

**Remarks on physicians, surgeons, druggists, and quacks : addressed to members of Parliament, the medical profession, and the people of Great Britain / by Surgeon Snipe.**

**Contributors**

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Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

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# REMARKS

ON

PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS,

DRUGGISTS, AND QUACKS;

ADDRESSED TO

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, THE MEDICAL PROFESSION,

AND THE PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN,

BY

SURGEON SNIPE.

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Here's freedom to him that would read,  
And freedom to him that would write ;  
There's none ever fear'd that the truth should be heard,  
But they whom the truth should indict.

*Burns.*

---

HALIFAX, H. MARTIN :  
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1845.

*Price Half-a-Crown.*

MEMORANDUM  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE  
IN ANSWER TO A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
PASSED ON THE 14TH MARCH 1871  
RELATIVE TO THE PROVISION OF A NEW  
CLASSIFICATION OF LANDS  
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
NEW SYSTEM OF VALUATION  
FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE  
LOCAL TAXES  
AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE  
LANDS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
AND THE COLONIES

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.  
PRINTED BY H. MARTIN, UPPER GEORGE YARD, HALIFAX.

R351-30

## TO MY READERS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The following pages have been written in a very short time, and under peculiar circumstances, with the impression that such an epitome of the state of Medical Education and qualification would not prove unacceptable to the public, at the present moment. This is a subject about which the mass know very little:—it has been a sealed book. My object is to give a plain unvarnished statement; and I now leave you to reflect for yourselves.

Quackery and imposition are walking through the length and breadth of the land; and I trust the remarks on this baneful subject will not be deemed inappropriate.

Medical Reform, too, is engaging the attention of the Legislature; and a difficult bone of contention it seems to be! To please every body is impossible, even by the best bill the human mind could frame; but to attempt to legislate for the "Exclusives," instead of the grand majority of the Profession, will, as it should, prove a worthless abortion.

Should you be enabled to gather, from this little book, increased information on "Physic as it is," it will prove a source of pleasure to

Your very humble and devoted Servant,

SNIPE.

May, 1845.

TO MY READER,

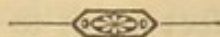
THE FOLLOWING PAPERS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN IN A VERY SHORT  
TIME, AND UNDER GREAT DISADVANTAGE, WITH THE IMPRO-  
PER THAT SUCH AN ASSAULT ON THE PART OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AND ADMISSION WOULD NOT BE A SUCCESSFUL ONE.

AS THE CASE STANDS, I CAN ONLY SAY THAT I HOPE  
THAT SOME VERY DISTINGUISHED MAN WILL BE ABLE TO  
EXPLAIN TO THE PUBLIC THE REAL STATE OF AFFAIRS, AND I HOPE  
THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO.

Yours very truly,  
Wm. W. Phelps

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## REMARKS, &c.



### PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

1. In offering the following observations to the notice of the Public, it is with a sincere desire of keeping alive the attention of all to their own true interests, and of imparting such information on Medical affairs as may have a tendency to arrest the direful hand of imposition, and awaken the mass to sensible reflection.

Happy would it be for all, if, besides *knowing* what is right, they could be persuaded to *do* what is right;—to follow the dictates of common-sense, forsake all ignorant prejudices, and pursue that course which reason and experience have fully established!

The remarks we have to make will assume the form of short paragraphs, which, we trust, will be easily comprehended; and should any one of them prove of the smallest benefit to our fellow-creatures, the whole desire of our heart will be accomplished, and our labour abundantly rewarded.

2. The primary grand duty of every individual, we conceive to be, the preservation of his health by every means in his power; and when, unfortunately, it is deranged,—when the lamp of life begins to burn dimly, to have recourse to such measures as science

and accurate observation have, from time to time, introduced.

3. The late Duke of Newcastle said "*every man had a right to do what he liked with his own ;*" and if you like to destroy your health, you have, according to the Duke, a perfect right to do so ; and if, when you are ill, you like to risk the chance of being better, you have a perfect right to consult a public-house-quack, or a smiling obsequious druggist. But the wisdom of such a course must always remain a question.

4. Which of you, having a watch out of order, would sit down, and, without any knowledge of its construction, recklessly try to mend it with your own hands ? Or which of you would take it to Mr. Blunder, the Ironmonger, and respectfully request *him* to repair it ; or to Mr. Weakhead, the Tinner, and ask *him* to repair it ; or to Mr. Gimcrack, the Locksmith, and ask *him* to repair it ? Would you not risk the further utility of the whole machine ? Whereas, a watchmaker would repair it with ease and safety, and return it to your keeping, as good, if not better, than it was before. Then why not go to him at first,—to him who possesses the requisite knowledge ?

5. Supposing Mr. Blunder, the Ironmonger, Mr. Weakhead, the Tinner, and Mr. Gimcrack, the Locksmith, were each to inspect the interior of your watch, with a scientific peep through a glass, and positively declare he knew the defect, and could remedy it,—you, in your simplicity, might believe him, nay, you might trust him, but what would become of your watch ? What o'clock would it be then ? The hands might be unshipped, and the figures on the face replaced

by an appropriate motto, "*alas! it is finished!*" Blundering, weak-headed, gimcrack fool! why did I murder my ticker?

6. Which of you, having a voyage by sea, would like to place a tailor at the helm; or a journey by coach, and trust the reins to a linen-draper; or a drive per rail, and submit the management of the engine to a horse-jockey?

7. These are plain common-sense questions, and such as all of you can furnish with common-sense answers. Be assured, then, that men and things have their right positions and uses; and, so soon as ever a transposition occurs,—so soon as one man usurps the place or calling of another, it is attended by mischief, which, though unseen and unnoticed, is not the less terrible, condemnatory, and mournful.

8. Ignorance and presumption, twin sisters, ever go hand in hand. Dreadful are the deeds they commit; and truly lamentable it is to witness the encouragement they receive. Ignorance preys upon ignorance; presumption goads her on; while victim after victim falls, only to be replaced by another. These sisters are cruel, grasping, and relentless. Then fly their approach; and repel them as you would a scourge.

9. You may ask, what is the aim of all this talk about ignorance and presumption, and men and things being in their right and proper places? The simple aim is, and it is fervently directed, to warn every man and woman breathing against the woful effects of imposition, especially that imposition which preys like a vulture on the health and vitals of the community at



large. Of all impositions this is the boldest and the basest; and sorry we are, yea, deeply sorry, that our Home Secretary has not magnanimity and fortitude enough to take this bull by the horns, and, with one grand effort, prostrate the rebellious and appalling monster.

10. But what care we for the listlessness of the Home Secretary, or even of the Prime Minister, provided we can sharpen the minds of the suffering people? You, ignorantly, nurture this calamity; and heavy is the price you pay! Loss of time, loss of health, loss of money, nay, but too frequently, loss of life, is the bitter penalty! With you lies the remedy. Rouse yourselves, then, for a few moments, to vigorous thought. Take a calm and healthy view of the question; and, if it be your opinion that Pills and Potions for the Million will cure a million of different diseases, well then, persevere. All we can say is, ye are none of the wisest, and there is room for improvement.

11. If, again, it be your opinion that he who knows nothing whatever of the structure of the Human Body, not even the name of a bone in it, nor has ever had an opportunity of inspecting the beauty and complexity of its internal organs;—if, we say, you consider such a man as this a fit and proper person to prescribe for your ailments, then go to the Quack and the Druggist, and we are daft indeed if you do not both fall into the ditch, or, if not, it will be because there is no ditch to fall into.

12. Now we think every sensible person will admit that, for a man to pretend to knowledge which he does not possess, is base; and to practise on the

gullibility of the people, where precious life and health are concerned, is highly reprehensible, and calls for the interference of the strong arm of the law. But until you obtain wisdom to think soberly and correctly for yourselves, quackery and ignorance will stalk abroad, without change and without diminution.

13. Let us keep to common-sense. Do you not think that a man who put down a pump, made a drain, laid down water or gas-pipes, or conducted any other work of a similar kind, would be the best fitted to reason upon and discover any defect which might occur; or would you send for a man who had never either seen the work in question or any thing like it? And why is the former best fitted? Because he has full knowledge of the work. Because he can see the whole, from beginning to end, in his mind's eye; and if he cannot positively pronounce the exact position of the defect, yet he can form a very good opinion, and direct his measures accordingly.

14. If this be common-sense with regard to works of this description, it must apply with ten-fold force to a knowledge of the structure of the Human Body. This is a machine, beautiful even in its external form, but, when we come to examine its *internal* structure, and there see the numerous parts of which it is composed, each having a separate function yet not one interfering with the other, we are lost in admiration and astonishment, and are led insensibly to reflect on that all-wise and omnipotent Being who has fashioned our bodies in a manner so beautiful and unparalleled.

15. The ingenuity of man, ever active and truly

wonderful, has invented, for the use and accommodation of his fellows, many complex machines, all admirably adapted to the purposes for which they were constructed: yet nothing which has ever emanated from the Human Mind, divine though it be, can enter into comparison with the beautiful adaptation of the body to the performance of its various functions; and were it possible to render it transparent, so that you might see all that is momentarily going on, you would truly be led to exclaim, "*We are fearfully and wonderfully made!*"

16. Ignorance of the Structure and Uses of your bodies, makes you act as recklessly as you do. What would you think of the man who complacently sat down and filled his watch with sand? This man, in your eyes, would, no doubt, be a precious fool! What would you think of another who took a hammer, and just as complacently struck off cog after cog from the wheel of an expensive piece of machinery? This man would, we dare say, in your eyes, be a precious fool, too! Yet ignorance causes you to treat your bodies like the sandy man treated his watch, or the hammering knave the wheel! Nay, ignorance causes you to commit acts ten times more injurious and monstrous! There is, moreover, a grand misfortune. You injure yourselves without knowing it; and the difficulty is, to open your eyes to the deplorable mischief you are so calmly producing, and which seems to afford so much satisfaction. Apparently, without a single thought or a moment's reflection, you will at random resort to all sorts of quackery and absurdity; and seem to be gratified in forcing down your throats all the deadly mischief which it is possible for either chance, imbecile recommendation, or ignorant selection, to

throw in your way! This is lamentable; and to one who knows the cost, truly heart-rending!

