

Dr. James H. Miller's "Thompsonalgia" report to the trustees of the Baltimore County Alms House, with comments : preceded by a few introductory remarks relating to the same / by the Committee of Correspondence of the Thomsonian Friendly Botanic Society of Maryland.

Contributors

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MILLER (JAS. H.)

DR. JAMES H. MILLER'S

"THOMPSONALGIA" REPORT,

TO THE

TRUSTEES OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY ALMS HOUSE,

WITH COMMENTS;

PRECEDED BY

A FEW INTRODUCTORY REMARKS RELATING TO THE SAME.

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BY THE COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE

Of the Thomsonian Friendly Botanic Society of Maryland.

A few remarks are necessary to introduce the reader to the subject embraced in the succeeding pages.—They have a bearing principally to certain matters designed to ascertain if practicable, the *truth* of Dr. Miller's *official* statement maligning the Thomsonians of this city, and those friendly to the botanic practice.

From the Dr.'s boasted high standing; the "sphere in which he moves" in "society, far elevated above the influence of vulgar infatuation, both by intelligence and moral worth"—[if the Dr. has forgotten, the public have it still in remembrance that, but a short period since, when he boldly played the demagogue, his associates were *not exactly* of the class he at present enumerates,]—it was deemed expedient and proper not to permit the Dr.'s hostility against the Thomsonian system, to go before the community without at least endeavouring to ascertain how far it comported with strict truth, and to enter into its defence with a zeal commensurate with the malignity of the attack. Hence the following card was published in the *Republican* of the 15th inst. and the *Chronicle* of the following day:—

DR. MILLER'S "THOMPSONALGIA."

DR. JAS. H. MILLER, Physician to the Alms House of Baltimore County, having made an *official* report to the Trustees, in which he, *Ishmael*-like, raises his hands against all our medical institutions which were incapable of appreciating his superior merit and great medical genius; and having indulged in a malignant attack on the Thomsonians, the latter respectfully solicit a suspension of public opinion in relation to certain allegations, until the appropriate constitutional organs of the "*Thomsonian Friendly Botanic Society of Maryland*" may have it in their power to investigate their *truth* and report thereon.

In the meantime they tender Dr. *Miller* their grateful acknowledgments, for the opportunity thus afforded of awakening public enquiry into the merits of the poisonous mineral and blood-letting practice of "*humanity's commons*" and the Botanic practice, and pledge themselves to notice his publication in due form, with as little delay as practicable.

Editors are respectfully requested to give the preceding a place in their respective papers, accompanied by the famous "*Thompsonalgia*" report of Dr. *Miller*."

Diligent enquiry was forthwith instituted by the "*Committee of Inspection*," whose duty it is to enquire into all cases of death or of mal-practice, if reports

of such be circulated, and make them known to the "*Committee of Correspondence*;" but no information could be had respecting the case; nor could the name of the "reckless administerer" of "*steam and peppered spirits*" be ascertained; hence no other alternative was left us, but a direct application to *Dr. Miller*, to furnish it together with his place of residence. With this view the following letter was addressed and personally delivered to him at his office, on the evening of the same day in which it was written:

BALTIMORE, *January 16, 1836.*

SIR:—After so minute a detail as you have been able to furnish the board of Trustees of the Baltimore County Alms House, of the "*pepper, steamed and No. 6.*" case, treated by you in May, 1835, and which terminated fatally, it is scarcely to be presumed that you did not make yourself acquainted with the name of the "reckless and daring" operator.

It is probable there may be unauthorised or incompetent persons among the Thomsonian right holders, who sometimes act as physicians; and no doubt others may have assumed the practice from either good motives, or with a view to private emolument, as you concede that it is a "popular empiricism," (although in your estimation, the "*cobbling of old shoes,*" would be a more profitable employment,) hence if such be the case, we are constrained to acknowledge there may be quacks among the *Thomsonians*, as well as among the *diplomatized regular physicians*. It is, however, our honest and sincere desire to caution and guard the public against such characters; and with this view we respectfully solicit the name (and place of residence, if known to you,) of the individual above alluded to.

As early an answer as may be convenient without encroaching upon the time necessarily devoted to your professional duties, will be duly appreciated, and may be left at the residence of any of the undersigned, or lodged in the post office under cover, directed to either.

With due respect, your ob't servants,

PHILIP REIGART.

L. FRAILEY,

MICHAEL LAMB,

ROBERT NEILSON,

JAS. SEARLY,

WM. J. ALCOCK,

THOMAS MORGAN,

} Committee of Correspondence, Thom. Friendly Botanic Society of Maryland.

DR. J. H. MILLER.

Up to the 30th inst. no reply was received to our communication. Having waited 14 days, we came to the conclusion that, for reasons best known to that high dignitary, the pauper physician and professor, *Jas. H. Miller*, we were not deserving of his notice. Consequently we have been impelled to give a more extensive circulation to his report than was perhaps designed; and thus essentially aid him in spreading his fame beyond the limits of the poor-house farm and the learned faculty, accompanied by such comments as the nature of the case seemed to justify. We publish it the more readily, from a desire of letting the people know, what the most malignant of our enemies and persecutors have to say against us, that by our *conduct* and by our *acts*, more especially, they may be enabled correctly to judge and testify in our favour and place the seal of reprobation upon the assertions of *interested* calumniators.

Why this *murderous affair* has been concealed from public knowledge, from the first day of May, 1835, to the 6th of January, 1836, is inexplicable. Perhaps the well known thrift and economy of the people from the "land of steady habits" have taught the Dr. a lesson. If *he* had published it at a certain date it might perhaps have cost *him* a trifle, and hence he preferred chronicling his medical dignity and fame to the world, by taxing the very individuals whom he vituperates, with a portion of the expense. This bantling of the Dr. partakes of the na-

ture of the institution in which it was born. Having been cast upon the public as a pauper we have volunteered our feeble aid in commending it to the charity of the public.

Like all *great* men the Dr. appears to be seeking for posthumous fame, as well as for present honors and emoluments. So far as Thomsonians are concerned, it will be accorded to him.—In recording all the various incidents of Gen. Jackson's chequered and eventful life, and transmitting them to posterity, it will be utterly impossible to omit the circumstance of the attempt to assassinate him, whilst retiring from the capitol; and that will necessarily render immortal the name of *Richard Lawrence*. And Dr. *Samuel Thomson's* name will descend to posterity encircled with a bright halo of glory among the proudest and noblest of reformers in the healing art; and with it will descend the names of Drs. *French* and *Miller*, in a *blaze* not transcended in brilliance since the period which immortalized *Eratostratus* the Ephesian; all will, in the language of Pope, be

“*Damn'd to everlasting fame.*”

THE COMMITTEE.

BALTIMORE, *January*, 1836.

REPORT OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN.

BALTIMORE ALMS HOUSE, *May 1st*, 1835.

To the Trustees of the Baltimore Alms House.

GENTLEMEN :—On reviewing the transactions of the medical department of this institution during the past year, many events and circumstances of a peculiar character obtrude themselves upon our recollection, some of which, it may not be improper to place under your consideration.

2. The number of admitted and domestic cases of disease has outgone that of any preceding equal portion of time, and although the bill of mortality is greater than the last, yet in its ratio it will bear comparison with any previous year. In such establishments the mortality must always be great, much greater than in private practice, because, such are the resorts of worn out lives, they are *humanity's commons*, where the useless and incurable are “turned out to die;” and they are also known as the *portals of oblivion*, into which are thrown many of the victims of mal-practice. Such, however are the common and inevitable reasons why alms house practice is shaded with darker results; yet there are, perhaps, some others which have been peculiar to the last year and to this place. It is a disgraceful fact, that, some of the older nations of the world oppressed by pauperism, are endeavoring to transfer a portion of their burdens upon this young and abundant country; and we fear our geographical position and readiness of access are obnoxious to an over-proportion of expatriated paupers. Greater facilities than usual have been afforded to the transfer of hopeless cases from our own hospitals and infirmaries, or patients who have exhausted both their funds and the skill of their physicians, and in this forlorn predicament are sent here to obtain quiet graves

[The Dr. speaks of “*humanity's commons*,” as a place where the “useless and incurable are *turned out to die.*” The figure is not only a *new* one to us, but is, upon the whole, extremely *felicitous* and worthy of the lofty genius of Dr. *Miller*, who is likely to immortalise himself, for his discovery of a *new* disease as well as the remedy, by which 9 out of 11 have been wrested by his skill from a wretched death by “steam and peppered spirits.” This “*humanity's commons*,” however, irresistably reminds us of the “*commons*” where four legged brutes, after a long series of ill treatment by their biped masters, are “turned out to die,” and in our juvenile years was termed “*horse heaven.*”—The Dr. will pardon the term.

