, DISEASE.

39. THACHER calls it "the disease," (28)—Practice, vol. 1. page 43.—THOMSON (22,) says the same of fever and inflammation.

40. WATSON says, (Practice page 94,) Inflammation is "a special form of disease to which all parts of the body are liable—a disease that meets us at every turn."

"It affects all parts, that are furnished with blood vessels, and it effects different parts very variously. It is more easily excited by many external causes, and therefore it is more common than any other special disease. A great majority of all the disorders to which the human frame is liable, begin with inflammation or end in inflammation, or are accompanied by inflammation during some part of their course, or resemble inflammation in their symptoms. Most of the organic changes of different parts of the body, recognize inflammation as their cause, or lead to it as their effect. In short, a very large share of the premature extinction of human life in general, is more or less attributable to inflammation."

41. PAINE says, (Institutes, page 464.) "Inflammation and fever are the two orders of disease which make up the great amount of human maladies, and form the grand outlets of life." "Idiopathic fever is a universal disease inflammation always local."

But why need I quote testimonies to prove that fever and inflammation are called, by the allopaths, disease, when every one knows that all their systems of pathology and nosology, are built upon the symptoms they exhibit? Answer, because all modern pathologists refer us to Thomson and Hunter, for the doctrines of fever and inflammation (See No 21,) and Thomson himself refers us to Hunter, (No 22 above,) and therefore I am going to prove, *vb Hunter*, that these doctrines are false. C.

INFLAMMATION IS A SIMPLE PHYSIOLOGICAL ACT.

42. INFLAMMATION. HUNTER says; (vol. 3. page 285,) "Inflammation, in itself, is not to be considered a disease, but as a salutary operation consequent either to some violence or some disease." "Inflammation is an action produced for the restoration of the most simple injury in sound parts, which goes beyond the power of union by the first intention."

Again, page 293. "Pure inflammation is rather an effort of nature than a disease."

Again, page 286. "From whatever [exciting] cause it arises, * * it is an effort intended to bring about a reinstatement of the parts to nearly their natural functions." "Disease" (page 233) is a disposition to produce wrong action."

This is not "restoring natural functions;" of course it is not inflammation.

Again, "Healthy inflammation probably consists of only one kind, not being divisible, but into its different stages, as being that which will always attend a healthy constitution or part, is to be considered rather a restorative action than a diseased one, and would appear to be the effect rather of a stimulus than an irritation. The unhealthy admits of vast variety, [the causes of disease being almost numberless,] and is that which always attends an unhealthy constitution, or part, and will be according to the kind of health in that constitution or part, but particularly according to the constitution." * * "The *simple act* of inflammation, cannot be called specific, for it is a *uniform or simple action in itself*: but it may have peculiarities or specific actions superadded." (page 286-7.) [by the causes of disease, C.,]

Finally, page 292. "Fever, in all cases or of all kinds, is a disturbed action, like inflammation itself."

43. Here, then, we are taught the real truth in regard to inflammation and fever, that they are *one and the same thing*, accumulated action of the constitution, produced by the vital force, under excitement, and tending in all cases to the restoration of equilibrium in the circulation and nervous actions—in the words of Hunter, "an effort intended to bring about a reinstatement of the parts to nearly [quite] their natural functions." And that all the different appearances and results, in different cases of fever or inflammation, are to be attributed to the different states of the constitution, or the specific character or action of the exciting causes, Hunter's "specifications superadded." Thus, inflammation in Erysipelas, Small-pox, scarlet fever, and cancer are the same, all proceeding from the action of the vital force, but the specific exciting causes are different, each "superadding" its own "peculiarity or specific action," which gives all the different characters of the specific *forms of disease*.

It follows of course, then, that the nosological distinctions in all the systems of medicine, should have been based solely on these "peculiarities," and not on the vital symptoms of inflammation, partial or general, as they almost all are. The doctrines of Hunter, then, and of Thomson, and of all who *sometimes* adopt them, as Watson who says, (Practice page 94.)

44. "It is by inflammation that wounds are closed, and fractures repaired,—that parts adhere together when their adhesion is essential to the preserva-

tion of the individual, and that foreign and hurtful matters are conveyed safely out of the body. A cut finger, a deep sabre wound alike require inflammation to reunite the divided parts. * * The foot mortifies, is killed by injury or exposure to cold, inflammation will cut off the dead and useless part," (page 95.) are proof that inflammation is not disease.

45, PROF. PAINE teaches the same doctrine, when he says, (Inst. page 465, No 711. "*Inflammation takes its rise in purely physiological conditions, and holds its progress and decline, under the same great natural laws of the Constitution.*")

If these assertions be true, and they certainly are, fever and inflammation being "a simple act of the constitution," always "tending to bring about a restoration of the system or its organs, to the healthy functions," can never be properly called *disease*, and, of course, the fundamental doctrines of the schools which make this act and its derangements produced by the action of the specific causes of disease, and the combined effects of the actions of these two forces, "the foundation of all pathological reasoning, (Gregory, Thomson, Hall, Bigelow, Holmes) must be utterly FALSE and *pernicious*, "and all the superstructures [the practices] built upon them, must be baseless as the fabric of a vision," (No 5) nay, more, inasmuch as they are conducted by violence, bloodshed and poisoning, they must be "*horrid, unwarrantable, murderous, quackery.*"—Chapman.

It matters not that Gregory, Watson, Paine, Thomson, and even Hunter himself teach, in other places, a doctrine the very opposite of what I have here quoted from them. I have reported the TRUE, but the systems of pathology and practice are built upon the *false*; and *they must be false*.

CHAPTER IV.

ALLOPATHIC REMEDIES MISCHIEVOUS.

The following testimony proves, if this kind of evidence can prove any thing, that the particular practices of Allopathy, are injurious and destructive; not *occasionally* so, by misapplication or mistake, but *positively* so, by their very nature and tendency. I have adduced evidence which proves that, according to the authorities of the Allopathic school, (see Sydenham, Gregory, Thomson, Watson, Paine, &c.) two thirds of all mankind die of acute forms of disease, styled by them fever and inflammation. I have quoted from Payne, Watson and others, the statement that fever and inflammation "make up the great amount of human maladies, and form the great outlets of life."—Paine's Institutes, No 710.

46. "Therapeutics or the application of remedies to the treatment of disease, is the great end of all medical inquiries." Professor Paine says: (Institutes No. 854.)—

47. "Remedial agents operate upon the same principle as the remote causes of disease. They can never transmute the morbid into healthy conditions, that is alone the work of nature."

"The most violent poisons are our best remedies." "*Ubi virus, ibi virtus.*" Where poison is, there is virtue!

48. Hooper says, "all our most valuable medicines are active poisons"—Dictionary. The B. M. & S. Journal says, (Vol. 9 page 43.) "All poisons, whatever their differences in other respects, agree in this; they suddenly and rapidly extinguish a great proportion of the vitality of the system." Professor John P. Harrison says, of one of the most commonly employed, that it is "a powerful depresser of the energies of life."

BLOOD-LETTING THE SHEET ANCHOR OF PRACTICE.

49. MARSHALL HALL says, (Practice No. 302) "The doctrine of inflammation is the most important in Medicine and Surgery." And he and others, as I have already shown, consider inflammation an acute form of disease, which must be reduced. He further says, (No. 819.)

50 "The subject next in order, in treating of the Theory of Medicine, relates to the use of certain important remedies, and amongst these BLOOD-LETTING ranks pre-eminently as THE FIRST.

PROF. CLUTTERBUCK, in his "Inquiry into the seat and nature of fever," page 474, says:

51. "*Blood-Letting*, unquestionably, is the best, because the most effective remedy we possess, in the treatment of *idiopathic* fever, as well as inflammation in general."

52. PROF. PAINE, Institutes, No. 836. d. says; That, for inflammation and congestion, "blood-letting is known to be the most efficient remedy." "General Blood-letting is the proper mode of depletion, in all forms of fever, and in all the active inflammations of the internal viscera."—Ib. 956.

PROFESSOR. J. MOREHEAD, of the Ohio Medical College, in an Essay on Blood-letting published in Prof. Eberle's Quarterly Journal for June, 1837, says, page 24.

53. "In the whole range of medical science, there is probably no other

truth better ascertained or of greater value than this; that, for inflammation when seated in the serous tissues, or in the parenchymatous portion of any of the organs contained in the three great cavities, free and energetic Blood-letting is entitled emphatically to the name of *the remedy*: and all the other remedial means are to be regarded as but subordinate and auxilliary to it."

"Under the conditions of disease for which in truth it is remedial, no substitute can be found or admitted for it."

54. PROF. PAINE says: Medical and Physiological Commentaries, vol II. page 325:

"England has not yet abandoned the Lancet, and here, in America, it is as ever, the anchor of hope, in inflammations and conjective fevers."

This is the testimony of a large proportion of the Allopathic faculty To quote more here is useless.

BLOOD-LETTING, DANGEROUS AND DESTRUCTIVE.