17. If, then, it be a fact that Man is the great Creator's masterpiece, not only in bodily conformation but in mental capacity, it must be admitted, as rational, that he who acquires the deepest and most intimate knowledge of his structure, (to be obtained only by diligent and persevering dissection,) is best fitted for administering to the Diseases and Accidents to which it is liable; and that he who knows nothing of it, touches it only with a sacrilegious and trembling hand.

18. With what terror and anxiety any one of you would watch the gambols of a blind man on the brink of a precipice! You would willingly save him, but onward he pushes, heedless and unconscious of the abyss before him. Such is but too often the embarrassing position of the Medical Man, who is doomed to witness disasters and scenes which it is totally out of his power either to remedy or avert. The die is cast; the mischief is done; and all *he* can do is to deplore it!

19. And now let us ask, who are the suffering victims? *You*, who encourage ignorance: *you*, who encourage quackery and deceit: *you*, who, like the blind man, unconsciously bring yourselves for self-immolation. Till your eyes be opened, as was said before, victim after victim will continue to perish, while the mercenary deceiver gloats upon your miseries. It is not our desire nor our intention to speak disrespectfully of any man. We are fighting with your ignorance, and the ignorance of those who spend their time in cheating you both of your money and

your health; and happy shall we be if the remarks we make, save one body from being practised on by the Quack and the Charlatan.

20. We sincerely believe that every man who minds his own business, and works diligently at his profession or calling, providing it be honest, is worthy of respect; but the moment he begins to play the dupe, and practise on the credulity of the people, he loses all title either to respect or forbearance. The best treatment such a man can expect, is a complete exposure of the fraud he practises.

21. We will now proceed a little further, and ascertain, first, by what means a man becomes entitled to practise as PHYSICIAN or SURGEON. We will then descend a step lower, and make a few remarks on the CHEMIST and DRUGGIST; and then, by the time we have done this, we shall be fully prepared to handle that important personage, THE QUACK. We hope to make it clear that there are distinctive differences in all these grades; and propose to afford you a tolerably succinct account of the capabilities of each, so as to enable you to form a sound judgment, not only of the qualifications of the Medical Man, (a subject which is very imperfectly understood); but also of every one laying any claim to a knowledge of Medicine.

## THE PHYSICIAN.

22. The Physician may be said to be placed at the very tip-top of the science or profession of Physic. He is entitled to put M. D. after his name, which stands, in plain English, for Doctor of Medicine. He sometimes wears spectacles, and sometimes not. In former times he used to carry a gold-headed cane, but now-a-days he has enough to do to carry himself. He is sometimes a very old man in whom you would suppose Physic had lost its charms; and sometimes so very young and slim as scarcely to have forgotten the maternal odour of Rhubarb and Magnesia, or the cutting sound of a yard of cane. He generally dresses in black, carries a watch, has an intelligent eye, and a remarkably discerning nose. In fact, all his senses may be termed *acute*. He is generally a family man, though sometimes a man without family. He is seldom unmarried, as Mrs. Dr. Juniper is absolutely necessary to second Dr. Juniper in all his undertakings. If Dr. Juniper should go out, Mrs. Dr. Juniper will contrive to be in; but should she go out too, then Juniper's house is at a discount, and all goes to rack and ruin.

23. The Physician is said to confine himself to the treatment of *internal* diseases, such as inflammation of the Brain, Lungs, Bowels; diseases of the Heart, &c. but if a man unfortunately break his head, cut his throat, tumble down stairs and dislocate his whistle-bone, or upset the tea-kettle on to his wife's leg, it is

of no earthly importance to any physician breathing. He has nothing whatever to do with these cases. Injuries of every description, as matters now stand, are beneath his notice, and require the attention of the Surgeon.

Then, again, if a man were in a fit, and a Physician present, do you think, even supposing it were necessary, that he would pull out a lancet and bleed him? Oh! dear, no! This would be *infra dig.*! *Infra dig.*, if we recollect aright, stands for "*infra dignitatem*," and this means, *beneath his dignity!* But how it could be beneath his dignity to save a fellow-creature's life, especially if he knew how, we and you have yet to learn! *We* think it would be the most dignified thing he could possibly do! There must be something wrong somewhere. This circumstance actually occurred to the late President of the Royal College of Physicians in London; and a pretty scrape his dignity got into, at the time! It may be professional for a physician not to bleed; but it only shows that there is plenty of tom-foolery even in Physic. We believe a regulation was adopted in the navy, founded on this circumstance. All medical officers of ships may be M.D's. if they like, but they are compelled to be Surgeons, so as to do away with any stickling about etiquette, and ensure their attendance on any case of emergency which may occur.

24. But we must now endeavour to show you how a Physician obtains his diploma, or license to practise. He is generally understood to have received his education at some University; though this is by no means always the case. At all events, there are several places where M.D's. germinate. We have the London M.D., the Cambridge and

Oxford M.D., the Scotch M.D., and the Irish and Foreign M.D. It will be sufficient to remark that the licenses of all depend, in the first instance, on a regular attendance upon Lectures given by Professors at the various Universities; and then, after the prescribed courses have been gone through, every candidate for a degree has to submit to an examination, conducted in various ways, according to the rules of the university; and, if found competent, in the judgment of the Examiners, his license is granted.\* For this he has to pay a fee, the amount of which varies, as does also the age at which a candidate must have arrived. We may here observe that many pursue the same plan of education as that adopted by the Surgeon, described in a subsequent chapter; and then, in due course, and in com-

\* *Royal College of Physicians, London.*—President, Dr. Paris; Censors, Dr. Roupel, Dr. Babington, Dr. Frampton, Dr. Ferguson; Registrar, Dr. F. Hawkins. Candidates for the license must present certificates of being twenty-six years of age, of good moral conduct, of having studied professionally for five years, during which they have attended lectures on anatomy, physiology, medicine, forensic medicine, chemistry, materia medica, natural history, botany chiefly, midwifery and surgery, and three years' practical medicine in an hospital containing 100 beds. Candidates who have studied abroad, are required to present certificates of twelve months' medical hospital practice in Great Britain. There are three examinations for the license, in physiology, pathology, and therapeutics, and candidates will be examined in Hippocrates, Galen, or Aretidus, in the original Greek, or in Celsus or Sydenham, in Latin. The examinations are conducted in English or in Latin. A rejected candidate cannot present himself again for examination before the lapse of a twelvemonth. There is but one examination for the extra licentiate. The fellows are chosen from the licentiates. Gentlemen, 40 years of age, in actual practice candidates for the license, are required to present certificates of general professional knowledge, and of good moral character. Fee for license, £56 17s.; fee for extra license, £17 9s.



pliance with the prescribed regulations, graduate as Physicians. There is another truly wretched and ignoble way of obtaining the diploma of M. D. It is purchased from some foreign university, appropriately enough called the University of Imbeciles, for a consideration of £40. The way of procuring this document is known only to the initiated; but whether or not, the man who has one, is only fit to sweep chimneys, or work in a coal-pit, where nobody can see him!

We should tell you that the first title conferred is that of Bachelor of Medicine; and then, in process of time, he is eligible for that of Doctor. This may be all very well, but we cannot help thinking it might be better. We should like to see the heads of the profession called CONSULTING PRACTITIONERS or SURGEONS;—not, as at present, *Physicians*, or *Pure Surgeons*. The separation of Physic and Surgery is both stupid and ridiculous. The *Physician* says, I have nothing to do with Surgery; and the *Pure* says, I have nothing to do with Physic. So that the General Practitioner,—the Surgeon-Apothecary, who wishes a second opinion on any case, has to sit down for half an hour, and consider whom he must meet. If it be strictly a *surgical case*, as a lacerated leg, or a broken bone, where is the use of meeting a *Physician*? Not a bit. And if it be strictly a *medical case*, as inflammation of the brain, &c. where is the use of meeting a *Pure*? Not a bit. And supposing it be a case of Midwifery, where is the use of thinking of calling in either one or the other? Not a bit. It is really lamentable to see this in the nineteenth century! Let the *Physician* and the *Pure* be completely done away with, or amalgamated:—let them, from this time, be chronicled in the History of England, as things that

were. Let the Consulting Practitioner, or Surgeon, be adopted instead; and let him spring from the General Practitioner. This appears to us the only sensible way of making a really useful and trustworthy head of the profession of medicine. LET A FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY BE INSTITUTED.

Let every medical man's education be the same. Let all enter the same door; and, after they have practised twenty years as General Practitioners, let them then assume the title of Consulting Practitioner or Surgeon.

For our own part, we would sooner, and more willingly, raise our hat to the ensign who had risen from the ranks, than we would to all the colonels that money ever made. And why? Because in him we should see a man of merit,—one who had obtained his rank by strict discipline, order, and length of service.

Supposing a man commence practice at the age of 22, twenty years added to this will bring him to the sensible and very respectable sphere of 42; and this is quite soon enough for any man to be dubbed Consulting Practitioner. After a preliminary practice of 20 years, a man would then neither be afraid to bleed, nor look at a compound fracture. Whether called to a case of internal disease, or one of severe injury, to him it would be all the same; and the patient would derive the benefit of his manifold and lengthy experience.