It appears that “great facilities have been afforded to the transfer of hopeless cases from our *hospitals* and *infirmaries*, of patients, who have exhausted both their *funds* and the skill of their physicians, and in this forlorn predicament are “sent to the Alms House (under the charge of Dr. *Miller*) to obtain quiet graves. “In this establishment are also thrown many of the victims of mal-practice!”

Here then, we have the astounding fact acknowledged by a member of the regular faculty, that a cold and selfish heartlessness predominates in our public institutions, upon which the people's money has been lavishly squandered—that the patients are leeches of their *blood* and their *money*—and when the latter is exhausted, they are sent to “humanity's commons;” that is, “turned out to die” like brutes. Is nothing done for them after the “portals of oblivion” are open for them? This is shockingly revolting to humanity and appears almost incredible. If however, Dr. Miller speaks the plain unvarnished truth, why does he not also fearlessly expose to public reprobation, the aiders and abettors of such cruelty and flagrant injustice? Why is it that the Dr. passes over such reprehensible conduct on the part of the conductors of our public institutions, without exhibiting the indignation and warmth of feeling manifested against the Thomsonians. The latter he acknowledges *may* be “misguided;” but such a term is in no case, they will say, applicable to “regular physicians”—men of scientific attainments. There must then be either *quackery* or *incompetence* among a portion of the *regulars*, or there could be no *mal-practice*. It is not our province to decide whether Dr. Miller, in this instance speaks the truth, or “bears false witness” against his brethren; but we are fully justified in remarking that, if the coiner of a counterfeit term against the friends of the Botanic system, has spoken the truth, it is passing strange how *kindly* and *gently* he has dealt with his regular associates, after charging them indirectly with dishonorable conduct.

In fact it does appear as if jealousy and ambition, justified the college dignitary in exposing the bad *work* of some of his colleagues, by way of accumulating future grist for his own mill—whilst all unite in the cry of heresy against those who cannot exhibit the sheep-skin. In the mean time the credulous are duped and quacked of their money and their health. And this state of things will continue so long as the people are too indolent to inquire and judge for themselves.]

3. Many other causes might be advanced, as tributary to the amount and severity of the cases we have treated; such as the hitherto unexperienced inclemency of the seasons; the remoteness of the public works from which a large portion of our inmates are sent, rendering the cases chronic by the delays necessarily attendant upon distance; for the most of these remain under such poor accommodations as their situation afford, until their condition becomes desperate, and they are hurried off with scarce a hope of reaching their destination alive.

[The Dr. speaks of “*chronic cases*” caused by “delays necessarily attendant upon distance.” Let the faculty abandon the exhibition of their bone rotting calomel and the murderous use of the lancet, and we shall seldom if ever have our ears assailed with the term “*chronic*.”]

4. But the most prolific source is the too prevalent vulgar practice of over stimulation, by the steam and scalding portions of a now popular impyricism. The bare mention of this latter cause may to some seem invidious, but I trust I shall be shielded from all such imputations by you, and those who know me, and are acquainted with the *sphere of private practice in which I move*; a society far elevated above the influence of vulgar infatuation, both by intelligence and moral worth; yet in addressing you, the guardians of the class which requires protection from the arts of designing or misguided imposters, acting upon their native or acquired imbecility, I feel officially bound to render the outlines of the reasoning and *facts* upon which my declaration is founded.

[The most prolific source, says Dr. Miller, as tributary to the amount and severity of the cases we have treated is the vulgar practice of “over stimulation, by the steam and scalding portion” of the Thomsonians—yet this most prolific source has furnished according to his own tabular statement, but 11 cases out of 2,571 treated at the Alms House, which are alphabetically arrayed in all the gorgeous splendour of the learned technical jargon of the faculty. But we deny the correctness of Dr. Miller's judgment for reasons to be found more at large in our comments on paragraph 6. Whatever skill and judgment may have been imputed to Dr. Miller, we fearlessly declare that any physician who is incapable of distinguishing a case of well defined small pox from a common eruption, and thus jeopardises the lives of the inmates of the establishment over which he presides, by exposing them to the consequences of so foul and loathsome a disease,

may coin base and malignant terms against his adversaries, but cannot be relied on when he decides that certain forms of disease are owing to Botanic medicines, without a knowledge that they were administered, and that none of the poisonous drugs of the faculty had been taken by the patients. There is no small quantum of bombast and bloated egotism displayed in the preceding paragraph. The Dr. has left the goddess of his fame in a neighboring state, and appears to be determined henceforth to become his own trumpeter; and his direful anathema against the Thomsonians, is a mere *salvo*, apparently designed to conceal his own ignorance or mal-practice.

Dr. *Miller* appears not to be aware that maugre the attempted ridicule of such men as himself, "steam quackery" has found favour both in England and France. In London it has elicited the approbation of the Lord Mayor, and in Paris the patronage of *Magendie*, who is the acknowledged head of the French faculty; but he may, in the estimation of the learned Dr. *Miller*, be a mere charlatan in medicine. Query—Does not Dr. M. possess and use a *steamer*, constructed upon Thomsonian principles? We answer, *aye!*—But recollect, rejoin his friends, he is a *skilful* engineer.

5. The cases enumerated in the accompanying tabular view under the head of Thompsonalgia, (pardon the new coined term,) are such only, as were traceable to the effects of this system of mal-practice, upon the most trivial indisposition; those that have been injured or rendered incurable by the same means, were they segregated, would constitute a most appalling amount, but they are diffused through the table and not particularly marked.

[You observe that "the cases enumerated by you under the head of Thompsonalgia, are such only as were traceable to the effects of this system of mal-practice upon the most trivial indisposition, and that those who have been injured or rendered incurable by the same means, would constitute a most appalling amount."

It appears from your own statement that the mortality at the Alms House has been rather on the increase since you assumed the direction of the medical department of that institution; and you make an attempt to account for this increase by implicating the Thomsonians, and casting odium upon them. Now as the past year has been particularly remarkable for the healthiness of our citizens, and we Thomsonians know at the same time that the city of Baltimore never contained more right-holders, nor a greater number of others who avail themselves of the benefits of the Botanic practice; yet, notwithstanding this, the Alms House, (to which Thomsonians have no access in a medical capacity,) presents an increase of mortality; whilst the city, to which they have free access, (except to receive pay for services rendered,) presents such gratifying, cheering, and happy results,—Results which we attribute in a great measure, and which from universally admitted facts like these, we have a right to attribute to the diffusion of a knowledge of Dr. Samuel Thomson's invaluable system of medicine. Let then every friend of humanity and of *science* (as defined in our Lexicons) cast off his prejudices, and candidly and thoroughly examine the merits of this system of medical practice, based as it is on principles congenial to our nature; and if convinced of its superiority, cordially unite with us in our philanthropic efforts to extend its blessings to all our fellow creatures.

We find by official returns from the health office, that there were 2,747 deaths in the city in 1834, and 2,050 in 1835; shewing a decrease of 697 in one year. During the same period there were by official returns from the Alms House 2,571 patients admitted, and 244 deaths, and in the preceding year 1,960 admitted, and 205 deaths.

The patients admitted in the two years, differing a little in number, in order to obtain a correct and impartial view of the subject, we must so adjust this matter as to shew how many in proportion would have died, if the number of patients treated had been equal. Agreeably to this calculation, there would have been in the returns for 1834, 268 deaths. Now, as the number of deaths in the city in 1834, 2,747, is to the number in 1835, 2,050, so is the number of deaths that would have happened in the Alms House in 1834, 268 to the number that should

have occurred in 1835. This number will be found on calculation to be 200 exactly ; so that if the decrease in the Alms House had been in the same proportion as in the city, there ought to have been 44 less than the official returns exhibit !!! This, however, is placing the subject in as favorable a light for the Alms House as could be desired even by the doctor himself; because we must bear in mind that the population of the city has increased, and therefore the chances of an increased number of patients have been greater, and they probably were greater ; but the Thomsonians interposed their powerful medical aid, and were thus instrumental in preventing an increase of mortality.

If we disregard this difference in the number of patients admitted, and consider the increased population in the Alms House to be in the same ratio as in the city, then there ought to have been only 153 deaths, thus making a difference of 91.

The Alms House patients being of the same class of people, as they always have been, possessing a considerable advantage over a similar class in the city in regard to food, cloathing and cleanliness, we might fairly anticipate a proportionate decrease in the mortality of that institution ; and we firmly and conscientiously believe that there would have been, if the Thomsonians had only the same chance afforded them there, as they had in the city.