I have said the "first indication in practice, this "sheet anchor in fevers and inflammations," is dangerous and destructive; and I prove this by the testimony of the same men who approve of and use it:

55. DR. HUNTER said, "Blood-letting is one of the greatest weakeners, as we can kill thereby."

56. PROF. J. F. LOBSTEIN says, "So far from Blood-letting being beneficial, it is productive of the most serious and fatal effects—a cruel practice—a scourge to humanity. How many thousands of our fellow citizens are sent [by it] to an untimely grave! how many families are deprived of their amiable children! how many husbands of their lovely wives! how many wives of their husbands! Without blood there is no heat, no motion in the system—in the Blood is the life. He who takes blood from the patient, takes away not only an organ of life, but a part of life itself"—Essay on Blood-letting.

57. SALMON.—"So zealous are the Blood suckers of our age," says Salmon, in his "Synopsis Medicinæ," "that they daily sacrifice hundreds to its omnipotence, who fall by its fury, like the children who, of old, passed through the fire to Moloch, and that without any pity, left to commiserate the inexorable sufferings of their martyrs, or conscience of their crimes which may deter them in future from such villanies, the bare relation of which would make a man's ears tingle, which one cannot think of without grief, nor express without horror!"

58. ROBINSON.—"An eminent physician has said that, after the practice of Blood-letting was introduced by Sydenham, during the course of one hundred years, more died of the lancet alone, than all who in the same period perished by war.—page 121.

59. DEWEES.—"It would appear, that the first or inflammatory stage of puerperal fever, the stage in which bleeding has been so eminently successful, has no *discovered character* by which it can be distinguished from the second in which this operation is forbidden, after the lapse of a few hours."—Females, page 441.

"We would ask, What is the evidence that the first stage has run its course? This is an important question, and one from our present data that cannot, we fear, be answered satisfactorily. Hitherto this condition of the disease has been inferred rather than ascertained."—Ib. page 438.

The same author says, page 372, "Our bleedings are not always renewed from the arm, for, as soon as we get the pulse pretty well down by this means, we have leeches applied over the parts nearest to the seat of the in-

flammation, in such numbers as shall abstract at least eight or ten ounces of blood, and encourage their after bleeding by the application of moist warmth. Should these abstractions of blood prove not effective, and pain, fever and other unpleasant symptoms continue, but especially great pain and tenderness in the parts; if the pulse does not call for general bleeding, we repeat the leeching, nor stop until the end is answered, or until we are convinced our efforts will be unavailing, by the approach of the second stage or by the addition of peritoneal inflammation.—Ib.

60. PROF. MOREHEAD already quoted, No. 53: says:

"The intelligent physician who has learned by the sad and bitter teachings of the sick room, to judge of the powers of the lancet, not merely understands, but, without any glaring impropriety of phrase, may be said to feel, that it is an agent which can never be neutral in its operation; that, if not productive of actual good, it must have an inevitable tendency towards ill; that, in its capacity, whether for benefit or for mischief, it is possessed not merely of great but Herculean force; that, under the conditions of disease for which in truth it is remedial, no substitute can be found or admitted for it; that, when employed, however, in cases to which it is not suited results *always serious*, not unfrequently *fatal*, but too surely follow its misapplication; that, for repairing the consequences of using it when not needed or improper, no other means exist except the slow and precarious process of nutrition; and that, in the circumstances under which its misuse is most actively and certainly mischievous, such reparative process is almost always suspended, and consequently *no* remedy remains for counteracting or removing the injuries which it has inflicted!"

This is startling language, but it is simply just; and we ought not to be surprised at the conclusion justly drawn from the facts stated.

"Having habitually present to his understanding, a strong and lively perception of these truths, such a physician learns to regard a resort to the lancet as of all remedial measures, that which most requires caution, thorough consideration, and anxious circumspection; and to hold, as a solemn maxim a professional conduct, that, if it is not employed with a judicious and wise adaptation to the cases in which it is used, it deserves to be viewed with somewhat of the abhorrence that attaches to the knife of the murderer!"

61. PROF. MARSHALL HALL says: "The diseases of children best understood, are those which arise from irritation, and principally in the Stomach and bowels, and the irritation of teething and inflammation. I may observe indeed, in this place, that, of the whole number of fatal cases of disease in infancy, a great proportion occurs from the inappropriate or undue application of exhausting remedies. This observation may have a salutary effect in checking the ardor of many young practitioners, who are apt to think that, if they have only bled and purged and given calomel enough, they have done their duty; when, in fact, in subduing a former they have excited a new disease, which they have not understood, and which has led to the fatal result." Quoted and approved by Prof. J. P. Harrison.—*Therapeutics*, vol. II. page 189.

REMARK.—Who taught the *young* practitioner to bleed, purge and give calomel? Are not these processes styled, by their "*Professors*, the *sheet anchors* of practice?" If so, why not use them till the case is cured? But do "*some young practitioners*," have and lose, a great proportion of the fatal cases of disease in infancy? It is rather unfair to blame young practitioners for

doing what the old ones teach and practice. We have known many a little innocent to be killed in this way by *old Professors*.

62. PROF. HALL says; Cyclopedia of Practical Medicine, Vol 1. page 296; "The immediate effects of loss of Blood, are, syncope convulsion, delirium, coma, sudden dissolution: the more remote are excessive reaction, mania, coma, amaurosis and sinking."

"Amongst the immediate effects of the loss of blood, must be mentioned that of sudden and unexpected dissolution. The patient does not recover from a state of syncope; or, without syncope, he may gradually sink after Blood letting. It has taken *the most able and experienced* practitioners by surprise."—ib. 299.

REMARK.—We thought the cautions necessary only to "*young practitioners*!" The doctor gives illustrations, numerous and interesting, of the various effects of the "loss of blood," to which we refer the reader. It is vain to say that these results proceed from ignorance of the indications for Blood letting, or inexperience in the practice, as we have proved and shall do it more effectually anon, that the most scientific and experienced cannot tell when blood should be drawn, nor how much. See above.

63. PROF. J. P. HARRISON says: Therapeutics, vol. II. page 180: "The morbid consequences which spring from the excessive use or the misdirected employment of Blood-letting, are of so serious a nature, that the practitioner should sedulously guard against them."

64. PROF. MAGUARDIC in his lectures in the College of France, says: ib., "I assert loudly, and fear not to affirm it, that blood-letting induces, both in the blood itself and in our tissues, certain modifications and Pathological phenomena which resemble, to a certain extent, those developed in animals deprived of atmospheric oxygen, of drink and of solid food." * * "Engorgement, œdema pneumonia, and the entire train of what people are pleased to call inflammatory phenomena, are products of loss of blood." "He considers the utility of Blood-letting, at best problematical, while its injurious effects are at once positive, frequent, and widely extended."

65. "The sudden abstraction of blood by the lancet, always acts in a degree correspondent to the quantity drawn, and the ability of the constitution to withstand the *weakening* effect of the remedy."—ib. 183.

"The immediate morbid phenomena observed on the sudden loss of a large quantity of blood, are, convulsions, delirium, coma and apoplectic stupor." * * "The most common results, when inopportunistly or excessively employed, are, vertigo; a feeble and slow, sometimes quick, fluttering or scarcely perceptible pulse; cold, clammy perspiration; sickness of the stomach, confusion of vision; dyspnœa; gasping for breath; great restlessness, a deep sense of sinking, and finally syncope."—* * *

"Prostration without reaction, may be protracted for several days, and then death release the patient from his sufferings. Or reaction may come on, and then we have a series of symptoms closely resembling cerebral inflammation." * *—ib.

66. PROF. COPLAND, of London, says:

"When carried too far in cases of excitement, where the nervous or vital power is not depressed, and the blood itself is rich or healthy, reaction generally follows each large depletion, and that often exacerbates or brings back the disease for which it was employed, and which had been [apparently re-

lieved by the primary effects of the evacuation. * * Thus every observing practitioner will have noticed, that a large depletion when carried to deliquium [prostration] will have entirely removed the symptoms of acute inflammation, when the patient has recovered consciousness; and that he expresses the utmost relief.

"But it gradually happens that the inordinate depression—the very full syncope that is thought essential to the securing of advantage from the depletion is followed by an equally excessive degree of vascular reaction—with which all the symptoms of inflammation return; and the general reaction is ascribed entirely, but erroneously, to the return of the inflammation instead of the latter being imputed to the former, which has rekindled or exasperated it, when beginning to subside. The consequence is, that another very large depletion is again prescribed for its removal, and the patient, recollecting the relief it temporarily afforded him, readily consents. Blood is taken to full syncope—again relief is felt—again reaction returns,—and the local symptoms are reproduced, and thus, large depletion, full syncope, reaction, and the supervention, on the original disease, of some or all the phenomena described as the consequence of excessive loss of blood, are brought before the practitioner, and he is astonished at the obstinacy, cause and termination of the disease, which under such circumstances generally ends in dropsical effusion, into the cavity on which the affected organ is lodged; or in convulsions, or in delirium running into coma; or in death from exhaustion, or from one of the foregoing states; or, more fortunately, in partial subsidence of the original malady and protracted convalescence. Such are the consequences which but too often result when Blood-letting has been looked upon as the only or chief means of cure—the "*sheet anchor*" of treatment, as it has too frequently been called and considered during the last twenty years." Copland's Dict. Prac. Med. vol. 1. page 177.