This method would, at once, uproot the nonsensical division into Medical and Surgical cases. It would prove simple in operation, safe, satisfactory, and effective. The Physician, according to this, would always be a man of age, standing, and experience; and the abominable etiquette which now prevents him using a lancet, or any thing else in an emergency, would be justly exploded.

25. You must bear in mind that the Physician does not make or prepare any medicine; nor does he generally practise Midwifery; though, in all large cities and towns, it is not unusual to find the Physician-accoucheur. He keeps no physic in his house, except a few Senna leaves for his own private use, and a bottle of Castor oil for fear the cat should only be sickly. He always writes his prescription in a dignified and *illegible* manner, on a piece of clean white paper, at the end of which he tags his initials, and puts the date in Latin, which generally ends, when right, in a little o. This is the whole birth, parentage, life, character, and behaviour, of a Physician. In conclusion, we can truly say that there have been, and still are, many most scientific and clever Physicians,—men of undoubted honor and talent,—men to whom no sacrifice is too great for the good of their species,—men who would, at any moment, offer up their lives at the shrine of duty, and walk undismayed amid pestilence and death.

On the Physician then we will let the curtain fall; and will now introduce you to a very important personage, the SURGEON-APOTHECARY, OR GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

THE SURGEON-APOTHECARY, OR  
GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

26. The following recipe is not to be found in Mrs. Rundell's book; but it is a very good and never-failing recipe, for all that.

*Directions for making a Surgeon-Apothecary, or  
General Practitioner.*

First of all, procure a highly educated and sensible Physician; break every bone in his body; pound him in a mortar, quite fine:—then get a Surgeon, and treat him in the same way:—pick out all extraneous bodies, such as spectacles, spurs, and walking-sticks:—mix the dust of the two together:—with a little moisture, mould the whole into the form of a man, vivify him, and you will have before you a trustworthy General Practitioner. We are truly surprised that Mrs Rundell, in her last edition, overlooked this recipe. It was a great omission, in the present advanced stage of the art of manufacturing wonders.

27. So that it comes to this, does it, that the General Practitioner is half Physician and half Surgeon? Indeed, it does; and a very useful and right worthy member of society he is. Of all the callings which claim the attention of man in this sublunary world, the profession of a Surgeon is one demanding not only talent, energy, boldness, and enterprise, but

one too in the exercise of which all the milder virtues, as gentleness, humanity, patience, prudence, and consideration, should be intimately blended. He is the constant attendant on scenes which would appal the hearts of others. He has to witness, with a calm and thoughtful countenance, the mangled form of a fellow-creature, writhing in all the agony of some dreadful misfortune. He has to witness the distressing wailings of relatives and friends; and, yet, notwithstanding this, *his* heart and *his* judgment must never fail, but courage, resolution, and knowledge, must unitedly form his grand sheet-anchor. We have seen many interesting and affecting sights, in our day; and one of the most beautiful is, to witness with what composure the Surgeon steps in to a case of severe accident, and, when all is tumult, anxiety, and despair, how a kind look or gentle expression from him will immediately dispel all doubt, and restore that confidence which is absolutely necessary for the welfare of his suffering patient. Some Surgeons have infinitely more tact in imparting implicit confidence than others; and the grand secret is that they have a thorough and well digested knowledge of their profession,—are able and ready to act in any emergency. Who could place confidence in imposition? Who could rely on a Quack?

28. The Surgeon may be truly said to be indefatigable. At all times, at all seasons, by night or by day, he is at the call of the Public; and sorry we are to be obliged to admit that his labours, but too often, are unappreciated, and his services unrewarded. We remember, some time ago, being in conversation with a Surgeon who had practised for twenty years; and, the subject turning on this very point, he suddenly

popped his hand into his coat-pocket, and pulled out a common red-backed memorandum book. "Do you see this book?" said he. "Well, turn it over, and "it will show you what a Surgeon has to do for nothing. If I had all that I have earned, and which is "entered in that book (now totally and irrecoverably "lost) I should be £2000 richer than I now am." We believe the truth of this; and that gentleman is alive and practising now. What a mass of cases must have been attended, and anxiety undergone, in the accumulation of £2000! Yet every Surgeon practising might tell a similar tale! Too true it is, and pity 'tis 'tis true! Here is a little fund of reflection for the public; and it is to be hoped they will be none the worse for thinking about it! At the same time, this very public will liberally pay the Quack and the Impositor, without regret and without grudge. The late Duke was perfectly right;—"Every man has a right to do what he likes with his own."

29. There is another point to which we will just advert, before we proceed to an epitome of the education of the Surgeon; and that is, the erroneous views which are taken with regard to the dispensing of Medicine. In any charges which may be made, that for Medicine is of secondary consideration, as the Surgeon does, or ought to, charge for his *knowledge of disease*, and for the amount of *skill, care, and attention*, which has been required of him in the management of any particular case. The mere sale of Medicine, which to the Druggist and Quack is all important, is but of minor consideration to the Surgeon; though the public seem to think that all his charges are regulated by the *quantity* of Medicine supplied, irrespective of the *degree of skill*. We need

scarcely say this is a fallacy. Suppose, for instance, you are ill, and you take a single Bottle of Medicine, or a Box of Pills, from one man, and you recover your health. Again, you take ten Bottles of Medicine, or as many Boxes of Pills, from another, and you are no better. Now, the charge in the latter instance you would, we suppose, cheerfully pay, because you have had quantity without skill. Whereas, if the man who possessed the skill to cure you with little Medicine, were to charge you the same as the one who supplied you with ten bottles ineffectually, you would deem him an exorbitant and unconscientious practitioner. This, we think, will make it apparent that skill, at all events, is worth something; and this is the proper light in which you ought to look at these mysterious matters.

30. We will now endeavour to make you familiar with the education of the Surgeon. He, like the Physician, must have a liberal education, in all its departments. He must know his Latin and Greek Grammar, and something more besides in both these languages, or he will find himself at a nonplus long before he arrives at Apothecaries' Hall: and should he venture to show his face there for examination, without a tolerably well grounded knowledge of Latin, at the least, he will find himself in a complete quagmire, and might as well never have been born.

It is no joke to be compelled to sit down in a dusty, rusty, black-looking long room, even though it be in London, and try to translate, almost against your will, twenty or thirty lines in that bothering book, written by an ancient Surgeon called Celsus: or, if you please,—we beg your pardon, if your Examiner pleases,—the same quantity in another book written

by a Dr. Gregory, and called his *Conspectus*:—we say, this is no joke, especially if such a feat be totally out of your power. You may scratch your heads, if you like; but that will not put any Latin into them: and you may swear, if you like; but, unless you can do it properly and in Latin, it will be of no avail. Your Examiner will walk about, as cool as an icicle; while you are trying to squeeze *out* of your Brain what you know has never yet found a place *in* it; and he will ask you, as mild as milk, how you are getting on; little thinking, silly man, that you have “no go” in you. He will talk about nouns, participles, and verbs,—about all sorts of cases, from the Nominative down to the Ablative absolute, which is tyrannical; and, would you believe it, he will actually have the impertinence to ask you to *decline* something or another, which is the very thing you *wish* to do; therefore, you cannot be angry at his discrimination! All *you*, then, who have yet to weather the storm, take the advice of an old stager and ardent well-wisher, *learn Latin, and Greek too, while you are young; and you will thus save yourselves hours, days, nay we may say years, of misery.*

31. Well, after school-days comes the apprenticeship, which must be with some legally qualified Medical Practitioner. These are the halcyon days for the young aspirant for being called up in the night, or away from his dinner! These are the days when graduated glass measures suffer, and pill-machines rattle! These are the days for a combination of fun, frolic, and physic! These are the days when the youth is as free as air;—gambolling and basking at the wide end of a funnel;—little dreaming that every year curtails his liberty, and that, like his own physic, he will wheel round and round until eventually he passes through the



spout, and drops, unresistingly and perfectly helpless, into a chair at Apothecaries' Hall, only to be again set at liberty, either caparisoned or plucked.

32. If the apprenticeship be served with a Practitioner residing in any town where there is a recognised Medical School, it is of incalculable advantage to the Student; as, during the whole period of his servitude, he can be attending the requisite courses of Lectures which are to qualify him for his Examinations before the Company of Apothecaries and the Royal College of Surgeons; and thus it will prove a material saving of time. As the regulations\* at present stand, every

\* *Regulations to be observed by Students intending to qualify themselves to practise as Apothecaries.*

Every candidate must produce testimonials of having served an apprenticeship of five years to an apothecary; of having attained the age of twenty-one years; and of good moral conduct. The lectures are to be attended in the following order, viz. :—*First Winter Session.*—Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology, Anatomical Demonstrations, Materia Medica, and Therapeutics. *First Summer Session.*—Botany, and such other branches of Study as may improve the Student's general Education. *Second Winter Session.*—Anatomy and Physiology, Anatomical Demonstrations, Dissections, Principles and Practice of Medicine, Medical Practice. *Second Summer Session.*—Botany (if not attended), Forensic Medicine, Medical Practice. *Third Winter Session.*—Dissections, Principles and Practice of Medicine, Medical Practice. *Midwifery.*—Two courses, each consisting of sixty lectures, may be attended at any time subsequent to the termination of the first summer session; practical midwifery, after the conclusion of the first course of midwifery lectures. Medical practice must be attended from the commencement of the second winter, to the commencement of the third winter session, at a recognised hospital, and the remaining six months either in a recognised hospital or a dispensary. Each sessional course must comprise 100 lectures on Chemistry, 100 on Materia Medica, 100 on the Principles and Practice of Medicine, 60 on Midwifery, 50 on Forensic Medicine, 50 on Botany. The lectures on Anatomy and Physiology to be in conformity with

Medical Student must attend Lectures during three Winter Sessions of six months each, and during two Summer Sessions of one month each; and in this period, if he does his duty, he will have heard 1160 Lectures on the various branches of Medical Science, each of an hour's duration, and delivered by a distinct Professor. Besides this, he will have to attend the practice of the Physicians and Surgeons attached to an hospital containing at the least 100 beds, and for variable periods: so that the life of the Student is now a busy one, both for body and mind.