Our worthy mayor observes that, "much of the general freedom from disease, is to be attributed, no doubt, to the sanitary ordinances of the council, faithfully executed, as they have been, by the commissioners of health."

One of the most important of these ordinances relates to cleanliness. If this, then, be considered as having such a powerful influence in contributing to general health, the Alms House, which is the very essence of cleanliness, would certainly entitle its inmates to anticipate some advantages on that account ; but, unfortunately, official returns have disappointed their just expectation.

We have not yet done with mathematical demonstration. We are particularly desirous on all suitable occasions of appealing to figures and official returns. From these returns it appears that there were, as before stated, 1960 patients admitted in the Hospital from May 1st, 1833 to May 1st, 1834 ; and in the same time the total number of paupers admitted in the Alms House, including all those that were in at the commencement of the term, was 1343 ; making the number of patients 617 more than the whole number of paupers : so that many of them must have been cured more than once ! How unfortunate it is that they wont remain cured for so short a period.

But the discrepancy is still greater in the succeeding year, as appears from the official returns. There were 2571 patients admitted in the Hospital, whilst the whole number of paupers received in the same time, including all those that were in, at the commencement of the term, amounted only to 1601, making a difference of 970 : which is nearly twice as many patients as paupers !—Heavens protect us, what an exhibition ! The Alms House paupers, during the last year, have been nearly twice through the *Mineral Mill* ! What an industrious, scientific *Miller* they have got at the head of that establishment !!!

We will now ask the Doctor a few plain questions. Will he please to inform our illiterate, unscientific fraternity, what course of treatment it was that rendered the case of Ptyalism, reported by him, incurable ? Were they Botanic or mineral medicines, or steam ? What is it that has injured, and rendered incurable thousands that have been consigned to a premature grave, by that fatal disease well known by the faculty, termed mercurial ? Was it the Botanic and sweating process, peppered spirits or No. 6 ? What is it that has injured and rendered incurable, and I may add in many instances (where the constitution was nearly poison proof,) miserable for years, that distressing and fatal complaint, entirely unknown where the Thomsonian practice was first resorted to, but very commonly found where the poisonous drugs of the faculty have been administered, and commonly designated by the name of a complication of disorders ; but what we

would call (if permitted to coin a new term,) *Mineral-algia*. So long as the degenerate sons of Esculapius, continue to worship at the shrine of their god *Mercury*, so long as they employ this fatal messenger of disease and death, will this destructive complaint continue its pestilential ravages in the human family.

We do not know whether he still continues his avocation of conducting the souls of the dead to the infernal regions; but we do know that he prematurely conducts millions of the tortured bodies of poor deluded mortals to their *quiet graves!*

There is another trait in the character of this heathen deity, that we perceive he still maintains to this day. He robbed Neptune of his trident, Venus of her girdle, Mars of his sword, Jupiter of his sceptre, and Vulcan of many of his mechanical instruments; and he still continues his thievish propensity by robbing his ignorant and credulous devotees of their health?

The merchants of Rome yearly celebrated a festival in honour of Mercury, in a temple near the Circus Maximus. Here they entreated him to forgive whatever artful measures, false oaths, or falsehoods they had used or uttered in the pursuit of gain.

Do the mineral merchants annually assemble together to confess their manifold medical sins, and implore the assistance of Mercury to aid them in their widely destructive practice; and entreat him to forgive whatever artful measures they had undertaken, or falsehoods they had used or uttered in the pursuit of gain, or in the slander and persecution of Thomsonians? Do they stand in need of music to calm their troubled consciences? their favorite deity can accommodate them. It is said he invented the Lyre, with its seven strings! Nero fiddled, whilst Rome was in flames!!!

Although it may not suit the views of many members of the faculty to state candidly what kind of medicines they really do believe injure and render incurable, yet we find some who have honesty and independence enough to admit that the various preparations of Mercury, Antimony, Arsenic and Prussic Acid, &c. do produce these results, are traceable to the effects of this system of malpractice upon the most trivial indisposition; and that the ignorant, credulous, and confiding victims of learned quackery do constitute a most appalling amount, but they are diffused through the community, and are therefore not particularly marked, being sublimated into immortality.

The world, it is true, has been long duped by medical pretenders and impostors, and among the many schemes of medical abuse which have disgraced the annals of humanity, we have never been presented with any more fatal in itself, or more widely destructive in its tendencies, than the present bleeding, blistering, mineral and vegetable poison practice of the law protected faculty. This scheme, from its truly imposing exterior, and pompous parade of technicalities, is particularly adapted to impose upon the imbecile and uninformed—they look up with wonder and astonishment when they hear the learned doctor descanting on their diseases, in a mysterious, unintelligible jargon; and whilst he proffers to cure them, gratifies their strongest propensities, by frequently recommending brandy and other impure stimulants!

It will be perceived on a reference to Dr. Miller's famous "*Thompsonalgia*" report, that the above are his own words, with some slight alterations, calculated to place the subject in its true light.

What the doctor has asserted without proving, and applied to the Thomsonians, is in our opinion, which we will endeavor to establish by proof, applicable to the regular faculty.

Ever since the time of Paracelsus, who introduced the mineral quackery, (as it was then termed) the world has been duped by medical impostors, and deeply has the whole family of man suffered by the imposition. By his successors the country has been flooded with a tide of human gore, sufficient, if collected in one grand reservoir, to float the whole phlebotomising fraternity.

To prove what we have before asserted respecting the fatality and destructive

tendency of the regular practice, we will offer a few remarks in relation to one of the minerals in their long catalogue of remedies, some of the preparations of which are very frequently prescribed by the faculty; and indeed, from its peculiar properties, it would appear to us to answer as a general remedy to be administered by them on all occasions. The mineral alluded to is Antimony, which "destroys and dissipates all metals fused with it, except gold." If such be the effect on metals in a state of fusion, when applied to them, what may we expect to result on their introduction into the human stomach? May we not anticipate a corresponding destruction of that delicate organ, and indeed of the whole internal viscera, as long as there are heat and matter to act upon? Strange that any mortal should have conceived the idea of administering in any form a metal so formidable, so powerfully corrosive. What daring, reckless, audacious quack, tried the first experiment? for a first experiment there must have been! This certainly was then deemed a dangerous empiricism; quackery, rank quackery, by those who were aware of its destructive properties. When did it cease to be esteemed as such by the legitimate sons of Esculapius? Not until they became possessed of the faculty of administering it in various forms, and in such portions as not always to kill immediately, but so as to enable their patients, with the powerful aid afforded them by nature, partially to recover, and thus give them an opportunity of future practice, by a repetition of similar remedies, until they have gradually introduced them to their "quiet graves!"

"Antimony, (says Boyle) alone or in company with one or two associates, is sufficient to furnish an Apothecary's shop, answering the physicians desire whether he wants cathartics, emetics, diuretics, sudorifics, &c." With an article like this, possessing such various and important properties, we might fairly conclude that the faculty could very well afford to abridge considerably their long catalogue of remedies. For if they sincerely believe that Antimony is not injurious to the human system, but that it always acts in harmony with the living principle, and merely serves to cleanse the bowels, stomach, kidneys and pores, why not adopt this mineral, in its various preparations, exclusively to subserve these important purposes? But this would tend to render their system too simple; some of the ignoramuses might adopt it, and then alas! there would be an end of the craft and the profit, altogether.

Thomsonians have in their materia medica, medicines which they know from practical experience, are congenial to our nature, and harmonise with the principles of life, that will answer all the above mentioned purposes; and which they freely and fearlessly use on all occasions, when they deem it proper to produce a cathartic, emetic, diuretic or sudorific effect.

Believing that we have as much right to coin new terms as Dr. Miller, we take the liberty of adding another word to our vocabulary; and, though it should not be quite as classical as that of our scientific opponents, yet we think that our language now requires such an addition to it, as it designates a disease of modern date, and one too that is peculiar to the regular faculty.

The word alluded to, is *Thomsonphobia*. This virulent disease attacks the faculty at various intervals, and is characterized by the following symptoms:—*Restlessness*, loss of *patients*, great irritation of the *pericranium*, when they involuntarily ejaculate, *Lobelia! Pepper!! Steam!!!* It is attended with a high fever, and *delirium*, the pulse being *hard, hurried* and *spiteful!* the patients raving and cursing the Thomsonians! It always terminates in a falling off of *gig wheels*, great elongation of the *phiz*, and a vacuum in the *purse*.

Many glaring falsehoods have been *privately* circulated and published from time to time in various public journals, particularly in Philadelphia, detailing exaggerated statements of par-boiling with steam and crisping the stomach and intestines of patients by the Thomsonian stimulants; which, by the bye, are daily more and more used by the faculty themselves. These have been flatly nailed to the counter as *base coin*, and of course their circulation was promptly stopped.