REMARKS.—On the supposition that Blood letting is a curative or even a directly and properly palliative means of treatment, it is passing strange that it should be followed by such terrible effects as the above. That, when the nervous or vital power is not depressed and the blood is rich and healthy it "brings back the disease." Still more strange that the "irritation" of "reaction" should be taken for inflammation by the most scientific and experienced practitioners.

67. PROF. JOHN MASON GOOD says:

"The immediate effect of profuse and repeated bleeding is exhaustion. While this exhaustion continues, there is a diminution of action of every kind, and hence an imposing appearance of relief to the symptoms of disease: but it no sooner takes place than an instinctive effort is made by the vis medicatrix naturæ, to remedy the evil hereby produced, and to restore the system to its former balance of power. This balance is called a rallying or reaction of the living principle. The arteries contract to adapt themselves to the measure of blood that remains; the sensorial organ is roused to the secretion of a large proportion of nervous power to supply the inordinate drain that takes place during the general commotion, all is in a state of temporary hurry and urgency, and for the most part irregularity of action, while the instinctive effort is proceeding. And hence, no sooner is the immediate effect of prostration, exhaustion or syncope overcome, than the heart palpitates, the pulse beats forcibly with a jerking bound, the head throbs, the eyes flash fire, and the ears ring with unusual sounds. Now, is

often happens that these concurrent signs are mistaken for proofs of latent or increased vigor, instead of being merely proofs of increased action; and action too, that adds as largely to the exhaustion as the depletion that produced it; and the unhappy patient is bled a second, a third, and even a fourth time, till no reaction follows, at which time it is strangely supposed that the entona, plethora, or inflammatory diathesis is subdued and lused into a calm, because the patient has been so far and fatally drained of living principle, that there is no longer any rallying or reactive power remaining, and gives up the ghost, in a few hours, *to the treatment*, instead of the disease."—Good's Study of Medicine, vol. 1, page 407.

Here we have the direction of Dr. Dewess to bleed "as long as the unpleasant symptoms continue," and the declaration of Dr. Good, that those symptoms *will continue* "till the patient has been so far and so fatally drained of his living principle, that there is no longer any rallying or reactive power remaining, and gives up the ghost in a few hours *to the treatment*, instead of the disease!"

Hence, to bleed scientifically, as taught in Philadelphia and London, and wherever these text books of the highest authority are adopted, is to bleed till the patient "gives signs of woe that all is lost." Or in plain English, it is to commit wilful murder.

But it is said that these terrible effects arise from the abuse of Blood letting. That we should mind the indications for its use, and not employ it improperly. The following will show that there *are* no sure indications.

68. The venerable DR. JAMES THACHER says: "We have no infallible index to direct us. It is impossible, from the state of the circulation in fever or point to any criterion for the employment of the lancet; the state of the pulse is often ambiguous and deceptive. Circumstances require the nicest discrimination, as the result is often very different in cases seemingly analogous. A precipitate decision is fraught with danger, and a mistake may be certain death."—Thacher's Practice, page 208.

69. PROF. MACKINTOSH says: "Some patients are bled who do not require it, and the consequences are injurious; others are bled who cannot bear it, and who ought to be treated by cordials, and the result is fatal."—Mackintosh, page 690.

"No physician, however wise and experienced, can tell what quantity of blood ought to be taken in any given case.—Ib. page 418.

70. PROF. MOREHEAD says: "Every body has heard of practitioners, with whom, in every case for which they did not know exactly what ought to be done, it was a settled rule of practice to make trial of the lancet."

"So often, likewise, have I heard it said, even of physicians counted eminent in their profession, that, to prevent their patients dying, they bled them to death; and I fear that such charges have foundation in truth."

71. OPIUM.—Inflammation or fever, and irritation, being styled by the Allopathic faculty, the two great forms of disease, to which the human body is subject, and the use of free blood letting to cure the former, tending to produce the latter, (See Good and Copland, Nos. 66 and 67) the next indication to the reduction of the inflammatory action, is to subdue the irritation. For this purpose opium is highly extolled and as constantly used as the lancet is for inflammation or fever.

„Preeminently endowed with the most diversified therapeutic powers.

and more extensively employed in its various preparations, than any other single article of the materia medica, this great drug requires at our hands a careful and extended inquiry into its preparation, composition, modes of administration, practical uses and *morbid effects*."—Harrison's Therap. vol II. page 530.

As I never use it in any form, nor recommend nor countenance its use I shall consider only its "morbid (morbific) effects."

72. "The constituents are Morphia, Narcotina, &c. "The Morphia is the only one employed to any extent in the practice of Medicine. Narcotina has been extensively given in India as a substitute for "quinine, and its anti-periodic power is attributed to its stimulant property."—Ib. 532.

A stupifying agent must be a glorious stimulant! The chill is a manifestation of incipient reaction, and it is no wonder that the deadly narcotine checks it.

73. "*Modus curandi of Opium, and of the salts of morphia,*" For seven separate purposes, this important and valuable drug, is in daily, hourly use. 1. As a stimulant; 2. As a Narcotic; 3. As an astringent; 4. As a diaphoretic; 5. As an Antispasmodic; 6. As an antiperiodic; and 7. as a modifier of other remedies."—Ib. 534.

In his first vol. the Professor says, there are but four indications to be fulfilled in the treatment of disease! And here are seven to be fulfilled by Opium! And the lancet and calomel will have an equal share. But this is not the place for comments and criticisms; they will come in due course.

74. MORBID EFFECTS OF OPIUM!—"A very small portion of opium will sometimes produce convulsions in a very young patient. We have known the half of a grain of Dover's powder, which is but the twentieth part of a grain of opium, [a homœopathic dose,] induce fits in a delicate child of a few days old. Christison relates several interesting examples of death in children from small portions of opium. An infant three days old, got by mistake, about the fourth part of a mixture containing ten drops of laudanum. The child died in twenty four hours. The administration of three drops of Laudanum to a stout child fourteen months old, was followed by convulsions, and death in six hours. Another child of nine months died in nine hours after taking four drops. The pernicious custom which many nurses pursue, of giving infants laudanum, or paregoric, to still their cries at night, cannot be too severely reprehended. This practice is fraught with evil results to the infant, and should never be permitted."

In his essay above referred to, Prof. J. P. Harrison says, of Opium: "It stupifies for awhile, and forces the child into an unnatural sleep." "It enhances nervousness." "If the brain is affected, it increases the disease. Inflammation in the stomach or bowels, will be made worse, perhaps, incurably worse by an opiate." "It is hurtful, because it is contrary to nature." "It is a medicine,—a *foreign substance* which nature does not call for, or kindly receive as long as she is in her right mood." "Paregoric, Bate-man's drops, laudanum or toddy, lays the foundation for head complaints, such as inflammations, convulsions, and dropsy of the brain." A small dose of paregoric will often induce fits. The intellect of a child will be impaired by it, although years may elapse after the practice is abandoned. A permanent, ill conditioned state of the nervous system is induced by the repeated giving of opiates to infants, that *never, through all subsequent life*, is entirely got rid of by the most strenuous endeavors. A tendency we doubt not, to insanity, is thus engendered or augmented. Such children

pass through the process of teething badly. The stamina of the constitution is weakened by it. The stomach and bowels *lose their tone*, and cholera infantum, or summer complaint is more apt to fasten on them."—Ther. p. 182.

What a terrible warning is this, (also that of Professor Eberle 76,) to mothers and nurses, not to give to their children opiates—"anodynes," in any form or for any purpose! What an honor to the Eclectics, that they are so much more *enlightened* and liberal than we are, that they can still hug to their bosoms this viper of the poisonous *materia medica*!

The nurses learn this practice from the Doctors, who prescribe it "daily, hourly," for "seven different purposes," See above.

75. "Females are more susceptible than males, to the morbid effects of the article. We have met with many instances of the great intolerance of the female system to opiates."—ib. 553.

That is because opium "acts primarily on the nervous system;" and, women and children being more sensitive and delicate, are less able to resist its deadly influence. C.

76. PROF. EBERLE, in his work on the diseases of children, page 199, calls opium a "treacherous palliative," under which "the appetite and digestive powers fail; the body emaciates, and the skin becomes sallow, dingy and shriveled; the countenance acquires an expression of languor and suffering, and a general state of apathy, inactivity and feebleness ensues, which ultimately often leads to convulsions, dropsy in the head, glandular indurations, incurable jaundice, or fatal exhaustion of the vital energies. All the usual soothing mixtures, such as Godfrey's cordial, Dalby's carminative, so much employed for allaying the colic pains and griping of infants, contain more or less opium; and *innumerable* infants have been *irretrievably ruined* by these popular nostrums!"