33. Then, again, every spare moment he has must be devoted to dissection. He must study, over and over again, the Bones of the Human Body, until he become as familiar with every eminence, every cavity, and every aperture, as he is with the chairs, tables, and doors, within his own house; and, not only so, but he must be able to tell what all are for. Not a hole but

the regulations of the Royal College of Surgeons. Testimonials of attendance to be given on a printed form, obtainable at the Hall. The registration of tickets authorising the attendance on lectures takes place in October and May, and certificates of "having duly attended," in April and August.

*Examination.*—The Latin examination may take place at any time subsequent to the first registration, on Saturdays at half past three o'clock. The examination of a candidate for the licence to practise, will consist in translating portions of the first four Books of Celsus de Medicina, and of the first twenty-three Chapters of Gregory's *Conspectus*; in Physicians' Prescriptions, and the *Pharmacopœia Londinensis*; Chemistry, *Materia Medica*, and Therapeutics; Botany; Anatomy and Physiology; the Principles and Practice of Medicine, embracing an enquiry into the pregnant and puerperal states, and also into the diseases of children. No rejected candidate can be again admitted to examination until after a period of six months. The Court of Examiners meet on Thursday, at a quarter before 4 o'clock. Fees for a certificate to practise in London and within ten miles, 10*l.* 10*s.*; for all other parts, 6*l.* 6*s.*

he must know what passes through it;—not an eminence but he must know to what it gives attachment. He must then make out how the Bones are held together;—he must study well the Ligaments. He must now take his scalpel and industriously trace out every muscle, every vessel, and every nerve; and he must learn most carefully the relative positions of each, so that, if he were called to cut down on any part of the body, he might have it in his mind's eye, and be able to operate with ease and safety. This is one grand distinguishing characteristic between the educated Surgeon and the illiterate Quack. The one will perform what the other will tremble to think of;—the one will have knowledge and experience for his guide, while the other will be in Egyptian darkness.

He must now obtain a thorough knowledge of the Brain, of the Eye, of the Ear, of the Nose, and of the Mouth; and must make himself intimately acquainted with the Diseases to which each is subject. This is only a tithe of what he has in the aggregate to do; and we hazard not too much when we say that, in addition to all this, every diligent Student jeopardises, not only his health, but very often his life.

34. Well it is, for the general mass, that they know not on what delicate threads human life is hung. Ignorance on this point is bliss; and it would be most unwise and detrimental to unravel to them the mysteries of Anatomical Science. You live, breathe, eat, drink, and sleep, without even the bestowal of a thought on the important functions which are momentarily going on, the suppression of any one of which would cause serious impediment to the well-being of the animal economy. Did every man possess a thorough knowledge of the delicacy of his struc-

ture, it might have a tendency to render him irritable, restless, and hypochondriacal, especially when under affliction; and his mind would often be absorbed in meditation on himself, when other matters ought to claim his attention. Shakespeare wrote, long ago,—“What a piece of work is Man! How noble in reason! How exquisite in faculties! In form and moving, how express and admirable! In attributes, how like an angel! In comprehension, how like a God! The paragon of animals! The wonder of the world!”

Then let not the ignorant and the unprincipled tamper with such a being! Let not empiricism exert its baneful sway over you; and do not yourselves trifle with that health which was given you to enjoy in happiness and peace!

35. Let us return to the Student. After having completed his apprenticeship, and attended the required Lectures and Hospital Practice, his certificates are duly signed by each Professor at the School; and he is now in a position to present himself for examination before the Apothecaries' Company. This is an eventful and trying period of his life; and he alone who has had an examination of this or a similar kind to undergo, can form any conception of the degree of anxiety, the doubts and fears which are ever ready to assail him. Weeks, months, and we may even add years, sometimes pass before he can summon resolution to enter his name for that dreadful ordeal; but, once done, he is, until it be over, in a fitful fever, which *may* be witnessed, *may* be felt, but cannot be described. It is requisite to enter the name, a week, at the least, prior to the day of examination, which is always on a Thursday. Let any man who has the inclination, post

himself near Apothecaries' Hall, on a Thursday afternoon, and he will see young gentlemen dressed in black, without any display of finery;—no rings, gold chains, breast-pins, and foolery of this sort, distinguish them;—these things, at this moment, are, in their eyes, trumpery dross, nay downright miserable worldly gammon;—we say, he will see them trudging, with rueful countenances, towards the entrance of this peppery place. A man being led to execution may, perhaps, experience some of *his* disquiet, as he steps across that court yard, and mounts the stairs which afford him access to that long, narrow, dismal, dirty-looking room into which he is immediately ushered, and which he knows but too well, from his own innate feelings, must be the *funking-room*. We do not know who invented this word, or what the inventor was doing at the time; but Dr. Johnson takes no notice of it. However, it is all owing to his ignorance of Apothecaries' Hall, that a word so elegant and truly expressive should have escaped a place in his Dictionary. Had he but been there for five minutes, we should have had another legitimate word in the English Language. It is much to be regretted, but we believe this term will be in use so long as Physic flourishes.

36. Well, now let us look at this hopeful assemblage of young *Medics*, the number of whom will vary according to circumstances. One is pondering on Chemistry, another on Pharmacy; one is thinking of Fevers, another of Inflammations; one is thinking about the Stomach, another about the Rectum; one is trying over the Foetal Circulation, another that of the Adult; one is counting over the Bones of the Head, another those of the Foot; one is thinking who will examine him, another does not care a jot; one asks about Wheeler, another

about Ridout; one thinks a six-guinea fee a deal, another would not care if it were sixty; one hopes he will pass, another will wonder if he does; one sits sulky in a corner, another keeps in motion; one knows what he'll do when it is over, another knows nothing about it; one wishes he had some half-and-half, another a drop of brandy;—when Sayer, the Beadle, opens the door. He calls four Gentlemen by name, and ushers them into the examination-room, and places each at a separate table, before one or two Examiners. He is now put to the test, and examined as to his knowledge of Anatomy, Chemistry, Materia Medica, Pharmacy, Practice of Physic, Midwifery, and Botany; and, if found competent, is told to retire until his certificate of qualification be duly prepared;—he becomes a Licentiate of the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries. If his examination be unsatisfactory, he is remanded for six months; when, if he pleases, he can try again. This certificate legalises him to practise as an Apothecary; and many obtain *this only*;—assuming, rather equivocally we think, the title of Surgeon. This Company has been much abused, and much maligned; but there are inveterate grumblers to be found throughout Europe, whom nothing will please; and sore legs which nothing will cure, except Holloway's Ointment! We have heard *some* Medical men speak very disrespectfully of this Company and their certificate, *after they have got it*; but we have never yet found out a sufficient reason. We suppose they think something like the child who said,—“*When I am a man, Father, I shan't care for you, shall I?*”

37. Thus ends a most important and anxious period in the life of every Student. Should he now choose to remain content with the certificate of quali-

fication from the Company of Apothecaries, he can commence practice immediately ; but, with this certificate *only*, he is not eligible for any public appointment, as, for instance, that of Surgeon to an Hospital or Dispensary. This it is, together with the desire of being a Member of a highly respectable and honourable Body, which prompts him to renew his ardour, and obtain the Diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons.\*

It is usual for him, then, after a little relaxation, to turn his undivided and serious attention to a more intimate acquaintance with Anatomy and Surgery,—subjects of vast importance to him as a professional man, and of paramount importance to every patient

*\* Regulations for Candidates for the Diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons.*

Candidates will be required to bring proof of their being twenty-one years of age ; of their having been engaged in the acquirement of professional knowledge for at least four years, three of which shall have been passed in a recognised school or schools of surgery, three months' vacation being allowed in each year ; and in the event of absence during the term, the full term must subsequently be completed ; of having studied anatomy and physiology during two seasons, extending from October to April, and comprising at least 140 lectures and 100 demonstrations ; of having attended two winter courses of lectures on surgery, each course comprising not less than 70 lectures ; also one six months' course in the practice of medicine, and one on chemistry, comprising not less than 70 lectures each ; one six months' course on materia medica and medical botany, and one six months' course on midwifery, each containing at least 60 lectures ; and at least 25 lectures on medical jurisprudence, which may be delivered three days a week. Lectures on chemistry, medicine, materia medica, and midwifery, may be attended during the summer, provided they are equally divided over a period of four months. Of having attended, during 21 months, the surgical practice of a recognised hospital in London, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, or Aberdeen ; or for twelve months in any such hospital, and twelve months in a provincial hospital. Of having attended the medical practice of an hospital or dispensary during six months.

whom chance or choice may place under his care. No man can know much of Anatomy, who is too finical or too lady-like to soil his delicate fingers:—no man can know much of Anatomy, who will not use his own Scalpel, and wear it out in the pursuit:—no man can know much of Anatomy, who turns up his nose at a trifle, and idly swerves from the prosecution of his purpose. A smattering of this science is an abomination; and the man who prates the most, very often knows the least. Empty barrels make a great sound; and so do shallow brooks! Anatomy is the grand substratum,—the only sure foundation, of all Medical Science. Then, let him who wishes to obtain and to hold a respectable position, give his days and his nights to its study. Let him unweariedly pursue his investigations; and carefully unravel, with his own fingers, every portion of the Human Body. Let him, at the same time, read, reflect, and arrange in his own mind; and let him lay up such a fund of practical information, as will enable him boldly and unerringly to direct his measures in any case which may fall to his lot. Knowledge here may indeed be said to be power. Knowledge makes a man bold, and imparts confidence; while ignorance gives rise to doubt and indecision: knowledge will complete, in a very short time, what ignorance cannot do at all: knowledge will daily add to a man's reputation; while ignorance will only blast the little he has. Take the advice, again, then, all you who have yet to become Surgeons, of an old stager: get knowledge of every kind, but, above all, get a sound and searching knowledge of Practical Anatomy. Rest assured, the more you perform, the greater will be your delight; and the more confidence you obtain, the greater will be your satisfaction. This is the knowledge which will give you a thorough contempt for every



kind and shade of Quackery and Charlatanism; and it is a knowledge which, though it may keep you poor for awhile, because unknown and unappreciated, is ready to burst out at any moment, and find its true position.