We confess, however, that of all the *knights* of the laucet and calomel, no one has yet appeared upon the stage of action so worthy of the distinguished appellation of Dr. *Munchausen* or Dr. *Longbow*, as Dr. Miller, from the pretended *facts* he attempts to impose upon public credulity, in the preceding and following paragraphs.—They will be more fully commented on in noticing what immediately succeeds.

6. In illustration of these positions many cases might be recited; however, as most of them are familiar to you, I shall tax your attention with only one. A young, athletic, and generally healthy journeyman mechanic, from the land of steady habits, on Saturday evening, after quitting work, mentioned his intention of taking a dose of salts to obviate a slight inconvenience he experienced, but his employer being one of the Thompsonian enthusiasts, who are determined to let slip no opportunity of practice, insisted that in lieu of the salts, he must take a course of their treatment, to this he objected; but at last being made to understand most unequivocally, that he must either submit or lose employment, he most reluctantly yielded consent, under the belief that it would be unwise to lose his place for the difference between two doses of medicine, accordingly he swallowed their No. 6, after a very restless night, he was really unwell, hot stuffs were repeated until his mouth and throat became so parched he could swallow no more; he was then subjected to the steam-bath, until he became so emaciated and debilitated, that fearing his immediate dissolution he was informed that all his pecuniary resources were exhausted, and he must be sent to the Alms House. On admittance here, he was excessively attenuated; the lips, mouth and fauces, were inflated to a red flannel aspect, and he complained that every breath he drew, felt as if he were inhaling flames; his pulse was small and frequent; his tongue was small, painted and blood-red; and the glands of his mouth, jaws and neck were tumid; his stomach could receive or retain nothing; he had a colloquative diarrhoea, and complained of the most agonizing pains throughout the whole frame, and especially along the alimentary canal. Every thing we could devise for his relief was unavailing, he rapidly sunk, and as long as he was able to articulate, cursed the Thompsonians and their practice.

[Here then we have the *bare*, though unqualified assertion of Dr. Miller, that the exhibition of certain medicines, particularly No. 6, (*terrible No. six!*) produced certain symptoms and dire effects upon a poor sufferer placed under his care, which, although he had cured *nine* cases out of *eleyen*, of the *mortal distemper*, created by taking a few innocent botanic remedies—baffled all his learning and skill.—Did Dr. M. see them administered? We presume not, or his spirit of *philanthropy* would have induced him to prevent them from being taken; or, failing in that, he would, at least, have raised a timely hue and cry of “murder;” and had the reckless offender indicted! Whence then did Dr. M. derive his information? From the sufferer, of course; for he has not had the manly courage to inform us who his employer was, that a full enquiry might have been instituted.—Did Dr. M. inform himself what remedies had been previously taken?—He has not informed us what he administered with a view of relieving him; but acknowledges that “every thing we could devise for his relief was unavailing.” We have, as will be manifest in our comments, especial reasons for wishing to be informed on these points. There is every probability, however, that copious bleeding was resorted to, to *strengthen* the system and enable it to bear ample doses of the *heroic* medicines, such as calomel, &c. These, however, are life destroying agents—agents warring with the living powers, as well as conflicting with the medicines of the Thomsonian system of practice.

There is no principle in physical science more firmly established than the simple fact, that the remedial agents used by the Thomsonians, are perfectly harmless, and may, under all circumstances, in sickness or in health, be used without any apprehension of dangerous consequences---that they war only with disease, or the poisons given by the faculty to cure disease: and we boldly and fearlessly give it as our decided opinion, founded upon the universal result of the Thomsonian practice, and the experience of all its practitioners and friends, as well as its venerable founder, whose experience extends to a period exceeding the age of most of his scientific calumniators, that no such consequences as those described by Dr. Miller ever have occurred, or possibly can occur, upon a primary exhibition of their remedies. If the Paracelsian quack medicines, have been taken either before or after, there must needs be a conflict in the system, the safe man-

agement of which cannot be confided to those who only deal in *medicines*, such as never fail in sickening, if not jeopardising the healths and lives of the most robust, who have the temerity to use them.

None of us feel disposed to boast of the "sphere" in which we "move;" nor of the "intelligence or moral worth of the society" we keep, and we congratulate Dr. Miller that he pronounces himself "elevated above the influence of vulgar infatuation"—this is at least a desirable reform. The friends of the botanic system, it is true, cannot exhibit their sheep-skin, from a medical college, which is not unfrequently bestowed upon talentless individuals, to get rid of importunity—and is, at least, in this state, a badge of being paupers upon legislative bounty. Perhaps, however, upon an average, our general characters are as clear from imputation of moral or legal crime, as Dr. Miller's, or any of the craft. Be that as it may, we are willing also to test our skill in medicine upon such terms as the chivalry of a true knight of the lancet cannot honorably decline. We will first, however, permit the Dr. to select any one of our number, to whom *any* or *all* the usual Thomsonian medicines, in teaspoonful doses shall be administered in the course of 12 hours—*sick* or *well*—and of the *terrible No. 6—ten doses*, such as are usually given, shall be administered—including *forty minutes* steaming, at a temperature of 180° Fahrenheit, (with a "cobbler" for an "engineer,") and a dashing of ice water;—if he will only permit us, in return to give him single *grain* doses of *five* articles we shall designate, used as *medicines* by the regular faculty, some of which are never dispensed with on any occasion.—This is certainly fair,—but if the Dr. declines taking his own heroic medicine—as is generally the case with the faculty—we will deal generously by letting him off; the paupers would certainly lose his services as the physician of "humanity's commons"—and comply with our stipulation to the very letter.

Besides, we propose to the trustees of the Alms House, who, according to Dr. Miller, are familiar with *his facts*, that an equal number of patients, under circumstances as nearly alike as practicable, shall be entrusted especially to the care of Dr. Miller (with all the aid he may derive from the students in that institution, and two consulting physicians, of his own selection into the bargain, (inhibiting, however, the use of *lobelia* and Dr. M's steaming apparatus,) and to two Thomsonian *mechanics* (say shoemakers, potters, last makers, or carpenters,) to test the boasted *science* and *skill* of the regular faculty. A deposit of \$100 shall be made on each side, in the hands of our venerable and patriotic mayor, to be awarded to the party, who shall effect the most cures in the shortest period of time. We offer this proposition in sincerity and ask its acceptance, so as to enable us to make the necessary preliminary arrangements.—We are aware of the legal protection afforded to the faculty; for if they *kill* it is *according to law*, and they cannot be punished; but if any of our patients should *die*,—and innocent medicines cannot *kill*—it would be *contrary to law*, and our necks would be in jeopardy—but we *cast the glove* and dare the boasting coiner of base and malignant terms—the vaunting curer of sham disease, to take it up.

Let not this proposition be sneered at—let it not be termed boasting; because we are ready and willing to stand the test. We know by direful *experience*, as well as by the public acknowledgments of many of its former devoted friends, that the regular practice of medicine, although of forty centuries standing, is still in its *infancy*—in its very *swaddling clothes*, and there will remain so long as its practitioners continue the use of the *lancet* and administer *poison* as remedial agents to cure disease:—that it is *uncertain* in its results and has been pronounced, by eminent medical men, who have practiced it for 30 years, and have been *honest*, and not ashamed to acknowledge and speak the truth, a mere *system of guessing*—that the late celebrated Dr. Rush of Philadelphia compared it to a "temple, uncovered at the top and cracked at the foundation," and frankly acknowledged before his class that "*dissections daily convince us of our ignorance of the seats of disease, and cause us to blush at our presumption.---*What mis-

"chief have we not done (he adds) under the belief of FALSE FACTS and FALSE THEORIES? We have assisted in MULTIPLYING diseases;-- we have done more---we have INCREASED their MORTALITY!"—Here is the honest confession of Dr. Rush; and what a commentary does it furnish upon the science of medicine. Yet Dr. Miller hopes that all his facts will be received as true by a discerning public; when it is notorious that he was incapable, as already said, of distinguishing a well defined case of SMALL POX from a COMMON ERUPTION! Let not the trustees startle at this fact—he will not dare publicly deny it, although he has not reported any cases of "small pox," as having been treated in the Alms House; but concealed them from "vulgar" gaze under the technical jargon "*Variola*."