Prof. J. A. GALLUP, in his Inst. of Medicine, vol. 1. page 187, says: "The practice of using opiates as anodynes to mitigate pain in any form of fever and local inflammations, is greatly to be deprecated; it is not only unjustifiable, but should be esteemed unpardonable." "It is probable that for forty years past, opium and its preparations have done *seven times the injury* that they have rendered benefit on the great scale of the civilized world." Killed seven where they have saved one! Page 298, he calls opium "the most destructive of all narcotics," and wishes he could speak through a lengthened trumpet, that he might tingle the ears of empirics and charlatans in every avenue of their retreat." See B. M. Recorder, vol. 7, page 332.

Dr. J. JOHNSON says: "The whole tribe of narcotics, as opium, hyoscyamus, hop and laurel water, or prussic acid, are dangerous sedatives, presenting allurements to the unwary, with all the suavity and meekness of the serpent of Eden, and the deception too often is equally fatal."

79. RANKIN, in his Abstract, vol. 3. page 228, says: "An able bodied sailor, aged 62, took medicinally, two pills, each containing a grain and a quarter of the extract of opium, and was immediately attacked with a convulsion fit and died." "Cases are on record, which show that a person may recover from the first symptoms of poisoning, and yet ultimately die from the effects of a single dose."

Vol. II. page 32, the poisoning of three children by the sucking of unripe poppy heads, is reported. One died in four-hours, in spite of the effort of the physician.

MERCURY.

AS MERCURY has, for several centuries, been considered, by the Allopathic faculty, the most effectual remedy for disease within the compass of their knowledge—as they also admit that it is one of the most mischievous agents ever used as medicine—that they know not how it operates in any case, to cure or kill—and, finally, declare that it has produced more terrible effects on the human constitution than any other article they use—I think it proper to quote here pretty largely from their testimonies respecting this “all conquering Samson of the materia medica”—Harrison, vol. i.

It is not *my* purpose to give the reader here its physical qualities, nor the history of its discovery and its various uses. My object will be accomplished when I shall have presented the best accounts of its supposed medical virtues and uses, and its “tendency to mischief when injudiciously used.” I begin with Prof. Harrison :

78. “First regarded as a poison, then most cautiously employed in the form of ointment, it [mercury] has, step by step, advanced with the improvements of the pharmaceutic art, in a bright career of reputation and favor, till it has possessed an immense space in the field of practical medicine, and now, by many, it is regarded as the first, greatest and best remedy Divine Goodness has ever revealed, in answer to the diligent search of man, to meliorate and cure the bodily ills to which man is subjected.”—Harrison, vol. i, p. 233.

“Mercury was first employed by the Nubian physicians, Avicenna and Rhazes; but they ventured to use it only against vermin and in cutaneous diseases. We are indebted to the renowned empiric, Paracelsus, for its administration internally.”—Pereira’s *Materia Medica*, p. 583.

“Of all the remedies which chemical science has conferred upon the art of healing, there stands no single article so pre-eminently endowed with a diversified capability of curing disease as calomel.”—Harrison, vol. i, p. 168.

“When we declare that its powers are unique and unrivaled, we only embody the general testimony of the profession in its favor.”—*Ib.*

“Mercury is the great anti-inflammatory, anti-febrile alterant of the materia medica.”—*Ib.*

Prof. N. CHAPMAN says :

79. “Of all the purgatives this is the most important, and is susceptible of the widest application in the practice of physic. There is scarcely, indeed, any case in which purging is required, that it may not be so regulated, either alone or in combination, as to meet the several indications. It has the singular property of imparting force to many of the mild, and moderating the severity of the drastic, medicines. Whenever we wish a strong and prominent impression to be made on the alimentary canal itself, and through it on the neighboring viscera, and especially the portal circulation, by general consent, it is consecrated to these purposes. It is, hence, chiefly relied on in fevers, especially bilious fevers—in obstructions of the bowels—in cholera—and is unquestionably the most appropriate purgative in the early stage of dysentery. Besides the superior efficacy of calomel in these respects, it is recommended by the facility with which it may be administered. Nearly devoid of taste and odor, and minute in dose, it will often be taken when other medicines are refused, and may be so disguised as to be imposed on

the most suspicious or unmanageable of our patients."—Chapman's Therapeutics, vol. i, p. 182. (See No. 142.)

80. "As an adjuvant to blood-letting, mercury is considered the most powerful of all the antiphlogistics." "It is almost universally depended upon, in this country, for the purpose of removing the derangements of organization which active inflammation may have produced in many of the tissues of the body."—Prof. G. McClellan's Surgery, p. 57-8.

81. "Mercury is the great anti-inflammatory, anti-febrile alterant of the *materia medica*."—Prof. J. P. Harrison, Therapeutics, vol. i, p. 147.

"That it cures we know, but how it cures we know not."—*Ib.*, 261.

"Next to blood-letting, mercury seems to be our principal remedy in inflammation, especially of the mucous membranes of the larynx, trachea and iris."—Marshall Hall, Bigelow and Holmes, No. 577.

"This mineral [mercury] is a very powerful agent in controlling inflammation, especially acute, phlegmonous, adhesive inflammation, *such as glues parts together* and spoils the texture of organs. It is of the greatest importance that you should accurately inform yourselves concerning the various effects of mercury upon the system."—Watson's Practice, p. 154

It is "a very potent, but a two-edged weapon."—*Ib.*, p. 154.

"Of late years, various forms of inflammation have been most successfully combated by the use of mercury."—Pereira's Materia Medica, p. 595.

As inflammation in its various forms is said to "make up the great amount of human maladies, and constitute the grand outlet of life" (Paine, Watson, Hall, Bigelow, Holmes), it follows that the "most powerful agent in controlling inflammation" must be, indeed, "the most valuable remedy" in the *materia medica*; and it should not be counted wonderful that, by those who believe this doctrine, there should be "scarcely a disease in which mercury, in some of its forms, is not prescribed."—Hooper.

82. "According to Armstrong, 'bleeding is the right arm, and mercury the left arm, of medicine.'"—Cincinnati Journal of Homeopathy, p. 81.

83. "There is scarcely a disease in which mercury in some of its preparations is not exhibited."—Hooper's Medical Dictionary.

84. "From its [mercury's] power of at once limiting or removing effusion, it is very plain how valuable must be its administration in *all* inflammatory affections of important internal organs."—Miller's Principles of Surgery, p. 102.

THEORIES OF THE ACTION OF MERCURY.

85. "*Mechanical Hypothesis*.—Astruc (*De Morb. Ven.*, vol. xi, p. 149) and Barry (*Medical Transactions*, vol. i, p. 25) fancied that mercury acted by its weight, its divisibility and its mobility."

86. "*Chemical Hypothesis*.—Some have advocated the chemical operation of mercurials, and have endeavored to explain their curative powers in disease in reference to their chemical properties. Thus Mitie, Pussavin (quoted by Richter, *Ausfuhr Chzneim*, vol. iv, p. 305), and Sweddiaur (*Practical Ob. on Venereal Complaints*) assumed that mercury acted chemically on the syphilitic poison, as acids and alkalies do on each other; while Gertanner supposed that the efficacy of mercurials depended on the oxygen they contain. Dr. Cullen (*Treat. of the Materia Medica*, vol. ii, p. 446) endeavored

to account for the action of mercury on the salivary glands in preference to other organs, by assuming that it has a particular disposition to unite with ammoniacal salts, with which it passes off by the various secretions. He thus accounted for the larger quantity of mercury which passed off by these glands, and which, being in this way applied to the excretions, occasioned salivation. Dr. John Meanay substituted another hypothesis, but equally objectionable: "Mercury," says he, "cannot pass off by the urine, because of the phosphoric acid contained in that fluid, which would form, with the mercury, an insoluble compound. It must, therefore, be thrown out of the system by other secretions, particularly by saliva, which facilitates this transmission by the affinity which the muriatic acid, the soda, and the ammonia of the secretion, have for the oxyd of mercury, and by which a compound, soluble in water, is formed."

87. *Dynamical Hypothesis*.—Some writers have principally directed their attention to the quality of the effects induced by mercury, and have termed this mineral, stimulant, sedative, tonic and alterative. Those who assume that mercury is a stimulant or excitant, are not agreed as to whether one or more parts, or the whole system, are stimulated; and, if particular parts, what these are. Hecker fixes on the lymphatics; Scone, on the arterial capillary system; Reil, on the nerves.

88. On the other hand, Comodi, Bertele and Horn consider it a weakening agent or sedative. Some think that mercurials, in small doses, are stimulants, but, in excessive doses, sedatives. This is the opinion of Dr. Wilson Philips.

89. "Dr. Murray calls mercury a tonic; Voght terms it an alterative, sedative resolvent; Sundelin, a liquifacient; Mr. Hunter accounted for its action by saying that it produced a different action from the disease."—Pereira's *Materia Medica*, vol. i, p. 594.

"For the most part, the local action of the mercurial compounds may be regarded as alterative and more or less irritant. Many of the preparations are energetic caustics. Mr. Annesly asserts, from his experiments on dogs and his experience with it in the human subject, that calomel is the reverse of an irritant; in other words, that, when applied to the gastro-intestinal membrane, it diminishes its vascularity."—*Ib.*, p. 585.

ITS EFFECTS ON THE CONSTITUTION.