38. The Student, then, now devotes all his energies to the prosecution of his Anatomical Studies, in order that he may present himself for examination before the Royal College of Surgeons. At the same time, he generally attends the Surgical Practice of a Metropolitan Hospital, and, so soon as he thinks that he has acquired sufficient acumen for his examination, he calls at the College in Lincoln's Inn Fields, and introduces himself to Mr. Belfour, the Secretary. This functionary examines his certificates, to ascertain that he has complied with the regulations; and, if all be correct, the Student enters his name in a book kept for the purpose, and receives intimation, by letter, in due course, from him, when he must present himself at the College. The Secretary always gives a week's notice, and the examination usually takes place on a Friday; though, if the candidates be numerous, it occasionally happens that there are two or three examinations during the week. The number examined at one sitting never exceeds twelve. The fee for the diploma is £22.

39. Let us now endeavour to trace the progress of a Student, during his passage through the College of Surgeons. He receives intimation, a week beforehand, as we have already said, that he must be in attendance at half-past five, on such a date. Accordingly he dresses himself in his black clothes again,—the very same, perhaps, in which he

underwent his examination at the Hall. Black clothes come in for a deal of business, in this world ; and usher every professional man into his vocation. We have a black coat, and we respect it yet, in which we made our maiden speech,—in which we passed the Hall,—and in which we passed the College. It seemed to have been prepared for special occasions ; and the tailor who made it might have had an intuitive knowledge of the important occasions on which it would have to appear. However, we wish tailors, at the present day, would continue to make coats like that !

Well, he puts on his black ; primes himself, probably, with a glass or two of wine ; sallies out to the nearest cab-stand ; and off he drives to the College. On any other occasion, the Student would never think of getting into a cab, without first completing a bargain with the Jehu, as to the cost ; but, somehow, on occasions like these, the cabman *must* be paid, as well as the College, and it all seems to be one expense. The College is in a very different locality to the Hall. The situation is open, airy, and pleasant ; and the building itself has something about it which bears the stamp of Patrician mould.

Arrived at the College, he enters a noble portico ; and no one has occasion to show him whither he must direct his steps, for he bolts straight into the room in which he first saw Mr. Belfour, and there he very likely sees him again, or, if not, he will do before the night is over. Here he finds assembled his companions in distress ; and again recurs the scene he witnessed on a former occasion. Here, too, he gains a costly introduction to that hard and wiry man, Mr. S. who pockets his £22 with as much non-chalance as though he had had no trouble nor anxiety in procuring it. Fees, you must be told, are always de-

manded, and paid, prior to examination ; and, should any one be rejected, his fee is afterwards returned.

40. At six o'clock precisely, the Beadle, in a scarlet cloak, enters the room, with a slip of paper in his hand, on which is written the names of the candidates. With a loud voice he summons four ; and tells them to follow him. He conducts them, up a flight of stairs, to the examination-room, where all is lighted up, and prepared for their reception. The President is in his place, with the Mace before him ; and the Examiners occupy four separate tables ;—two being seated at each. They are very nice-looking old gentlemen,—neatly and professionally dressed ; and, did they not open their mouths, you would suppose knew nothing either of Anatomy or Surgery : yet these quiet, gentlemanly-looking old men have been practising both, in a very extensive way, all their lives ; and we recollect very well that the only feeling we had, on the occasion, was that of presumption in appearing before them at all.

Let no man despair. If he know his profession, and have spent his time diligently in acquiring sound information, all will go on well and smoothly, to the satisfaction of both parties. An Examiner very soon ascertains when he has got hold of an intelligent Student,—one who is able to grasp his whole subject : for, let him launch out on any part of the Body he may please, the Student is immediately able to cope with him. The idle man, or he who thinks a smattering will do, may as well be told that the Examiner is just as quick in ascertaining *his* dulness ; and, though he may be kind and considerate, yet kindness and consideration will not make a dull Student bright, nor an ignorant one wise ; and he has no right to expect that

a display of these good qualities should screen him from a fair and searching examination. The kindness and consideration of the Examiner will be better displayed,—and, we daresay, he thinks so too,—in not allowing any man to practise on the public, with *his* sanction, unless he thoroughly understand his subject. This is common sense and common honesty !

41. But where did we leave our Students ? The Beadle had just brought them to the examination-room, and now hands them over to the Secretary. This gentleman requests them to follow him ; and he places one at each of the four tables,—introducing him by name to the Examiners. After being seated, he is put to the test for twenty minutes, when a little bell rings, and a change is made to another table. So that each Student has to visit the four tables in succession, for twenty minutes at each ; and, consequently, meets with fresh Examiners at every move. At two of the tables, he is examined on Anatomy ; and at the other two, on Surgery. One Examiner puts the questions, while the other is engaged in writing ; and the paper is signed by both, and forwarded with each move ; so that it is known, by a reference to it, on what subjects he has been occupied ; and this prevents a possibility of his being taken twice on the same point. Supposing all has gone on satisfactorily, he is then told to retire into an inner room, which is well known as “ *Paradise* ;” and he is just as secure in this Paradise at the College of Surgeons, as Adam was in Eden, for he cannot get out of it ; perhaps, like Adam, he feels so satisfied and content that he does not care to try. But what if he be unsuccessful ? Does he get into Paradise, then ? Oh ! dear, no ! After a few solemn injunctions from the President,

that he has been weighed in the balance and found wanting, he gives his trousers a hitch, and slinks down stairs with as much grace as he can; and though he did only bring a *four-and-nine* with him, he can, out of spite, take a real guinea beaver instead;—remembering, most philosophically, that *its* owner is perhaps in Paradise, while he is left to roam at large, to astonish the Beadle at the bottom of the stairs, and Mr. S. in his sanctum. Does he know the position the Beadle invariably and unthinkingly drops into as he closes the College door? He puts the tip of his extended thumb against the extreme end of his nose, and keeps his twelve digital phalanges in vibratory motion, grinning like a hyæna, all the time, to the infinite delight of Thomas S——! What an indignity, in the capital of a civilised country! Never mind! He has got an excellent Golgotha; and *them as is* in Paradise don't always know what is going on *below*.

42. Now comes the concluding scene. The gentlemen who have gained Paradise, by the success of their examinations, are respectfully requested to walk *out* of it again. They are conducted back into the President's room, and are ranged in a row,—standing opposite him, and the whole of the Examiners, also standing. The Secretary now places an open Testament in the right hand of each, and administers the oath, “which binds them to observe the Bye-laws; “to obey every lawful summons issued by order of the “Council, or Court of Examiners; to demean themselves honourably in the practice of their Profession; “and, to the utmost of their power, maintain the “dignity and welfare of the College.”

Every newly admitted Member must now sign

his name to a copy of the Bye-laws ; and is presented with his Diploma, signed by the Members of the Court of Examiners present at the time of his Examination and Admission. This is the whole process of making a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London. In concluding this portion of our subject, we will use the words of Mr. Bankes ;—we believe this is the name, but we are not quite certain. He says “ When we consider how differently the time which ought to be devoted to the acquisition of knowledge and experience, is passed by different individuals, it is not fair that the man who has devoted his whole time,—morning, noon, and night, to his profession ;—who has been an unceasing attendant in the dissecting-room ;—who has sat, for months, over offensive subjects, until, through habit, their appearance had almost become attractive ;—who, whilst his hands have been employed in laying open the works of nature, has thrown the whole force of his mind upon the subject, to explore her more recondite operations ;—who has let no opportunity pass of collecting new facts, and arranging those in his possession : it is not fair I say, that *such* a man should have no advantage over him ” [who idly wastes his precious hours, and, after all, but gains a smattering of what he ought fully to know.] The words within the brackets are our own, as we have lost the conclusion of the sentence, and had not the book, for reference.

43. The Surgeon-Apothecary, then, is “ THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER ” of the day. He is called by this term, because he practises every department of Medicine. He never for a moment demurs whether a case be Medical or Surgical. It is all the same to him ; and, without hesitation, he proceeds to apply the fruits of that knowledge which he has been so long

endeavouring to acquire. The General Practitioners are strictly *the* Medical Men of this country; and the education which all are obliged to undergo, though, perhaps, imperfect, yet it is eminently calculated to make them what they are,—scientific Medical and Surgical Practitioners. Among this class of men may be ranked some of the highest names in the annals of Medicine,—men of large and extensive experience,—men whose devotion to the science has been, and is, unceasing,—men who will yield to none in ability and usefulness.