We must however, act somewhat charitably, and not condemn every one who has learned what he sincerely believes to be an honest trade, and has no other available means left him to earn so easy a subsistence as the practice of medicine affords, besides the wealth and honors that await him. It is a fact—let who will deny it—that multitudes have gained celebrity, and accumulated a large amount of this world's goods, by practising what they knew to be impositions upon the credulity of the "infatuated vulgar," (above whose influence Dr. Miller boasts he is far elevated) in pseudo religion, in politics, in medicine, &c. Where effrontery, backed by talents, predominated, and a competence, or an independence, had not been acquired before the imposture was detected, the scene of action only has been changed, because the mode was easy and required no hard labor; and false pride, and a disinclination to toil, encumbered with poverty or a destitution of enlarged means to cut a figure, forbade them being honest! They practised upon the maxim of one of the ancient fathers—"Vult vulgus decipi; decipiatur," which the Dr. would anglicise, "the 'infatuated vulgar' are fond of being deceived; let them be deceived."

Dr. Miller attempts to be exceedingly severe on what he terms "impiricism" and imposture; and yet we venture to affirm that he has frequently, like many of the faculty, practised imposition upon some of his fat patients, (which are only found in a high "sphere of private practice,") afflicted with the hypo, and importunate for relief, by giving bread pills, rather than lose a good customer. Whether he ever recommended the prescriptions of Drs. Jamieson & Ewell, both regular practitioners and professors of equal if not superior rank with himself, we are not able to determine; we have appended them merely to let the people judge whether or not there is any real quackery among the regulars.

In a conversation, (by one of the committee) with a gentleman of the "regular faculty," he remarked "that he had frequently witnessed such appearances as described by Dr. Miller." No doubt of it. Such appearances must necessarily exist where violent and corroding poisons are given to cure disease. Let it also be remembered that all the medicines given by the regulars, possessing powerful qualities, are RANK POISONS, and that some of these agents of the craft, particularly Calomel, have lain dormant in the system for weeks, nay months, without producing the effects desired or predicted by the skilful exhibitors of life destroying potions; but have been roused into action and driven from their lurking places, as soon as the more powerful, though innocent (because in perfect harmony with the living principle,) Thomsonian remedies for disease have been duly administered. Of this we have abundant proof—nay the result, in such cases, is an absolute, a perfect unity. We will briefly relate one, which, if Dr. Miller will but intimate a responsible doubt, the public shall have it verified.

Mrs. —, of Virginia, had long been afflicted with what is termed a "complication of disorders," and was under treatment by Dr. —, who had well plied the Sampson of the craft, Mercury, without being capable of producing ptyalism, that is, rotting out her teeth. He at length attributed his failure to the quality of the Calomel, and told his patient he would send to Baltimore for some good fresh Calomel, and then he would continue the progress with more certainty and ef-

fect. After the lapse of two or three days, he exultingly waited upon his patient with his fresh goods, and manfully pursued the rotting process for a considerable time, without being able to accomplish his object, and finally abandoned the case as hopeless. The lady was advised to proceed to Baltimore and try the "*popular impiricism*," and became somewhat relieved after the second course of "steam, pepper and lobelia," &c. The third course, struggling gallantly with the regular's *Sampson*, at length vanquished the *hero* and drove him from his lurking place,—the lady finding herself powerfully *salivated*, and it was with difficulty she could resist the efforts of gossiping friends to persuade her that it proceeded from the Botanic remedies, until she reflected and candidly acknowledged the facts above detailed. In a short period she was perfectly restored to health and joined her friends to the great surprise of Dr. —, who never expected to see her again.

Now let the reader pause for a moment and reflect upon these facts, and he will irresistably be led to the conclusion that Dr. Miller's patient, admitting the *truth* of his statement, had taken some *poisonous* or deleterious drug, "to obviate a slight inconvenience he experienced," which afforded him no relief, but, as a natural consequence, rendered him worse—perhaps his "funds were exhausted," and he hoped to cure himself with a "dose of salts." In this state of the case, Thomsonian medicines *may* have been given him, which roused into action the poison lurking in his system, and thus might possibly have produced some of the appearances described by Dr. Miller. But we reiterate the assertion, that if no poisonous medicines were taken before or after resorting to Thomsonian means, such a result as depicted by Dr. M. as a *fact, is absolutely and utterly impossible*; and to convince any number of *honest* practitioners, willing to embrace the truth—nay the whole learned faculty of Maryland—of the verity of this our unqualified denial of Dr. Miller's "Thomsonalgia" facts, any one of the committee is at their service, on whom the experiment may be tested—and we challenge them to test it.

Every genuine Thomsonian is aware, that no purgative medicines are used in their system, consequently if "he had a colloquative diarrhœa and agonising pains along the alimentary canal," they were produced by the "*every thing*" the Dr. and his aids devised for his relief; and the curses he heaped upon the Thomsonians only furnish an evidence that the sufferer was deranged by poisons; for if he had been *compos mentis*, those curses would have fallen, with strict justice, upon the administerers of such articles as medicine to cure disease.

We cannot at present notice all the Doctor's positions at large. We labour under the disadvantage of having no press at our command,—and it is with difficulty we can be heard in our defence against the most malignant slanders published *officially*, and for whose publication we are taxed; but this we expect will be obviated in the course of the ensuing spring, when we shall balance our accounts with Dr. Miller and others of the craft. In the mean time we offer our acknowledgments to the editors of the *Republican* and *Chronicle* for giving our notice, requesting a suspension of public opinion, as published in the preface, a place in their respective papers; the editors of the *Patriot*, *Gazette*, and *American*, having refused or declined its insertion.

7. On post mortem examination, the only thing worthy of particular remark, was the alimentary tube, which was greatly injected, and in many places they sphacilated from the lower to the upper extremity; proving incontestibly, that death had been the result of the entire arrest of the sources of nutrition, in consequence of the alimentary organs being thrown into a condition incapable of retaining or digesting food.

8. Mankind never grow wiser by the impositions practiced upon them by pretenders in medicine, deception follows deception upon vulgar credulity so rapidly, that it seems to generate a kind of morbid appetite for imposition, which forms a habit of being duped, which like all other habits becomes incurable. But among the innumerable schemes of medical abuse which have disgraced the annals of humanity, we have rarely been presented with any more mischievous in itself, or widely destructive in its tendencies, than that which is now so industriously and enthusiastically propagating in this country, under the name of the Thomsonian. This

scheme is particularly well adapted to impose upon the imbecile and uninformed, because, whilst it proffers to cure their diseases, it gratifies their strongest propensities.

[Dr. Miller says, with much truth, that "Mankind never grow wiser by the impositions practised upon them by *pretenders* in medicine." System has followed system for 4000 years, in rapid succession—and yet, even now, "their temple is still unroofed and the foundation cracked"—it is acknowledged that whilst all the physical sciences have advanced to a state of perfection, medicine has retrograded—for instead of simples, the most deleterious chemical compounds, destructive of health and life, are given as medicines, and prove how astonishingly great is the *vis medicatrix naturae*—the healing power of nature—that she so frequently resists the regular physicians' efforts to destroy life, by poisoning all its springs.

That the Thomsonian remedies gratify the "strongest propensities of the imbecile and uninformed," is a daring and reckless libel upon the truth. No intemperate person drinks No. 6, from choice—whiskey is too plenty and much cheaper; and if Thomsonians desire a stimulant they resort to Cayenne.

There is not perhaps a practitioner in this city, having any regard for the ordinary decencies of life, who would have had the effrontery to make so sweeping a denunciation, as to term the Thomsonian practice "a medical abuse disgraceful to the annals of humanity, mischievous and widely destructive in its tendencies." We have offered the faculty a challenge to prove the truth or falsity of this denunciation, and shall not shrink from meeting them. And we will now state a *fact*, not to be questioned, which will not tend to corroborate Dr. Miller's position. The Thomsonian right holders in this city, considerably exceed the number of the regular faculty, and their families generally are greater in number. When any of the members of the regular faculty are sick, no doubt exists that their utmost skill and care is called in requisition to save them. Yet the deaths in their families greatly outnumber these of the system "so widely destructive" of life, as may be seen by the following statement, of the correctness of which we can fully satisfy the regulars.

Deaths in families of Regulars.		In families of Thomsonians.	
1834,	23		5
1835,	18		3
1836, Jan. 30,	2		0
	—		—
Total,	43		8

This requires no further comment.

9. Man naturally requires excitement. If incapable of intellectual, he will the more crave physical. Persons of inactive minds must necessarily be sensual, consequently, whatever satiates their appetites will be sought with avidity; to such, the love of artificial stimulants becomes the ruling passion, and its indulgence ultimately debases them to the level of public charities.