90. "Mercury, gradually introduced into the system, seems to exert a tonic effect on both the extreme blood vessels and the lymphatics—that is, on the exhalents and the absorbents—thus preventing or limiting impending effusion, and at the same time expediting the removal of that which has been already exuded."—*Principles of Surgery*, by James Miller, F. R. S. E., F. R. C. S. E., Prof. of Surg in the University of Edinburgh, p. 102.

91. "It certainly alters the red globules and diminishes the undue proportion of the fibrin in a remarkable degree, and will, in a short time, break down the inflammatory exudations and adhesions among inflamed parts, which have resulted from the preceding stages of the disease;"—M'Clellan's *Surgery*, p. 57.

92. "But the great remedial property of mercury is that of stopping, controlling, or altogether preventing, the effusion of coagulable lymph; of bridling adhesive inflammation."—Watson's *Practice*, p. 155.

93. We regard mercury as an empirical and perturbatory remedy. By its stimulant property it deranges the vital and organic forces."—Prof. Golphin in *Revue Medico-Chirurgicale*, tom. ii, p. 134.

94. "Of the *modus operandi* of mercury we know nothing, except that it probably acts through the medium of the circulation, and seems, in many instances, to substitute its own action for that of the disease."—U. S. Dispensatory, p. 350.

"When we produce a mercurial impression to cure fever, we substitute the action of the remedy for that of the disease.

"The therapist will avail himself of this law of morbid action to substitute an artificial, definite and controllable constitutional action, for one that is abnormal, unlimited and not corrigible by any power in the system."—Har., *Mat. Med.*, vol. i, p. 157.

In the same volume, Prof. H. says:

95. Mercury "exercises a curative power" (194), and yet (p. 48, 49) it "promotes scrofula and glandular diseases, and hastens decomposition." "That mercury cures, we know—but, how it cures, we know not" (264). "There is some mystery about it" (150).

96. "It is not an excitant, but a most powerful depresser of the energies of life" (146). "It is not a stimulant to the vascular system" (227, 245). "It irritates the heart and arteries and invariably depresses the nerves" (228). "It excites the heart's action, or depresses the powers of life, as the case may be" (146). "It is the greatest curative agent" (147, 233). "Promotes the secretions (146). "Calomel subverts nature" (9). "Demolishes the very pillars of human health" (312). "Acts physiologically, therapeutically and pathologically" (218). "I pretend not to penetrate into its action further than a careful observance of the phenomena it exhibits."—Essays, page 177.

97. "Mercury acts upon the system as a stimulant; but what the peculiar nature of that stimulant is, it would be in vain to inquire."—Eberle's *Therapeutics*.

98. "Mercury produces universal irritability, making the constitution more susceptible of all impressions. It quickens the pulse, increases its hardness, and occasions a kind of temporary fever. It produces hectic fever. In some constitutions, it operates like a poison."—Hooper's *Medical Dictionary*.

99. "Mercury excites restlessness, anxiety, and a very distressing and irritable state of the whole body. In some it produces delirium, in others palsy and epilepsy."—Dr. Bell.

100. Prof. Drake, in the *Western Journal of Medicine*, vol. 2, p. 636, says: "Mercury has been found in the bones, blood, brain and nerves."

101. *Eczema Mercuriale*—"Alley saw forty-three cases of this disease, eight of which terminated fatally."—*Ib.*, p. 588.

102. *Ulceration and Sloughing*.—"Ulceration of the mouth is a well known effect of mercury. Ulceration of the throat is likewise a consequence of the use of this mineral."—*Ib.*, p. 589.

103. *Neurosis Mercurialis*.—"Various symptoms, indicating a disordered condition of the nervous system, are met with in persons who have been ex-

posed to the baneful influence of mercury, such as wandering pains, a tremulous condition of the muscular system, sometimes accompanied with stammering, and occasionally terminating in paralysis, epilepsy or apoplexy."—*Ib.*, p. 589.

104. *Cachexia Mercurialis*.—"This condition is characterized by disorder of the digestive organs, loss of appetite, wasting, incapability of much exertion, with increased secretion from all the organs, especially from the salivary glands. Mr. Travers says mercurial cachexia is characterized by irritable circulation, extreme pallor and emaciation, tenderness of the region of the pancreas, and the evacuations are frothy, whitish, tough and often greenish, at least in the commencement. These symptoms may be fairly referred to an affection of the pancreas analogous to that of the salivary glands."—Pereira, vol. i, p. 588.

PATHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF MERCURIAL ACTION.

However difficult the faculty may have found the task of explaining the *modus operandi* of mercury on the human system, the following extracts, as well as the preceding, show very clearly that they know something of the results which follow its exhibition. The reader will please to be careful, however, not to be imposed upon, as the faculty are, by the fatal error of supposing that all these results are the legitimate effects of the action of the drug. He should always bear in mind that mercury is a simple agent, and can produce but one effect, and that must be for good or for evil—for the vital force or against it: and that all other effects than those that are legitimate of mercury, must be attributed to other causes. Let him especially remember that all the irritation, fever and inflammation, that follow the exhibition of mercury, or any other drug, are attributable to the vital force alone; and that the great business of the observer is to ascertain whether the agent which excites them acts in harmony with this force or against it; and to prescribe accordingly. He will see, if he watches carefully, that mercury is *said* to produce good effects, only when controlled by the vital force and prevented from producing bad ones; and that, when it gets the upper hand, it produces its own effects, viz., paralysis of the nerves, ulceration, mortification, sloughing of the glands and muscles, and caries of the bones, which shows that all the good ever done on its exhibition, is done by the vital force in spite of it.

105. Mercury is "a Samson to do evil as well as to do good."—Prof. Geo. McClellan's *Surgery*, p. 58.

106. "If it be resorted to as a constitutional remedy in the first stages of disease, it will be seen to augment the disturbance, and, perhaps, convert the fever into a morbid form of irritative excitement."—*Ib.*

107. "In some cases the gums slough, the teeth loosen and drop out, and, occasionally, necrosis of the alveolar process takes place. During this time the system becomes extensively debilitated and emaciated, and if no intermission be given to the use of the mercury, involuntary actions of the muscular system come on, and the patient ultimately dies of exhaustion." "I have repeatedly seen inflammation and ulceration of the mouth and profuse

salivation induced by a few grains of calomel or some other mercurial."—Pereira, p. 587.

108. "If you push this remedy in healthy persons, *inflammation is actually produced*; the gums become tender, and red, and swollen, and at length they ulcerate: and, in extreme cases, and in young children especially, the inflamed parts may perish: the cheeks, for example, sometimes slough internally. Not only the gums, but the throat and fauces, grow red, and sore, and sloughy."—Watson's Practice, p. 155.

109. "Patients, who are kept under the influence of mercury, grow pale as well as thin: and Dr. Farre, who has paid great attention to the effects, remedial and injurious, of this drug, holds that it quickly destroys red blood: as effectually as it may be destroyed by venesection."—*Ib.*, p. 155.

"The facts I have already mentioned show, that it has a loosening effect upon certain textures—that it works by pulling down parts of the building."—*Ib.*, p. 155.

110. "Mercury occasionally attacks the bowels and causes violent purging, even of blood. At other times, it is suddenly determined to the mouth, and produces inflammation, ulceration and an excessive flow of saliva."—Cooper's Surg. Dict., vol. ii, p. 170.

111. "Mercury, when it falls on the mouth, produces, in many constitutions, violent inflammation, which ends in mortification."—*Ib.*, p. 170.

112. "In 1810, the Triumph man-of-war and Phipps schooner received on board several tons of quicksilver, saved from the wreck of a vessel near Cadiz. In consequence of the rolling of the bags the mercury escaped, and the whole of the crews became more or less affected. In the space of three weeks two hundred men were salivated, two died, and all the animals—cats, dogs, sheep, fowls, a canary bird, nay, even the rats, mice and cockroaches—were destroyed."—Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Jour., No. xxvi, p. 29.

113. "A very frequent consequence of excessive mercurial salivation, and the attendant ulceration and sloughing, is contraction of the mucous membrane in the neighborhood of the anterior arches of the palate, whereby the patient is prevented from opening the mouth, except to a very slight extent. I have met with several such cases. In one it followed the use of a few grains of blue pill, administered for a liver complaint. The patient remains unable to open her mouth wider than half an inch. Several operations have been performed by different surgeons, and the contracted parts freely divided, but the relief was only temporary. In another instance (that of a child FOUR YEARS of age) it was produced by a few grains of calomel. Though several years have elapsed since, the patient is obliged to suck his food through the spaces left between the jaws by the loss of the alveolar process."—Pereira's Mat. Med., vol. i, p. 587.