44. It is usual to call the Physician “Doctor” and the Surgeon “Mister”; but we have the honour to know not a few who would not change the latter for the former, on any consideration whatever. A man can but know his Profession, call him what you will; and a mere name can neither increase nor diminish his dignity. The term “Doctor” may imply a superiority of qualification; but we are so very stupid, and so very blind, that we are compelled to admit we are too dull to perceive it. It seems to us a fallacy. If “Doctors” were made after *our* Prescription, they would be a very different race to what they are at present; and the very name would inspire us with that respect which is ever due to age, service, and experience. But to see a “Doctor” of 26, in consultation with the full-blown Surgeon of 40 or 50, who knew him when he was a child,—perchance, brought him into the world, and probably taught him all he knows,—has always a colicky effect upon us;—it gripes us to such a degree that we are compelled “*to pull a face.*”

45. It is scarcely necessary to remark that the

Surgeon performs the various Operations which are required in consequence of Accident or Disease; and in these cases it is in which his Knowledge of Anatomy and his Manual Skill are brought powerfully into play. Here, again, we may indulge in a moment's reflection. Frightful, indeed, must be the position of that man, even though he be a Surgeon, who will recklessly take a knife in hand, without a clear and settled knowledge of what he is going to do! A fellow-creature is before him; and if he feel not that confidence which would enable him to operate, with success, on a limb of his own, let him, at once, relinquish the attempt. "*Do as you would be done by,*" should be engraven on the knife of every Surgeon.

What, then, are we to say of the Quack? Dare he perform an operation? Yes, we dare say, but it must be on a dead pig; and the only process he would care about would be to carry off the hams. Who ever heard of a Quack performing a Surgical Operation? All *he* can do is to rub, rub, rub;—and give Pills, Pills, Pills;—and why? Because he knows that if he can do even this *without doleful mischief*, he is a clever fellow!

46. The Surgeon-apothecary, unlike the Physician, generally keeps and dispenses his own Medicine; and a very good regulation it is, as Medicines are required at all times, both by night and by day.



## THE PURE SURGEON.

47. There is yet another person whom we must briefly notice, and that is the "PURE SURGEON." The Pure Surgeon complies only with the regulations of the Royal College of Surgeons, with the intention of practising Surgery alone. The whole of the Council and Examiners of the College are Pure Surgeons. Indeed they are not eligible for the office, unless they limit their practice to Surgical Cases alone. The Pure does not keep or dispense Medicine.

Now, as we have said before, *Physic* and *Surgery* are inseparable. To call a man a "pure" Physician, is miserable nonsense;—to call a man a "pure" Surgeon, is miserable nonsense;—to call a man a "pure" Apothecary, is miserable nonsense. The science of *Physic* and *Surgery* is, we say again, indivisible. You might as well and as wisely separate the Tongs, pluck the valve from your Bellows, take the tongues out of your Bells, and the wheels from your Carriages or Carts, as separate *Physic* from *Surgery*; for one is as essential to the other, as these things are to the integrity and utility of their respective counterparts. Is it possible to impress this on the minds of Members of Parliament and the Profession; or, are we still to fag on with only half the tongs, with bellows without valves, with bells without clappers, and with carriages without wheels? Oh! *tempora, tempora*, how we wish you *could* be changed!

48. It has been well observed that "whether "Diseases come under the care of the Physician or "the Surgeon, they are the same in their forms, the

“same in their progress, the same in their termina-  
 “tions, and in their treatment the same; the real and  
 “essential difference is in situation alone. A man who  
 “is a theorist only, either in *Physic* or *Surgery*,—who  
 “has only gained his knowledge from books or  
 “Lectures, is neither a Physician nor a Surgeon,  
 “because he has not learned to apply the rules of his  
 “art in either department: but, having attained a  
 “general knowledge of the scientific branches of his  
 “Profession, *he* is a good Physician who skilfully  
 “and judiciously applies the rules of his art to *inter-*  
 “*nal Diseases*; and *he* is a good Surgeon who, similarly  
 “qualified, is skilful in the application of the rules of  
 “his art to *external Diseases*. But the theory upon  
 “which both rest *is one, the same, and indivisible*.  
 “The division of labour results simply as a matter of  
 “expediency and convenience, in *Metropolitan* and  
 “other *populous districts*; and invites and operates as  
 “an incentive to a higher degree of individual profici-  
 “ency and refinement than would otherwise be attained.

“Scientific or elementary knowledge does not  
 “give skill in the application of the rules of the healing  
 “art; it simply dictates these rules, and nothing more.  
 “It is by *practice alone* that we learn to apply them  
 “properly; and by practice, under masters learned and  
 “skilful in the arts which they respectively profess. By  
 “study we acquire knowledge, but we can acquire the  
 “art or the habit of applying the practical rules of  
 “Physic and Surgery, *only by seeing and comparing to-*  
 “*gether, again and again, all manner of external and*  
 “*internal Diseases*. This is a habit which must  
 “be acquired, and it can be acquired only, by practice.”

49. A division of labour, in Metropolitan and other populous districts, may be necessary and very useful;—

it may impart dexterity and skill in a particular department:—but it is no argument against the establishment of a

#### FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

Let a man first become a Member of this Faculty;—let him thus obtain a sure foundation;—and then let him devote his “*exclusive attention*,” if he choose, to any class of Disease which either position or choice may prompt. One may devote his attention to Diseases of the Eye; another to those of the Ear:—one may give his energies to Operative Surgery; another to the treatment of internal Diseases:—but this method is only applicable in densely populated districts; and will never lower, in our estimation, the General Practitioner who is able to treat all these cases, and *practise scientifically every department of Physic and Surgery*.

Just pop “*an Exclusive*” into the Pantaloon and Boots of a General Practitioner, for a week, and he will very soon find that they are not adapted for *him*;—that the man who wears them ought to have something besides Legs;—and that the sooner he resumes his “*own Exclusiveness*,” the better for all sides.

The undisguised fact is, the General Practitioner, as we said before, is “*the Medical Man of the day* ;” —and to attempt to deprive him of the privileges of a vote in his own College, and compel him to establish another, may look “*very grand and exclusive* ;” but we question in toto the wisdom and the feelings with which it is done.

50. The legally qualified Medical Practitioners of this country, then, as at present constituted, are,—the Physician, the Pure Surgeon, the Surgeon-

Apothecary, and the Apothecary. We have now endeavoured to give you a general and faithful abstract of the differences between each, both as regards education and practice, so as to enable you to form a very fair judgment of the branches of the Profession of Medicine. A Bill for the better regulation and improvement of this Profession, is now before a Parliamentary Committee, and, ere long, we shall be made acquainted with the result.

51. We are able to present our readers with a copy of Sir James Graham's speech on introducing his amended Bill before the House, on Tuesday, May 6th, 1845. We need scarcely say, that it will be a very unsatisfactory mixture, and omits altogether some very important items which a Bill for Medical Reform, at the present day, ought, undoubtedly, to embrace.

#### PHYSIC AND SURGERY BILL.

In the Commons, on Tuesday, on the motion that the Physic and Surgery Bill be considered in committee, Sir JAMES GRAHAM (*Dorchester*,) rose to state the alterations he had to propose in the bill. Had he foreseen the difficulties of the question, he would not, probably, have taken it up; but having bestowed much labour upon it, he was not disposed now, at the eleventh hour, to abandon hope of a satisfactory settlement. He feared that the differences between the two conflicting bodies of the Surgeons and the General Practitioners were irreconcilable. The College of Surgeons, by its chartered privileges, enjoyed great influence; the General Practitioners were numerically powerful. The latter, if admitted equally with Surgeons into the College, would soon become the governing body. This, he believed, would prove injurious to the great and important science of Medicine. In London, division of labour was essential to the progress and improvement of science; and

it was important, for this object, that the College of Surgeons should be retained in the hands of Surgeons; for the "Pure" Surgeon, as contra-distinguished from the General Practitioner, was the teacher and promoter of Medicine as a Science. Science, however, would be degraded if the College of Surgeons were turned into an Apothecaries' Hall. But, believing it to be practicable to secure the incorporation of the General Practitioners, he proposed certain arrangements to secure that object, consistently with preserving the distinction of the higher classes of the profession. The College of Physicians and the College of Surgeons are to form a joint board for the examination of candidates; and there is to be another board, composed of General Practitioners exclusively, before whom candidates, entering on the line of General Practitionership, are to undergo an additional examination. The age of a candidate for General Practitionership is to be fixed at twenty-two; that of Physicians and Surgeons at twenty-six. The General Practitioners are to be incorporated by charter; and, in favour of this new College, the powers and privileges of the Apothecaries' Company, as enjoyed under their act of 1815, are to be transferred, with their free consent. What alteration may be necessary in the mode of constituting the Council of Health, will be for the House hereafter to consider; but it is absolutely necessary that the General Practitioners should be represented on it, as also the University of London. An arrangement has been made between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and the College of Physicians, by which, though not introduced in detail in the bill, the practice of the metropolis will be opened to University Graduates, on the condition of their appearing before the College of Physicians, at an examination at which the assessors of the Universities will be entitled to be present. There will then be the College of Physicians, the College of Surgeons, and the College of General Practitioners; the two former constituting a joint board of examiners, before whom candidates must first pass; and the latter, an additional board to admit those who in-

tend to enter their body. With these and other amendments, which he stated, he hoped that the House would permit him to pass the bill through committee, in order to introduce the alterations, and thus let the bill be printed; and he would postpone further procedure until the middle of June.

MR. HAWES (*Lambeth*,) praised the measure, as large, liberal, and he hoped satisfactory to those interested.