10. This pretended system of medical practice, does little more than minister to the innate propensity of our animal nature, and by accustoming the stomach to repeated and powerful excitants, creates a kind of necessity for reiterated dram-drinking, and this induces confirmed intemperance. It will therefore be vain for moralists to declaim, or temperance societies to enact laws against the most demoralizing evil, whilst these enthusiasts are countenanced and tolerated in elevating excitement by their steam, and peppered spirits.

[The Doctor has himself exhibited a fair specimen of the truth of the remark, that 'man naturally requires excitement,' when he found it his interest to play the demagogue. There was some nice calculation, and it appears to have *added up* satisfactorily in the aggregate. We have no objections to his change to intellectual excitement; but if his "Thomsonalgia" report is his first fruit, he has made a miserable *faux pas* in his intellectual Alms House debut. So far as the occasional use of No. 6 is concerned in "inducing confirmed intemperance," (and ardent spirits, or Alcohol, are used more sparingly by Thomsonians than the regular faculty) we are perfectly willing, *as a body*, to be compared with our

opponents, without any apprehension that in point of temperance, *in all things*, they will bear the palm. Let Dr. Miller muster the regulars, and we will muster the irregulars, or law-denounced. We are willing to abide the decision of honest judges of his own appointment.

We must be permitted to make a few remarks upon the Doctor's great solicitude for "*temperance and public morals.*" We mean nothing *personal*. We find in the sixth paragraph, that the "*victim*" was "*subjected to the steam bath until he became so emaciated and debilitated that his immediate dissolution was feared*"; but in the preceding (par. 10,) we discover that *steam*, as well as *peppered spirits*, creates an "*elevated excitement*"—that is, *steam* creates, in Thomsonians, a pleasurable feeling and healthy action—"That's a fact." But only hear Dr. Miller. "It will be in vain for moralists to declaim, or temperance societies to enact laws against the most demoralising evil—that is, a pure vapour bath and a teaspoonful of No. 6 is the most demoralising evil—whilst these enthusiasts are *countenanced* and TOLERATED—yes, TOLERATED—in elevating excitement by their *steam* and peppered spirits."

How fortunate it is that Dr. Miller's power is limited; for with means commensurate with his *tolerance* spirit, poor Thomsonians might be impaled for using steam or pepper; and who knows what influence a royal medical decree, such as "*We, James H. Miller, most puissant chief M. D. ordain, &c. &c.*" might have upon steam navigation and rail road locomotives. Besides, how could the medical treatment in the Alms House be successfully prosecuted if pepper and whiskey, alcohol and wine (the latter we presume is for the dinner table of the Doctor and his aids) were prohibited; for the trustees' statement shows, that during twelve months, ending on the 30th of April, 1835, there were used as *hospital stores*, ordered by said Dr. Miller,

33½	gallons	Alcohol; equalling in first proof spirits,	gallons	-	-	82
7	do	Brandy, (4th proof we presume)	-	-	-	7
44½	do	Whiskey,	-	-	-	44½
31	do	Port Wine,	-	-	-	31
6	do	Teneriffe	-	-	-	6
					Gallons	170½

Besides the following thirst-creating stimulants :

521 lbs. Tobacco
 200 lbs. Snuff
 10 bottles Cayenne Pepper
 77 lbs. black Pepper

This we dedicate to the Temperance Society without further comment.

11. In this age of wonder working steam, it is little short of temerity to affirm, that there are limits to its power; yet it may be presumed that even its greatest adulators, many in their sober judgments admit, that it must have its bounds, and that it cannot be made to do every thing. The enormous *power* of this agent is alone sufficient to teach, that great skill is demanded for its application; for that which is capable of exerting the most benefit is, by *perversion*, equally potent in producing the utmost evil. Admit that steam may be usefully applied to the propulsion of animalized machinery, the delicacy of structure in the healthy condition, and its extreme fragility in disease, ought to enjoin the extremest caution, and require the direction of the ablest and most experienced engineers; whether it is admitted to the exterior of our bodies, or internally generated by the fuel of heating drugs, introduced into the digestive cavities, a thorough knowledge of the formation and capabilities of the parts is indispensable, to inform the operator how to adjust his agent with sufficient nicety to avoid fatal explosions. When the human machinery is running too fast, we cannot hope to restrain it by putting it under a still heavier pressure. In fever, which constitutes nine-tenths of our maladies, the system is in a headlong career; would then common sense let on more steam, or throw more fuel into the boilers? Whatever theories or hypotheses may be indulged, it is notorious, that a large proportion of human disease is the effect of too high living or over excitement; can we therefore rationally hope to remove the effects, by a reiteration of the causes? These Thomsonians are infatuated with a delusion, which has been but too common and detrimental to the science

and practice of medicine,—that of referring every act of the animal economy to some general and exclusive principle. They insist that heat is life, and that the more heat the more life; and in their zeal to generate heat, they oftentimes sublimate life into immortality.

[On the subject of steam we will only remark, in addition to what has already been said, that the Russians undergo the operation of steaming at a very high temperature, and immediately plunge into or roll in the snow with impunity. They are a hardy and long-lived people, almost entirely free from rheumatic affections. The Doctor belongs to an antiquated school of medicine, judging from his assertion that “fever constitutes nine-tenths of our maladies.” Such may be the case at the Alms House; but if fever is a disease, it is one, frequently manufactured by the quackeries of the doctors, by giving, in “slight inconveniences,” or trifling colds, medicines eminently calculated to derange the whole system, and then call in the healing power of nature to resist their quackeries.

We view *fever* as a *friend* not as a *foe*—we cherish, aid and support him, instead of endeavouring to *kill* him with refrigerants. Such was the opinion of Cullen, Hunter, Johnson, Gregory, Terry, Ripley, and many of the most enlightened medical men of the age. The “Thomsonian delusion” is certainly a very agreeable and desirable one, if they judge from the result of their family practice as noted in a preceding page. We shall not contend with him about the expression “heat is life”—but simply remark that where there is no *heat* life must be extinct. Will Dr. Miller oblige us by a single example wherein Thomsonians, “in their zeal to generate heat, *oftentimes* sublimate life into immortality.” *One* case, Doctor, if you please; your reputation as a man of truth, demands a compliance. It wont do to say it was a mere figure of speech—for that might be applied with great force and truth to your whole report.

12. The practice of medicine at best, must always be imperfect, because it must be an exercise of human mind and skill, it must necessarily be in just accordance with the judgment and tact of the practitioner; and as in every other human art, he will practice best who has the most knowledge, familiarized by frequent and continued application. Hence then, every philanthropist will encourage assiduity in the acquisition of all the literature and science which can enrich the mind, clear the judgment, and facilitate the practical talents of those members of society, who in the exuberance of human sensibility and virtue, forego the pleasurable and profitable paths of life, and volunteer to seclude themselves in the dark chambers of affliction, for no other reward than the pleasure arising from the consciousness of alleviating the misery and woes of suffering fellow beings; whilst they must frown indignantly upon any attempt to destroy the science that already exists, arrest all further inquiry and improvement, and throw the most refined and benevolent profession into the hands of illiterate unscientific men, who are so ignorant as not to know their own incompetency, or who are so reckless as to jeopardize human life for sake of a compensation, no greater than they could obtain for cobbling old shoes.

[We shall at some future period notice the “imperfect practice of medicine”—the “skill” with which poisons are given, as though arsenic were more poisonous, and apter to kill, if given by a fool than by a diplomatised physician—and the *great* sacrifices the faculty make in “foregoing the *pleasurable* and *profitable* paths of life”—the assumption that Paracelsian chemical quackery is a *science*, and the frowns Dr. Miller bespeaks for those who dare question its absolute *uncertainty*, besides sundry other matters, not forgetting, that although physicians forego the “*pleasurable* paths of life,” Dr. Miller’s severe duties among the inmates of “*humanity’s common*,” has been quite a “*pleasurable recreation*.” [See paragraph 15.]

13. Excuse me for descending to notice this popular infatuation; that it will be short lived as its compeers there is no doubt; but it is to be feared that the habits it will form will long outlive even its memory.