114. *Mercurial Purging*.—"Violent purging is a very frequent consequence of the use of mercury. It is frequently attended with griping, and sometimes with sanguineous evacuations."—*Ib.*

"Dr. John Mason Good, Fellow of the Royal Society, London, the learned author of the "Book of Nature," Improved Nosology," "Studies of Medicine," &c., says, in the latter work, vol. i, p. 62:

115. "Quicksilver, in whatever mode introduced into the system, whether by the skin, the stomach, or the lungs, uniformly stimulates the salivary glands, producing an increased flow of saliva, and is almost, if not altogether, the only substance we know of, which, introduced internally, universally acts in this manner." * * * "From the general tendency of mercury to produce this specific effect, those who are engaged in working quicksilver mines, are almost continually in a state of salivation: and when, which is often the case, condemned as criminals to such labor for life, drag out a miserable existence, in extreme debility and emaciation, with stiff, incurvated limbs, and total loss of teeth and appetite, till death, in a few years, with a friendly stroke, puts a period to their sufferings." * * *

116. "Mercury, however, produces different degrees of effect, upon different constitutions or states of the body. In a few rare instances, it has exerted no sensible influence whatever upon the excretories of the fauces: in others, a very small quantity of almost any of its preparations has stimulated them at once to a copious discharge. In persons of a highly nervous or irritable temperament, I have known salivation produced by a single dose of calomel; and that it is sometimes caused by dressing ulcers with red precipitate, is a fact well known to all experienced surgeons." * * * "Even the occasional application of white precipitate or mercurial ointment to the head to destroy vermin, has often excited salivation."

Prof. Thos. Graham, of the University of Glasgow, and member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, says:

117. "When I recall to mind the numerous cases of ruined health, from the excessive employment of calomel, that has come to my own knowledge; and reflect on the additional proofs of its ruinous operations, which still daily present themselves, I cannot forbear regarding it, as commonly exhibited, as a minute instrument of *mighty mischief*, which, instead of conveying health and strength to the diseased and enervated, is made to scatter widely the seeds of debility and disease of the worst kind, among persons of every age and condition."—Indig., p. 132.

118. "There is not, in the *materia medica*, another article which so immediately and permanently, and to so great a degree, debilitates the stomach and bowels, as calomel: yet this is the medicine which is prescribed and sent for on every occasion. Its action on the nervous system is demonstrative of its being an article in its nature inimical to the human constitution; since what medicine besides, in frequent use, will excite feelings so horrible and indescribable as calomel and other preparations of mercury? An excessively peevish, irritable and despondent state of mind, is a well known consequent of a single dose of this substance."—P. 134.

119. "There is a circumstance, in the operation of mercury, which ought to engage the serious and attentive consideration of the profession, as well as all who are in the habit of taking it themselves, or of giving it to their children—I mean the *permanency of its deleterious effects*. An improper or excessive use of the generality of medicines is recovered from without [comparative] difficulty; but it is not so when the same error is committed with the mercurial oxyds. They affect the human constitution in a peculiar manner, taking, so to speak, an iron grasp of all its systems, penetrating even to the bones, by which they not only change the healthy action of its vessels and general structure, but greatly impair and destroy its energies. I have seen persons to whom it has been largely given for the removal of different

complaints, who, before they took it, knew what indigestion and nervous depression meant, only by the descriptions of others; but they have since become experimentally acquainted with both; for they now constantly complain of weakness and irritability of the digestive organs, of frequent lowness of spirits and impaired strength; of all which, it appears to me, they will ever be sensible. Instances of this description abound. Many of the victims of the practice are aware of this origin of their permanent indisposition; and many more, who are at present unconscious of it, might here find, upon investigation, a sufficient cause for their sleepless nights and miserable days. We have, often, every benevolent feeling of the mind called into painful exercise, upon viewing patients already exhausted by protracted illness, groaning under the accumulated miseries of an active course of mercury, and, by this, forever deprived of perfect restoration. A barbarous practice, the inconsistency, folly, and injury of which, no words can sufficiently describe."—Pages 136–8.

120. "I have seen the constitutions of such persons [who were supposed to have the liver complaint] irrecoverably ruined by active mercurial courses; but *in no instance* did I ever witness a cure effected by this treatment. It is painful to recollect that, in disorganized livers, mercury, carried to the extent of salivation, is commonly regarded as the sheet anchor, the fit and only remedy; for I will venture to affirm, that the far greater number of such cases grow materially worse, rather than better by such use of it; and that this aggravation consists not merely in an increase of the patient's weakness and morbid irritability, but that the existing disease in the liver becomes more extensive and inveterate."—*Ib.*, p. 172.

121. "If the opinions here set forth with so much force be correct—and that they are so we have not the least doubt—what incalculable mischief must result from a practice founded upon the common notion of the absolute necessity of a mercurial salivation, for the cure of what may be properly or improperly named liver complaint!" [Note by the American Editor.]—*Ib.*, p. 127.

ABERNETHY says:

122. "Persons who are salivated, have, as far as I have remarked, the functions of the liver and the digestive organs constantly disturbed by that process."—*Surgical Observations*, p. 77.

BLACKALL says:

123. "On the schirrus or tuberculated state of the liver, I have seldom seen mercury make any [good] impression. But I have seen the mercurial habit superadded by continual salivation, and then the disorder become more complicated and more speedily fatal."—*Dropsies*, p. 70.

FARRE says:

124. "Patients suffering under chronic enlargements of the liver, are not, so far as I have observed, benefited by the operation of mercury; for, by the time that the most careful examination can distinguish them, the progress of the disease has been already so considerable, that the mercurial action tends only to exhaust the power that art will, subsequently, in vain attempt to restore."—*Morb. Anat. Liver*, p. 21.

HAMILTON says:

125. "The ordinary mode of exhibiting mercury, for the cure of chronic hepatitis, not unfrequently hurries on the disease, or, by impairing the con-

stitution, lays the foundation for paralytic affections; and it may be truly affirmed that it thus often shortens life."—*Abuse of Mercury*, p. 79.

Dr. FALCONER, of Bath, in a paper where he forcibly animadverts on its abuse, observes:

126. "*Among other ill effects*, it tends to produce tumors, paralysis, and, not unfrequently, incurable mania. I have myself seen repeatedly, from this cause, a kind of approximation to these maladies, that embittered life to such a degree, with shocking depression of spirits and other nervous agitations with which it was accompanied, as to make it more than probable that many of the suicides which disgrace our country, were occasioned by the intolerable feelings which result from such a state of the nervous system."—*Trans. Medical Society, London*, vol. i, p. 110.

Dr. HAMILTON says:

127. "In a lady who had such small doses of the blue pill combined with opium, for three nights successively, that the whole quantity amounted to no more than five grains of the mass, salivation began on the fifth day; and, notwithstanding every attention, the tongue and gums became swelled to an enormous degree; bleeding ulcers of the mouth and fauces took place, and such excessive irritability and debility followed that, for nearly a whole month, her life was in the utmost jeopardy."—*Abuse of Mercury*, p. 24.

Dr. ALLEY says:

128. "I have seen the mercurial eruption appear over the entire body of a boy about seven years old, for whom but three grains of calomel had been prescribed effectually as a purgative."—*Observations on Hydrargyria*, p. 40.

GRAHAM says:

129. "Such instances of the poisonous operation of mercury are not of rare occurrence; they are common, and only two out of a vast number that have been and are still daily witnessed, many of which are on record."—p. 136.

THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF PREDICTING ITS MODUS OPERANDI.

130. "Some patients are slow to show ptyalism, even under great and sustained doses. Others have their mouths touched, perhaps severely, with but a few grains. Some suffer from pain and purging, in whatever form the mercury is given, internally. Some are actually poisoned by the mineral, the condition termed *erythismus* being induced. The system may not suffer, but the surface may—a very troublesome eruption occurring, the *eczema mercuriale*. Some systems evince their intolerance of the remedy by gradual loss of flesh, strength and spirits, an asthenic state, approaching to hectic, becoming established. Violent salivation may be caused by sudden exposure to cold during the use of the medicine, or it may depend upon an idiosyncrasy of the system."—*Practice of Surgery*, by James Miller, p. 390–91.

Dr. BELL states that he

131. "Exhibited three grains of blue mass to a patient, which caused copious salivation."—*Bell & Stokes's Practice*, vol. ii, p. 140.

132. "It is important to know that different persons admit of, or resist, the specific agency of mercury in very different degrees; so that, in some patients, the remedy becomes unmanageable and hazardous; while, in others, it is inert and useless. It is most grievously disappointing to watch a pa-

tient laboring under inflammation which is likely to spoil some important organ, and to find, after bleeding has been pushed as far as we dare push it, that no impression is made upon his gums by the freest use of mercury. Such cases are not uncommon; and, unfortunately, they seem most apt to occur when the controlling agency of mercury is most urgently required. On the other hand, there are persons in whom very small quantities of mercury act as a violent poison, a single dose producing the severest salivation, and bringing the patient's existence into jeopardy. This history was told to Dr. Farre by a medical man, under whose notice it fell. A lady whom he attended said to him, at his first professional visit to her, 'Now, without asking why or speculating upon it, never give me mercury, for it poisons me.' Some time afterward she met with the late Mr. Chevalier, and spoke to him about her complaints; and he prescribed for her as a purgative, *once*, two grains of calomel, with some cathartic extract. She took the dose, and the next morning showed the prescription to her ordinary medical attendant. 'Why,' said he, 'you have done the very thing you were so anxious to avoid—you have taken mercury.' She replied, 'I thought as much, from the sensations I have in my mouth.' Furious salivation came on in a few hours, and she died at the end of two years, worn out by the effects of mercury, and having lost portions of the jaw-bone by necrosis."—Watson's Practice, p. 157.