MR. WAKLEY (*Finsbury*,) was of a contrary opinion. The General Practitioners were contumeliously and unjustly degraded, and the multiplication of Medical Institutions was absurd. Surgery and Medicine were one science. Those fitted to practise the one should be equally so for the other. He warmly deprecated the treatment which the General Practitioners were receiving from the Government; and pressed the appointment of a committee to inquire into the conduct and management of the College of Surgeons.

MR. WARBURTON (*Kendal*,) urged that the contemplated object of securing uniformity in medical education throughout the United Kingdom, would fail, with respect to the Universities of Scotland and the Colleges of Ireland.

After considerable debate, during which an unsuccessful attempt was made to "count out" the house, the bill went through committee *pro forma*; Sir James Graham defending his proposed alterations from the objections of several members.

52. In pursuance of the plan laid down, we will now proceed to a consideration of the CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

## THE CHEMIST.

There is a great difference between a Chemist and a Druggist, though most of this fraternity assume both titles. A real *genuine* Chemist is a man who understands real *genuine* Chemistry. Many Medical men are scientific practical Chemists; and there are many Chemists, of high and deserved repute, who have no connection with any branch of Medicine. To Chemists belong the art and science of Analysis, as displayed, in a Medico-legal point of view most frequently, in the detection of Poisons. But Analysis has a wide field; and it requires a clever, scientific, and persevering man to pursue this branch of human knowledge. The Chemist ranks high in the estimation of every man of education and of science. He is continually divulging the inmost secrets of nature; and bringing to light processes which, in their various applications, excite our astonishment. He springs into the air, dives into the sea, wields fire and earth at his will, and, like a powerful magician, subjugates all by his matchless skill. Great is the power of the Chemist,—great is the expanse of his mind. Utility is the grand object of his enterprise; and every fresh revelation only spurs him on to increased effort. Out of darkness can he make light; or hold a conversation between London and Portsmouth, or between Paddington and Slough; and in a moment he sends a sub-marine imperative mandate to the Royal George. Ere long, Britain will be supplied throughout with "*Nerves of Intelligence*," which will convey ideas and impressions

as rapidly, and as faithfully, as the Nerves of the Human Body transmit the dictates of the will. Railways ramify like Arteries, and the "Telegraph" will soon supply Nerves: let us keep Britain healthy, and she will still soar, the "pride of nations." Rocks and mountains acknowledge his power, and humbly bow to his will; and old Time himself has lately ordered a ceaseless indicator. Artificial manures \* are being made, and will soon be tried; and we shall shortly have our letters sent by a "*Chemical post*" at the rate of 300 miles per hour. † Such is the CHEMIST:—may he live, proceed, and prosper!

\* Professor Liebig's new manures will be brought out very shortly, in order that they may be tried on the present year's crops.

† THREE HUNDRED MILES PER HOUR.—The *Mechanics' Magazine* has an account of a new plan for the rapid transmission of letters and light despatches, through tubular passages, at certain intervals, in which it is proposed to place air-exhausting machines, which will establish a perpetual current of artificial hurricane, by means of which spherically-shaped elastic vehicles, or bags, will be blown from station to station. The first cost is estimated by Mr. James, at £2,000 per mile, and the working expenses at from £300 to £500 per annum for every 50 miles. This system would enable us to transmit documentary intelligence at the rate of 7,200 miles a-day! Instead of one exchange of letters per day between Liverpool and London, there might be 12 exchanges.



## THE DRUGGIST.

53. We have now arrived at a consideration of the DRUGGIST. Well, what is he? Is he a Physician? No. Is he a Pure Surgeon? No. Is he a Surgeon and Apothecary? Neither one, nor the other. Is he a General Practitioner? Yes—because he practises on every body and every thing he can lay his hands on; but we care not if we tell him, *medically speaking*, that he has no right to do so, and it is for him to prove that he has. It will serve our purpose best to keep to the real meanings of words. What is a Druggist? Dr. Johnson says a Druggist is “*a person who sells Physical Drugs,*” and that is all he does say;—but if Dr. Johnson could just look into a Druggist’s shop at the present day, he would find that he had committed a woful mistake, and would soon alter his Dictionary. To suppose that a Druggist sells only “*Physical Drugs,*” is to suppose what is by no means true. He sells every thing he possibly can, and one thing, especially, which he has no right to do, and which he is utterly incompetent for, and that is, “MEDICAL ADVICE.” In France we notice that the Medical Journals are making severe complaints against the illicit Medical Practice entered on, more and more, by their Pharmaciens. On one side, it is alleged they encroach on the Physician; on the other, on the *Grocer!* And so it is, to an incalculable extent, in happy England; and how long it may be before our law-makers attempt to repress this baneful source of Misery and Mischief, we cannot now say! We trust, however, soon; and Hope

supports our drooping spirits! A Druggist may be an intelligent, active, clever man at his trade; but really he has so much to do, so many prices to recollect, so many customers to attend to, that he cannot be expected to keep up his *Knowledge of Disease and Medicine!* But how can a man keep up a knowledge of any subject which he *never learnt* and *never understood?* A man may read about Moscow, and he may talk about Moscow, and he may think about Moscow, but unless he has been *at* Moscow, he will know little or nothing about Moscow after all! People seem to think that because the Druggist has lots of bottles in his shop, and plenty of coloured water in his windows, his Brain is like the Doctor's, capable of thinking of Anatomy, of Surgery, of Pathology, of Medicine; but, if they do, let them take our word for it, he never bestows a single thought on any one of these things, because it is utterly out of his power! As for using his mind's eye, and looking into your Bodies *in search of Disease*, he might as well look up Mr. Muspratt's chimney, one of the largest in England, or down one of Mr. Stocks's coal-pits! Yet this man will industriously prescribe in any case; and fearlessly give, off-hand, what would cost a Medical Man some consideration. Is this Quackery, or not? Is this Imposition, or not? We pause for a reply. *Is this a Tinker spoiling a watch, or not?*

54. There is another point. Supposing the Druggist, or any member of his family, be ill, will he then bring his Medical powers into play, and prescribe with the same hilarity as he does for you? Oh! dear, no! Or, if he *should* venture, it will be with a misgiving hand! What if there should be no improvement? He quickly summons his Medical Attendant, and, like

a penitent sinner, confesses all that he has done! So that it seems quite true, as observed in paragraph 7, "that men and things have their right positions and uses; and so soon as ever a transposition occurs,—so soon as one man usurps the place or calling of another, it is attended by mischief which, though unseen and unnoticed, is not the less terrible, condemnatory, and mournful."

55. Now, we do not mean to affirm that *all* Druggists are Quacks. There are some who pursue their own legitimate calling without deviation; but we are not wrong in affirming that Quackery is carried on by this class of individuals to an incalculable extent, and *in such utter ignorance of all the first principles of Medicine* as to commit deep and serious injury on the Public Health. Let any man look at the abuses committed in every large town throughout Britain; and then let him say whether the Legislature of this country, enlightened as it is, and with a Bill now under discussion for the *better regulation* of Medical affairs, ought not to cast its Argus-eye on this growing evil, and for ever put a stop to "*free-trade*" in Health and Life. Deplorable, indeed, it is, to witness the mischief which is done by pen'orths; and the worst of it is, the Druggist will sell for a penny, what the Medical Man would not part with at all! Whatever ignorance likes to ask for, the Druggist will supply. It is not for him to consider whether it be beneficial or hurtful: all *his* duty is, apparently, *to sell*; and what can possibly be the result but fool-hardy mischief? The Bills of mortality of Manchester alone afford a striking and dreadful exemplification of the evils of this system; but unfortunately, Parliament seems too weak or too indifferent to grapple with a foe so deadly and insidious!

56. And what is to be done with the people? Would that we could teach them to think! This is our paramount object. Would that we could instil reason! This is our principal aim. Would that we could persuade them to follow the dictates of common sense! These are ever the best, and will serve as a sure guide.

We will now ask every sensible man and woman two simple questions. What can the Druggist know of *Disease*? With what sort of *certainty* can he prescribe in any case, if he be *totally ignorant of the structure of every part of the Human Body*? These are hard questions we know, but the value of life and health prompts us to ask them.

The Druggist may know, and well too, the taste and smell of every article used in Medicine, and he may know the doses in which it is usual to administer each; but what does he know of *Disease*? The Druggist may know how to make Tinctures, Extracts, and Mixtures; but what does he know of *Disease*? The Druggist may know how to make Pills, Lotions, and Ointments; but what does he know of *Disease*? The Druggist may be able to sell Plasters, Pickles, and Paint; but what does he know of *Disease*? The Druggist may keep and dispense the heterogeneous compounds of Quacks; but, we ask again, what does he know of *Anatomy, Surgery, Physic, or Disease*?

Need we dwell a moment longer on a subject so self-apparent as this? Need we adduce any thing further to convince you that "*the prescribing Druggist*" is neither more nor less than a QUACK.

57. We have still another subject which must not be allowed to escape our notice; and that is, the facility with which Poisons may be procured in this

country. We cannot do better than avail ourselves of the following remarks extracted from a Leeds newspaper, of January last, with the sentiments of which we cordially agree. It will not prove an unpleasant reflection to us if any thing we can produce or advance should be a means of checking this crying evil: and though we may excite animadversion, yet that will be as nothing in our eyes to the *life of a fellow-creature*. As we said before, we bear no man ill-will. We are deprecating a system; and that system we will vigorously attack, undismayed and unappeased, until it no longer exist. The following is the extract referred to.

“The preservation of Life and Health is an object worthy the attention of all; and I flatter myself you will not be backward in disseminating any views which may have a tendency to awaken increased caution on the one hand, and curtail *the facility of procuring deadly poisons* on the other.