[“Excuse me, says Dr. *Miller*, for noticing this popular infatuation.” This is one of the most vain and arrogant efforts of *mock dignity*, perhaps ever perpetrated in the annals of medicine. Here, we find Dr. *Miller* as the pauper physician in the Alms House; and as such affects having made a *most important discovery*, which had eluded the vigilance and keen researches of the whole medical faculty of the United States; notwithstanding, they had unceasingly had their noses in the wind, like blood-hounds on the scent for game, to find something by

which this opposition to the regular craft might be put down. In short, he has found out that a few vegetable substances, which any person in health may take with the most perfect impunity, and in Thomsonian hands never failed in relieving or curing maladies, if within the reach of medicine, will, the moment a person, who has taken them, fall into the hands of a dealer in mercury, arsenic or other poisons, produce a distinctive and unique disease, called "*Thompsonalgia*" MILLERIA. He is not only the *original* discoverer of this *terrific* malady; but has actually in his pauper practice, cured *nine* cases out of *eleven*! He has considered it his duty *officially* not only to denounce Thomsonian "impiricism" with a view of protecting the "*victims of (regular) mal-practice*" from the "arts of designing or misguided imposters," but magisterially, in a kingly tone decreed, that it ought not to be "tolerated." If all the Dr. has said upon the subject of this "impiricism" is true, it was certainly *his duty* to report to the trustees;—why then,—"with cap in hand and cane to nose,"—with a low courtly bow to those functionaries, does he evince such wondrous affectation of having *descended* from an high elevation to notice what was an imperative duty! If he could lower himself from his boasted "respectable sphere of private practice" to become the physician to those loathsome objects, who are "*turned out upon humanity's commons to die*" and pass into "oblivion," there certainly is no point, however *low* it might be, to which he would not *aspire*, if a salary, commensurate with the assumed *dignity* of the aspirant, appertained to the station.

We shall certainly excuse Dr. Miller for his great condescension in noticing this "popular infatuation." Forty odd years ago but *one* individual, Dr. Samuel Thomson, was sufficiently infatuated to abjure *calomel, arsenic, prussic acid, opium, Spanish flies and the lancet*, and use innocent botanic remedies in their stead—now upwards of *two millions* of free men are in the constant habit of using nothing but these innocent remedies. If in less than half a century one-sixth of the population of the United States are converted from the use of *poisons* as remedial agents, to innocuous herbs, when will Dr. Miller's prophecy of its "short-lived career" be verified? We pause, Doctor, for a reply.

In thus noticing Dr. Miller's vituperation, we desire that our testimony against him should, without prejudice, pass for what it is worth; we are not the assailants, but stand on the defensive against a legalised craft—an aristocracy—a chartered trade, distinct from all others, because specially protected by law. Our ground is at least as tenable as Dr. Miller's—he having made certain allegations against the Thomsonians, their medicine and practice, unsupported by any collateral testimony. We have denied the truth of those allegations. To test which party has truth on its side, we have offered ourselves as objects of experiment, fearless of the result, because, *we know, from experience*, that the boasted *science* of medicine, as taught in schools from *books and closet-made theories*, will, *nay must*, succumb to that which is based upon *facts and experience*. We have no feelings of personal hostility against those who practice the Paracelsian art of quackery; it is against their health and life-destroying system we are contending, and so we desire to be distinctly understood. If Dr. Miller has volunteered as the *champion* of the craft, we are ready to meet him in a fair and open combat, by exhibiting undeniable facts in relation to the practice of the faculty and Thomsonian "impiricism." We care nothing about names of diseases or opprobrious epithets levelled at us, any more than such patients as have been abandoned by them and cured by Thomsonians, care whether they have been cured by "impiricism"—quackery—or science—so that their health is restored.

There is nothing more absurd than the continued efforts of the faculty to bolster their medical practice upon the principle of its being a *science*. Every man, woman and child capable of reading, knows or *can know*, if they will consult their dictionary, that *science* is a "*certainty grounded upon demonstration*"—and that medicine, as practiced by this same law-protected faculty, is as unlike "*certainty*" as light is unlike darkness. The perfect uniformity of phenomena in

the mixture of certain ingredients, as pieces of zinc, sulphuric acid and water, afford indubitable evidence of the *science of chemistry*; before we commence the process we pronounce, with perfect confidence, that the water will be decomposed, hydrogen evolved, the zinc oxydated, the oxyd dissolved, and sulphate of zinc produced; and there is in no case the smallest doubt apprehended as to the predicted result. This is really scientific; but there is nothing like it in the whole science of regular medicine, so far as relates to *curing disease*—but there is a *certainty* in at least one thing; and that is, if we have a general aching of teeth, which are strongly and firmly set in our jaws, mercury will extract them without the necessity of applying to a dental surgeon and undergoing the painful application of steel.

With people possessing common sense it was perfectly useless to excite their “indignant frown,” in consequence of an “attempt to destroy the *science of medicine*.” We boldly deny its claim to rank with the physical sciences and pronounce it, what many honest practitioners have admitted it to be, a mere system of “*guessing*”—a game of hazard. The doctor, as D’Alembert relates, is the blind man, armed with a club. He is called in when *nature* is contending with *disease*, to settle the difference. He tries to make peace; if he fails, he raises his club and strikes at random; if he strikes the *disease*, he kills it;—if he strikes nature he kills *nature*—and there is an end of the patient; and this is a fair sample of the *science of medicine*.

Dr. Miller well knows,—every physician of the old school, of any experience, knows,—that his medicines act differently on different individuals, and at different times on the same individual—that he has no means of ascertaining what the effect will be without hazarding the consequences of an application of his remedies. When he gives his most potent drugs he is not certain that the issue will not be fatal; he frequently does it with great fear; but the risk must be encountered whatever may be the consequence. If the patient dies, the *disease* kills him, and it “*was the will of the Lord!*” Thus rank fanaticism itself is called into requisition to cover the bungling practice of learned quackery. Hope, false and delusive hope, is held out to the last moment; because it would not comport with the dignity of “*science*” to doubt the anticipated results of *scientific practice*. But the “*end is nigh*.” Maugre their penal enactments—their being *fenced in* by statute law—the delusion of medical quackery is fast dissipating. Neither Alms House nor university thunders—nay the terrific denunciations of the head of a *pauper* establishment, though he claims to be “*above the influence of vulgar infatuation, standing high in the sphere of private practice*” and have many wealthy dupes who pay him well for his “*pills and potions*”—all this cannot arrest the millenium in the unsophisticated practice of medicine, founded upon nature and reason, and the well known principles of life; *which repudiate the exhibition of POISON TO CURE OUR MALADIES.*

14. As far as compatible with the interests of humanity and charity, we have economized your means. The chief unusual expenditures we have made, was in adding to your surgical instruments a few that became requisite and indispensable from the number and variety of operations we have had to perform. This you will not deem extravagant, when you reflect, that we have thus restored to usefulness a large number of persons, who otherwise must have remained for years, and until the termination of their existence, charged upon your bounty. Again, when you contrast the minuteness of this charge with the cost of their operations in private practice, you will perceive that you have been great gainers; for at the lowest mode of computation, their aggregate would have exceeded fifteen hundred dollars. Farther, your hearts will rejoice in the reflection, that you have thus relieved from the sufferings of loathsome diseases upwards of one hundred fellow creatures, and placed them in a condition to enjoy the comforts and pleasures of life.

15. Of the young medical gentlemen attached to the institution, it affords me a most grateful pleasure to say, that the zealous and assiduous performance of their duties has not only lightened my labors, but has, from their uniformly kind attentions, converted my task into a pleasurable recreation. And now gentlemen, permit me to say, that your continued approval of my conduct, has cheered me to exertion, and shall continue to prompt me to emulate you in kind offices.

Most respectfully, yours, &c.

J. H. MILLER.

In conclusion we would remark, that *experience* in our own families (where its members are favorable to the system; and we use neither importunity nor coercion to induce them to be,) has fully confirmed us in the great advantages of the Thomsonian *botanic*, over the regular *mineral* practice. In the support we afford it, our motives are honest and sincere, and withal disinterested; we are not practitioners, nor are we manufacturers or venders of Thomsonian medicines; or directly or indirectly concerned in their manufacture or sale. Having witnessed the effects of both practices, and aware of the means used as remedial agents in them, it has required but a moment's reflection to decide which system to prefer; and this decision has also determined us never, knowingly, to suffer blood-letting or permit any poisonous substances to be administered in any form of disease.

We can, we do, conscientiously and unfeignedly commend the Thomsonian Botanic system of medicine to all desirous of extending their sojourn on earth, and escaping the ills which flesh is heir to—and last, not least to be considered, avoid the tremendous levies made upon their industry and hard labour, by the enormous charges of scientific practitioners, whose remedial agents seldom fail, when they afford relief, to ensure a *protracted recovery and a long bill*.

THE COMMITTEE.

BALTIMORE, *January*, 1836.

N. B. We are constrained to give Dr. Miller *great credit* for some other *wonder* performed by him in the Alms House, besides curing nine cases of "Thomsonalgia." We notice, however, but *one* case of ptyalism—salivation by mercury, *given by order of a doctor*. This is therefore a death occasioned by regular medicine and acknowledged as such by Dr. M., and proves that mercury is not always under the government or control of the faculty.—But in looking over his tabular statement, we perceive that *three "still born"* cases were admitted, and, by the beard of Esculapius, *he cured the whole of them!* This was acquiring honor enough for one year. There were also admitted 36 cases of "*moribund*"—that is in a dying state—of these none were cured. They were *sent there for that purpose*—that is "turned out upon humanity's commons" to die; and they did die.