Dr. Jox says:

133. "We have seen a person salivated severely by four or five grains of blue pill, taken in divided doses."—Library Practical Medicine, vol. v, p. 410.

134. "Mercury, in any form, excites in some individuals, and more particularly in those in whom salivation is not easily produced, a frightful degree of erethism, with most alarming depression of the vital powers. We have seen a complete but temporary loss of sight, accompanied by various evidences of undue determination of blood to the head, supervene upon the occurrence of a violent salivation, induced by the application of camphorated mercurial ointment, for a few days, to an enlarged testis."—*Ib.*, p. 411.

Prof. J. P. HARRISON, in a lecture on Diseases induced by Mercury, says:

135. "Its vapors salivated a whole ship's crew."—Medical Essays, p. 126.

"Calomel has inflicted more mischief," &c.—*Ib.*, p. 128.

"Calomel, even in large doses, has the effect of *diminishing* vascular action."—*Ib.*, p. 131.

It produces "sore, tumid, and at length ulcerous gums, and a swollen, loaded tongue."—*Ib.*, p. 139.

"Mercury sometimes produces fatal effects in very small quantities."—*Ib.*, p. 147.

"Mercury is often a most potent engine of mischief."—*Ib.*, 150.

136. "An *inscrutable* peculiarity of constitution renders it a matter of great peril for some persons to take mercury in any shape. The smallest dose of blue pill or calomel will, in such individuals create the most alarming symptoms, and death will sometimes result from the taking of a few grains of either."—*Ib.*, p. .

137. "By its rapid, irritating impression on the gastric mucous tissue or upon the skin, it [mercury] may act as a poison."—*Ib.*, p. 157.

"I have seen another case, in which the child took several doses of calomel, before the mouth became inflamed, and was saved with the loss of nearly all the teeth of both jaws and a portion of one cheek."—*Ib.*, p. 161.

Another child, of six years, took six grains of calomel, and lost "the whole left cheek," and "soon died." Another "unfortunate victim of mercury lost a part of his nose and most of the palate of his mouth, and died of phthisis pulmonalis!"—Ib., p. 160.

See the whole essay, in the face of which Prof. Harrison has the effrontery to intimate that mercury is not a poison!

"IMPOSSIBILITY OF CONTROLLING ITS ACTION WHEN IT GETS THE UPPER HAND."

138. The secondary effects of the poison are manifested in "caries of the skull; ozena [ulceration of the lining membrane of the nose]; *noli me tangere* [destructive ulcer of the face]; caries and necrosis of the lower jaw; inflammation of the tongue."—Miller's Practice of Surgery, p. 64, 129, 130, 136, 158.

139. "Of the remote evil effects of mercury on the system, much might be said."—Ib., p. 391.

"In all aggravated cases of periostitis, mercury is usually much to blame. No predisposing cause of osteitis is found more frequent or certain in its operation than mercury. The cachectic state induced by the mercurial poison seems manifestly to favor the occurrence of fragilitas ossium."—Ib., p. 230, 232, 262.

Dr. BELL, when referring to the treatment of mercurial salivation, says:

140. "Like all kinds of poisoning, of which this is one, time is required, both for an elimination of the deleterious agent from the system and for a subsidence of the morbid phenomena, such as depraved secretions and perverted innervation to which it gives rise."—Bell & Stokes's Practice, vol. i, p. 69.

141. "In producing their effects, all the mercurial preparations are decomposed, and the mercury in the metallic form is either thrown out of the body by the skin and lungs, or deposited in the glands and the bones."

"In Hufeland's Journal, it is stated that a pelvis infiltrated with mercury was taken from a young woman who died of syphilis, and is preserved in the Dublin Museum of Midwifery."—Ib., Note. [Dr. Blundell, of London, has another.] "In this place we can only contemplate mercury as a source of disease."—Good's St. Med., vol. i, p. 64.

[It is often said that, if mercury does not salivate, it passes out of the system and does no harm. The pelvis preserved, as mentioned above, show the falsity of this declaration.

We sometime ago read of a case (book and page not now recollected) in which, twenty years after its exhibition, mercury was brought into action, produced all the above dreadful effects, and destroyed the patient in spite of all the efforts of the faculty of a Parisian hospital to prevent it.]

N. CHAPMAN, Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Pennsylvania, says:

142. "If you could see, what I almost daily see in my private practice, persons from the South in the very last stage of miserable existence, emaciated to a skeleton, with both plates of the skull almost completely perforated in many places, the nose half gone, with rotten jaws and ulcerated throats, with breaths more pestiferous than the poisonous Bohon Upas, with limbs racked with the pains of the Inquisition, minds as imbecile as the puling babe—a

grievous burthen to themselves and a disgusting spectacle to the world, you would exclaim, as I have often done, 'O, the lamentable ignorance which dictates the use (as medicine) of that noxious drug, calomel.' It is a disgraceful reproach to the profession of medicine—it is quackery—horrid, unwarrantable, murderous quackery. What merit do physicians flatter themselves they possess, by being able to salivate a patient? Cannot the veriest fool in Christendom give calomel and salivate? But I will ask another question, Who is there that can stop the career of calomel when once it has taken the reins into its own possession? He who resigns the fate of his patient to calomel, is a vile enemy to the sick, and if he has a tolerable practice, will, in a single season, lay the foundation of a good business for life; for he will ever afterward have enough to do to stop the mercurial breaches in the constitution of his dilapidated patients. He has thrown himself in close contact with death, and will have to fight him at arm's length so long as one of his patients maintains a miserable existence" (79).

Prof. HARRISON, after saying:

143. "Various explanations have been given of the *modus curandi* of this great anti-inflammatory alterant" [mercury], adds, "that it cures we know, but how it cures we know not" (192). "The mystery of its precise *modus agendi* remains unexplored" (225).

He has, however, explored it pretty thoroughly, and given us the effects it produces, which sufficiently demonstrate its *modus agendi*. He says:

"It produces a rapid sinking of the vital powers" (24). "Very injurious effects upon the mouths of children—severe inflammation, sloughing and death" (46). "Palsy, ulceration and diseases of the bones" (294). "Irritates the heart and arteries, and invariably depresses the nerves" (228). "A most powerful subduer of the energies of life" (227). "It brings on a most afflicting and incorrigible constitutional disease, which often defies the skill of the most experienced and enlightened physician to cure" (187). "Sloughing of the cheek has arisen from washes and ointments applied to the head and other parts of the body" (231). "Disastrous effects have sprung from these applications" (352). "Inflicts incalculable evil on the patient" (245). "Produces *cancrum oris*" (305) [dry salivation that rots away the mouth]. "The most revolting mutilation of the face, foul ulcers on the tongue, cheeks and fauces" (306). "Demolishes the very pillars of human health" (312). "Eats off the nose and the bony palate of the mouth" (319). "When we produce a mercurial impression to cure fever, we substitute the action of the remedy for that of the disease" (157). "Its action is not controllable under the most judicious treatment" (296).

144. *Cases and Illustrations*.—"We once saw a little girl, four years old, with an attack of fever, who died from the mercurial *cancrum oris*. Other children we have seen, more advanced in years, who fell victims to the disease, or who were mutilated by it, their countenances being shockingly deformed by the sloughing and subsequently puckered cicatrization. Upon this topic our thoughts have been much directed, from the melancholy termination of cases of mercurialism in children, *which we have witnessed in our own practice*. We lost a case, from the ravages of mercury on the mouth, in a boy of eight years old, who was apparently recovering from hydrocephalus. It has been our lot to see more cases in consultation than in our own practice, in which death or mutilation has occurred from continuing the use of calomel too long, or from giving it in disproportionate doses in attacks of sickness in

children. One dose of eight grains brought on gangrenopsis in a boy of ten years of age, who had, several years anterior, been mercurialized. Death, under the most revolting mutilations of the face, took place in three weeks after he took the calomel" (305-6).

In all these cases, the Doctor confesses that the disease produced by mercury was far worse than the fever, hydrocephalus, whooping cough, and even syphilis (236), for which it was given.

Hiram Cox, M. D., a graduate of the Ohio Medical College, and late Professor of Surgery in the E. M. Institute of this city, says:

145. "Thousands yearly fill a premature grave, who are *literally* and *legally murdered* by the reckless administration of *mercury*; yet that same routine species of murder is continued and the community sanction it.

"I have been called in hundreds of instances to counteract cases of poison produced by men, to many of whose names, by some means or other, the initials M. D. were attached," &c. "Thousands have gone to the grave," &c. "I could enumerate at least fifty cases of poison and death by calomel, that occurred in the practice of physicians who were practicing in the region of country in which I practiced for seven years, many of whom were sent to their graves, mutilated, disfigured and partially decomposed, before death released them from their sufferings. Suppose each physician of the thousands who are practicing in the United States, after the Old School routine of giving *calomel*, were to hand in a list of deaths produced by that *mineral poison* that occurred within his knowledge and region of labor, what a stupendous amount of mortality it would make!" "How revolting to humanity is this picture! and yet how listlessly does this community move on and permit this state of things to exist!"—W. M. Reformer.