ADDENDA.

Extract from "The American Domestic Medicine," by *Horatio Gates Jameson*, "M. D., honorary member of the Medical Society of Maryland, late surgeon in "the General Hospital for the army at Baltimore," and consulting physician to the Baltimore board of health:

"Bite of Rattlesnake and Copper-head.

"Drawing with small cupping glasses is advisable. * * * If such glasses "are not to be had, *a hen may set with the NAKED FUNDAMENT UPON "THE PART*; and I have been credibly informed, this has succeeded well, and "that several have been thus killed in one case, which seems to *raise the belief "that the poison was thus forcibly extracted."* [Baltimore, 1818, p. 412.]

Extract from "Plain Discourses on the laws or properties of matter," by *Thomas Ewell*, M. D. of Virginia, one of the surgeons of the United States' navy:

"Kermes' Mineral; or Golden Sulphur of Antimony.

"Besides the above preparation of antimony, the metal is given in the form of "a pill, in the metallic state. It appears to be soluble in the stomach, in small "quantities, and excites slight purging. This was called the *Perpetual Pill*, as "it was frequently *kept for ages in families, who, AFTER TAKING AND VOID- "ING IT, preserve it FOR FURTHER USE.*"—[N. York, 1806, p. 249.]

[This could not have been esteemed *quackery* by the learned Doctor, or it would not have been so favorably noticed.]

MEDICAL QUACKERY—MYSTERY.

If the reader is desirous of testimony to confirm the opinion expressed by the late Rev. *John Wesley*, in the following extract from his writings, that the self-styled faculty designed the *bulk of mankind should not pry into the mysteries of their craft*, we request him to look over the list of diseases at the Alms House, *cured, &c.* by Dr. Miller, and he will find four-fifths expressed in a language not understood by the very individuals to whom the report was made, unless the Dr. *condescended* [bless his meek soul, perhaps he did condescend] to translate or explain the terms. It has been said that this report was intended only for *professional men*; why not then have sent it to the Colleges and Infirmary, instead of to the Mayor, to be promulgated at the expense of the city? In times gone by, it was also maintained that the scriptures were intended only for the priesthood; but the doctrine has long since been exploded. We are pleased to see the reports of the indefatigable and worthy Secretary to the Board of Health, dressed almost entirely in an English garb, and we advise the Trustees to direct the physician of "humanity's commons" to follow the example, for the information of the people.

John Wesley says—"profit attended their employ, as well as honor;" no wonder Dr. Miller should be afflicted with *Thomsonphobia*, when the "empirics," as he alleges, undertake cures "for sake of a compensation no greater than they could obtain by cobbling old shoes!" We can *prove* that they have undertaken cures for even a *less* compensation than cobbling, and succeeded when patients were abandoned by Paracelsian quacks:—But let us hear *John Wesley*:—"As theories increased, simple medicines were more and more disregarded and disused; till in a course of years, the greater part of them were forgotten, at least in the more polite nations. In the room of these, abundance of new ones were introduced by reasoning, speculative men; and those more and more difficult to be applied, as being more remote from common observation. Hence rules for the application of these, and medical books were immensely multiplied; till at length physic became an abstruse science, quite out of the reach of ordinary men. Physicians now began to be held in admiration, as persons who were something more than human. And profit attended their employ, as well as honor. So that they had now two weighty reasons for keeping the bulk of mankind at a distance, that they might not *pry into the mysteries of their profession*. To this end they increased those difficulties by design, which were in a manner by accident. They filled their writings with abundance of technical terms, utterly unintelligible to plain men.

"Those who *understood only how to restore the sick to health*, they branded with the name of *Empirics*. They introduced into practice abundance of compound medicines, consisting of so many ingredients, that it was scarce possible for common people to know what it was that wrought a cure. Abundance of exotics, neither the nature nor the names of which they their own countrymen understood."

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PHOENIX ESTABLISHMENT.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

Thomsonian Botanic Medicine Store,

The subscribers have the largest and most valuable collection of

BOTANIC MEDICINES

In the United States, comprising all the various Compounds and Crude Articles recommended by Dr. Samuel Thomson—part of which are as follows:

<i>African Cayenne,</i>	<i>Composition,</i>	<i>Lobelia, or Thomsonia</i>	<i>Prickley Ash,</i>
<i>Balmoney,</i>	<i>Conserve of Hollyhock,</i>	<i>Emetica,</i>	<i>Raspberry Leaves,</i>
<i>Barberry,</i>	<i>Cough Powder,</i>	<i>Do. Seed,</i>	<i>Skunk Cabbage,</i>
<i>Bayberry,</i>	<i>Ginger,</i>	<i>Nerve Ointment,</i>	<i>Slippery Elm,</i>
<i>Bitter Root,</i>	<i>Golden Rod,</i>	<i>Nerve Powder,</i>	<i>Spice or Ladies Bitters,</i>
<i>Butter-Nut Syrup,</i>	<i>Golden Seal,</i>	<i>No. 5—No. 6,</i>	<i>Uni orn Root,</i>
<i>Cancer Plaster,</i>	<i>Gum Myrrh,</i>	<i>Pond Lilly,</i>	<i>Wake Robin, &c.</i>
<i>Clivers,</i>	<i>Hemlock,</i>	<i>Poplar Bark,</i>	

Superior Wine Bitters for the Dyspeptic.

This valuable article has been found highly beneficial in restoring the natural tone of the stomach of weak and dyspeptic patients—it needs but a trial to recommend it.

Rheumatic Tincture, for Rheumatism, Sprains, Swelled Joints, Bruises, Inflammations, &c.

The subscribers having rebuilt their STEAM MILL, expressly for grinding all of the above Medicines, they are enabled to sell on the most favorable terms, and warrant their Medicines to be genuine and pure, and clear of any deleterious or poisonous qualities, as they do not admit any thing of that nature about their establishment. Those who favor them with their orders will be promptly attended to.

Also, for Sale, Dr. Samuel Thomson's Family Rights and Guide to Health, Dr. Robinson's Lectures on the Thomsonian System, and the Thomsonian Recorder, upon the same terms as they are furnished by Dr. Thomson or his General Agents—by

WARD SEARS & Co., No. 20 S. Calvert-st.

Agents for "The Thomsonian Friendly Botanic Society of Maryland."

The "Committee of Inspection" beg leave respectfully to report, That in obedience to a constitutional requisition, they instituted a general and rigid examination of the Thomsonian Botanic Medicines compounded by WARD SEARS & Co., at their Phœnix Establishment, in the city of Baltimore, and have found none but such as they are free to recommend as of the best quality made of sound and pure materials, and put up in the best condition.

GEO. EVANS,
HUGH DEVALIN,
FOLGER POPE,
HENRY RICHMOND,
Committee of Inspection.

To Cor. Com. Thomsonian F. B. Soc. of Md.
Baltimore Nov: 9, 1835.

BALTIMORE, (Md.) Nov. 10, 1835.

At a meeting of the "Corresponding Committee of the Thomsonian Friendly Botanic Society of Maryland," located in the city of Baltimore, it was

Resolved, That this committee heartily concur in the testimony of the "Committee of Inspection," (whose duty it is to examine such preparations as are vended under the name of Thomsonian Medicines, and report thereon) in favor of WARD SEARS & Co., recognised by this Society as "Manufacturers and venders of Thomsonian Botanic Medicines," and confidently recommend their preparations to the favorable notice of Thomsonians and others desirous of testing the efficacy of GENUINE MEDICINES, calculated in an eminent degree, to remove every form of curable disease, to which the human family is subject, when timely and properly administered.

Having individually patronised the establishment of Ward Sears & Co from the period of their adoption of the Thomsonian System, they are enabled to speak from experience; and they afford this testimony in favor of Ward Sears & Co as a simple act of justice to their laudable enterprise, industry, and indefatigable zeal and fidelity in promoting a general diffusion of the valuable remedies embraced in the Thomsonian System, and the many sacrifices they have made in promoting the cause.

WM. HOULTON,*
L. FRAILEY, 1st V. P.
MICHAEL LAMB, 2d V. P.
ROBT. NEILSON,
JAS. E. SEARLY,
ALFRED H. REIP,
Corresponding Committee.

Attest,

JOSEPH WALKER, Secretary.

*Late President—Resigned recently in consequence of removal from the city.