146. In the preceding numbers we have confined our quotations to the three great, indispensable remedies of Allopathy, the lancet, opium and mercury, at once the indices to the *character* of its materia medica and the most efficient agents it embraces. But we do not mean to intimate that these are all the remedies of that old, popular practice. There are others used in conjunction with these, or as substitutes for them. But "whatever differences" they may present in other respects, "they all agree in this—they suddenly and rapidly extinguish a great proportion of the vitality of the system." "Poisons are, in general, the best medicines," says Hooper; and "the greater the poison, the better the medicine," has long been counted an almost self-evident principle.

Among the adjuncts to, or substitutes for, the lancet, opium and mercury, we find a great number and variety of agents, of very dissimilar character and tendency, as antimony, arsenic, lead, zinc, niter, silver, copper, cantharides, digitalis, hyosciamus, cicuta, strychnine and the most powerful narcotics, all which are classed among the *causes* as well as among the curers of disease. For example, of one hundred and thirty-four forms of disease enumerated by Eberle, he says that more than thirty are induced by the agents used to cure disease—as mercury, arsenic, lead, cantharides, stramonium, opium and other "irritating substances;" also by *injuries* from *malpractice*.

Prof. DUNGLISON also gives us, as the causes of more than thirty malignant forms of disease, the same "great remedial agents," with blood-letting, tobacco, spurred rye, opium, alcohol and other "acid or corrosive poisons."

These forms of disease are, inflammation, acute and chronic, of all or any of the organs, as the brain, the tongue, the tonsils, the throat, the stomach and the intestines, the lungs, the heart, the liver, the kidneys, the pleura, the pericardium, the peritoneum, the joints, tendons and muscles, the degeneration and decay of all these and the very bones themselves. The very worst forms of disease with which the human body has ever been afflicted are attributed to "the most effective weapons of medical aggression" that have ever been prescribed for them, and to the manipulations of rashness in parturition. Look at an array of these conditions, causes and cures.

FIRST, FROM EBERLE:

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Cause.</i>	<i>Cure.</i>		
Tonsillitis,	Arsenic, Mercury,	Bleeding,	Calomel,	Opium.
Enteritis,	Drastic purgatives,	Do	do	do
Peritonitis,	Injuries in parturition,	Do	do	do
Hepatitis,	Mercury,	Do	do	
Cerebutis,	Do.	Do	do	do
Nephritis,	Cantharides,	Do	do	do
Cystitis,	Do.	Do	do	do
Hysteritis,	Instrumental labor,	Do	do	
Rheumatism,	Mercury,	Do	do	do
Gout,	Do.	Do	do	do
Ophthalmia,	Do.	Do	do	do
Eczema,	Do.		do	do
Hematemesis,	Cantharides,	Do	do	do
Hematuria,	Do.	Do	do	do
Paralysis,	Lead, Mercury,	Do	do	
Chorea,	Mercury, Stramonium,	Do	do	do
Dementia,	Do.	Do	do	do
Delirium Tremens,	Opium,	Do	do	do D
Colica Pictonum,	Lead,	Do	do	do
Jaundice,	Mercury,	Do	do	do
Diabetes,	Do. Alcoholic Liquors,	Do	do	do
Dysuria,	Cantharides,		do	do
Hydrothorax,	Mercury,	Do	do	do
Ascites,	Do.	Do	do	do
Anasarca,	Do.	Do	do	do

In DUNGLISON the contrast is nearly the same as above, with the addition of some others.

147. The reader must be forcibly impressed by the number and the inveterate character of the several forms of disease above indicated, that were *produced* by mercury. The following note, by Prof. J. B. Flint, of Louisville, Kentucky, to his edition of Druitt's Surgery (p. 114), will explain the mystery.

148. "Genuine tuberculous scrofula is less common in the valley of the Mississippi than on the eastern coast of the Union. But a very large portion of what is regarded and treated as scrofulous disease, in this part of the country, appears to me to be merely the result of indiscreet mercurialization. Under the prevalent idea that biliary derangements either constitute or co-exist with every departure from health, some form of mercury is administered in almost every prescription, and the whole capillary system of persons

who happen to be occasionally unwell, soon becomes impregnated and poisoned by this subtile mineral.

149. "So, too, if an alterative impression is desired, under any morbid condition whatever, instead of employing regimen, diet and more harmless medicaments, it is common to resort indiscriminately to mercurial agents. The consequences of such reckless medication [more properly, wholesale poisoning!] present themselves to the physician in dyspeptic affections, chronic headaches, pains in the limbs, *called* rheumatism, &c.; and to the surgeon in the more striking forms of alveolar absorption and adhesions, inveterate ulcerations of the fauces and nostrils, where no specific taint has been suspected, and in various degenerations, malignant or semi-malignant, of glandular organs.

150. "Moreover, the evil does not stop with the individual—for where important elementary tissues are so deteriorated in the parents, a constitutional infirmity will be impressed on the offspring, which, if it may not be called scrofulous from birth, is the most favorable condition possible for the development of the phenomena of that diathesis, whenever co-operative influences shall assail the unfortunate subject."

151. "The interests of humanity, no less than the honor of medicine, demand that those who observe and understand these things should utter, on all proper occasions, the most unqualified protestations against such abuses of a medicinal agent whose timely and judicious use is so important to the healing art, and thus prevent it from becoming so detestable that its employment will not be tolerated at all."

Some of my readers have already asked why I have quoted so extensively from Allopathic authors. I answer, I have done it for several reasons:

1. To disabuse the public of their arrogant and impudent claims to all the medical science in the world, and to the right of the obsequious submission of all patients to their dicta in practice.

2. To furnish to those who dare dispute their pretended wisdom and their arrogant authority, with ample and effective weapons for defense and abundant reasons for adopting an independent course.

3. I have done it to give ample proof to physicians, as well as their patrons, that there is neither science nor consistency in their principles, nor sense nor humanity in their practice.

These extracts, from the most eminent of their professors and authors, demonstrate as clearly as human testimony and example can do it, that *they* have no faith in the doctrines they teach, either general or particular; and that, so far from having a practice on which they can confidently rely for safety and efficiency, they consider their best remedies "the most potent engines of mischief"—"two-edged swords," that have slain seven-fold more by their abuse than they have cured by their judicious use, on the great scale of their most scientific practice.

They pronounce "the lancet the indispensable sheet-anchor of their practice in inflammation;" "mercury the great anti-inflammatory, anti-febrile alterant of their materia medica;" and opium the "*magnum Dei donum* (the great gift of God) for the relief of a great proportion of the maladies of

man:" and yet they ascribe to each and every one of these the destruction of more lives than can be attributed to the other three great curses of humanity—the sword, pestilence and famine!

Will not the reader turn in disgust from such a mortifying spectacle? Will not the advocate of Allopathy himself here discover the folly and iniquity of longer binding his living spirit to such a rotten carcass, and give me his attention, while I unfold the cause of all the errors in theory and mischiefs in practice of which the countless hosts of eminent and benevolent men, some of whose statements I have quoted here, complain? Can the most strenuous advocate of Allopathy longer doubt that there is, at the very root of this system, some fatal canker worm that stints the growth and mars the beauty of its trunk, branches, leaves and flowers, and blast its long and earnestly anticipated fruits? Must it not seem to every one passing strange, that medicine should "still be in its *infancy*," if it *ever possessed*, within its lifeless shell, the elements of *manhood*? If it ever had a scientific basis, should we expect to see such men as Lieutaud, Broussais, Louis, Hahnemann, Brown, Donaldson, Henderson, Forbes, Waterhouse, Jackson, &c., surrendering that basis as worse than worthless—as chaining down the mind to an erroneous, destructive creed—and setting themselves diligently to work to "make new observations, out of which to form a sounder theory"? Should we expect to see "American and other medical savans" assembling from year to year, and making it the burthen of their business to strive to ascertain the reason why their once popular and venerated system is losing its authority and falling into silence and neglect, if not contempt and ridicule, while multitudes of other systems, with the title of reform, are rising up to crowd it out of fashion and to take its place; if theirs, as they have made *some thoughtless men believe*, were "built on the solid foundation of everlasting truth, and had within it the power of rising to perfection"? No, indeed! Truth is mighty, and will prevail wherever promulgated and applied. That their system does not answer the end of its adoption (5, 6, 16), is proof irrefragable that its fundamental doctrines are not true. But all the authors I have quoted admit this charge, and the burthen of their efforts has been to ascertain and rectify the error (9, 19). But, as yet, they have failed even in this. Allopathy is no further advanced in its fundamental character than it was three hundred years ago; and never will be further than it is now, till its present base is revolutionized. This glorious work for scientific medicine, this desideratum in its universal history, I shall clearly and thoroughly perform in the next number of this work.

As references mar the beauty of the page and interrupt the sense of the text, I shall make but few as I pass, assuring here the reader, that I shall say nothing that I cannot amply prove, and that I will make copious references to all parts of the work in the index, where they will be found by far the most useful.