I am led to make these remarks from noticing the number of deaths which have lately occurred from poison; most of them being cases of Suicide, but some also of Murder. I know not how to account for these in any other way than by attributing them to the very great but reprehensible facility with which poison of any description may be procured, and the stolid indifference of the vendor, who will freely furnish an ignorant, vindictive, or suicidal individual with a sufficiency of a deadly drug to poison himself and his whole household! When we consider that *four grains* of Arsenic are sufficient to destroy life, not directly, but in process of time, what are we to think of the man who will part with an *ounce* with as much nonchalance as though it were chalk, and be content, too, with any lame excuse which may be offered! Is not this, to be as lenient as possible, highly injudicious conduct, and such as should not be allowed?

But Arsenic is not the only drug which can be procured so easily. We have only to refer to cases which have, from time to time, transpired; and we find that Opium, Oxalic Acid, and even Prussic Acid, but too often are called into requisition, and are procurable in quantities which are truly astonishing. The man in a white apron, does, perhaps, take the trouble to write "poison" on his drug; but would it not be better to withhold it altogether,—especially as he must know, with very few exceptions, that the applicant can have no legitimate use for it? Would it not be better for cats, rats, mice, beetles, and vermin generally, to revel in luxury, rather than he should furnish an ill-disposed individual with the means of certain death? Any man who reads the evidence on cases of poisoning, cannot fail to be surprised, nay grieved, at the stupidity of the vendor, who, had he one careful thought, or a cross-examining eye, would immediately detect, from the manner and tale of the applicant, that something was to be feared, and that, under all circumstances, non-compliance would be the most prudent course.

I need not enter into any remarks on the excuses which applicants for poison generally make; but they are almost invariably of one character, and such as should not be allowed to blind any man who has the privilege of dealing in it. If he have knowledge, it ought surely to be displayed in the exercise of great caution and circumspection; and if the use of these attributes will thwart the designs of the *Suicide* or the *Murderer*, he is worthy of severe animadversion if he do not use them. If a person ask for an ounce of Arsenic, an ounce of Laudanum,—of Oxalic, or Prussic Acid, the vendor knows well that the demand cannot be for a *medicinal* purpose; and, as such, his suspicion should be immediately roused, and a refusal given.

I sincerely hope that this subject will come under discussion in the House of Commons, on Sir James Graham's Bill for Medical Reform; and that it may be rendered *penal*, as is the case in some countries, for any man to

vend a poison, *unless under the signature of a Medical Man*, or, at all events, *under those of two householders*, stating the purpose for which it may be required; and a document of this description shall exonerate the vendor from any blame in case death should ensue.

The Coroner, too, has it in his power to visit with his severest censure any individual who, in his opinion, has not displayed that circumspection in the sale of poison which is absolutely necessary; and it is to be hoped that juries will carefully criticise the evidence of the vendor, in every instance which may, in future, claim their attention. These cases are, at all times, unfortunate; and the Druggist will best consult his own interest, as well as the interest of his fellow-creatures, if he will have the good sense to refuse and discountenance any dealings fraught with results but too frequently so lamentable."

58. On this point, we trust, we need not advance another word. It is a subject which has, of late, engaged a good deal of attention; and it is sincerely to be hoped that an effort will be made to diminish, so far as human interference can, the facilities of obtaining "*poisonous drugs*," of every description.

Thus have we endeavoured to lay before you a description of the Druggist. We by no means undervalue him. We believe him to be a really useful and respectable member of society; and, so long as he confines himself to his own legitimate business, we have no cause for complaint; but when he launches out into the *treatment of Disease* which he does not understand, and usurps the position and functions of the MEDICAL MAN, then we are of opinion that he sins, not only against his own respectability, but against the public weal.

In fine, it is our humble opinion that Quackery by Druggists ought to be repressed; and we respect-

fully recommend a re-perusal of paragraphs 11 and 12. A Druggist might as well try to dance the "Polka" through a China-shop *in the dark*, and not rattle a pot, as try to practise Physic without doing mischief! Patients in the one case will suffer as much as the Pots in the other:—and what will the *Cheena-shop-woman* say? Won't he have to pay for "*Polkaing*" where he had no business;—*and in the dark too!* He might have had more sense; or waited, at all events, until he had obtained "*a light on the subject!*"

We have now "*pari passu,*" arrived at the bottom of the Medical gradus; and before we enter on an analysis of the QUACK, let us heave a sigh for the credulity of the People!



## THE QUACK.

59. This is the people's bantling, brought to life and fostered by their care:—this is the little duck which quacks for its own comfort! Ten years ago, Mr. Travers uttered the following words; and if they were applicable then, with what force may they be repeated at the present day?—"There never was, in the history of the Profession, an epoch which presented so powerful a necessity for exertion as the present, when such is the extent of competition, such are the *Tricks and Artifices* employed to circumvent the honest Practitioner and to *delude the Public*, that high-minded men have no alternative but to render their superiority of knowledge a mark,—a beacon of distinction, by which they shall be known." Let us put a simple question. What is a Quack? We like to furnish the real meaning of words; and on reference to Dr. Johnson again, we find that he declares a Quack to be, "*a tricking Practitioner in Physic.*" We have great difficulty in believing Dr. Johnson, sometimes, in his explanation of words; but as all who choose to look will find the same, we suppose he must be right. He was a very accurate lexicographer; and we believe no Quackery was resorted to in the production of his works. They were the result of genuine mental labour. And is a Quack a trickster? Is he one who resorts to *cunning*, in order to make himself a great man? Do not blame us if we agree with Dr. Johnson. No doubt his explanation was the result of long-continued

observation; and he could find no other meaning to write opposite that word. But Dr. Johnson lived some time ago; and will the people of the present day believe all that he has written? Will they believe him when he says a Quack "*is a tricking Practitioner in Physic?*" Not they. A Quack is a gentleman, with "London Assurance" written on his face, and displayed in all his actions. Sometimes a *lady*, demure and matronly;—for Quackery is not confined to sex. A Quack has extensive knowledge. He is acquainted with the *names* of Diseases in abundance; and what is more, he can invent such a combination of Physic as no man ever did before, and such as will speedily disperse the whole! Take our word for it, the Quack has a "mind,"—and it is a "*magical mind*;" not one which either understands or adopts the *ordinary* treatment of Disease. He says "*presto*," and where is Disease? We will tell him; just where it was, but firmer and faster in its place than before he meddled with it. The people are fond of Magicians, Soothsayers, and Conjurers; and here is another candidate for their "*particular favor*," as cabalistic as any, and as full of "*puff*" as a Scotchman's Bagpipes!

60. A Quack is not a fool; for he can calculate to a nicety how many there may be in Great Britain. The total population of England is ... .. 14,995,508  
of Wales ... .. 911,321  
of Scotland ... .. 2,620,610  
of Ireland ... .. 8,175,238

He adds all these together, divides the product by 4, and immediately fabricates Pills, Lotions, and Bunion-salve in proportion. Here is a fine field for a *benevolent* and *intelligent* Quack! If by daily and weekly Advertisements he can only induce this quar-

ter of the population to buy his Pills, under the delusive hope of living for ever, the Proprietor will soon be a gentleman in very deed;—will soon live in a large house in a noble square, though he was only a Footman, a Chimney-sweep, or a Shoe-black, and knows and cares as much about Physic or Disease as the statue of Jupiter Olympus. Advertisements are as essential as the Pills; and cash is not spared to render the people “*wide awake.*” The mass have made many “*Gentlemen*” in this way, and the batch is not yet complete; but, with what sort of reason, or with what sort of discrimination, we will leave them to judge!

61. If Lords, Ladies, and Squires, who it is presumed have received a liberal education, so as to be enabled to form *some* judgment between ignorance and knowledge, can, occasionally, follow the precepts of the Charlatan even into practices the most absurd; can any sane man be surprised that this should have unbounded influence in working on the minds of the thoughtless and illiterate, and causing them, in a moment, to dislodge reason from her uncertain throne? Can any man, we say, be surprised that *they* should so easily fall a prey to the designing and industrious Quack? Such, however, is but too often the case; and the force of example, like that among donkeys, is apparently irresistible. Dr. A. T. Thomson, in a recent work, has the following remarks:—“It is possible that an Invalid may be acted upon and misled by the persuasion of a plausible individual; for under no circumstances is the mind so liable to be fettered by the opinions of others, as in disease, when they refer to the treatment of the lady.”

“I have witnessed instances in which men of the highest powers of intellect, and the most extensive

“acquirements, have listened to the advice of ignorant nurses, or misguided friends, who have presumed to question the Medical treatment of the case. Such a remark as this,—*I have seen a case the same as yours get well directly by a very different kind of treatment,*—cannot be too severely deprecated.

“The evil resulting from weakness of this description is, indeed, often great. It is not confined to the nature of the empirical remedy alone, which may be perfectly harmless; but, frequently, the loss of time, from neglecting the proper treatment, may *fix a disease*, easily removable in the first period of its attack, *so firmly in the constitution*, as to resist the influence of the most efficient practice at a more advanced stage.”

62. The Exchequer, too, of this country, free and enlightened England! is not ashamed to receive its modicum of supply from pandering to a vice like this; and now even when an opportunity offers,—when a Bill is before the House for the *better regulation* (?) of these matters, the Quack and the impostor is left to revel in all his glory, and deal out, as industriously as ever, Pills, Pigments, and Potions, for the deluded million.

We sigh for the country where this is permitted:—we sigh for the mischief which is sanctioned, nay, encouraged:—we sigh for the Quack himself:—and we sigh most deeply for the ignorance and delusion under which the people labour.

Would that we could stir up the dying embers of common-sense into renewed activity! Would that we could get them into a blaze, and add fire to fire until this iniquity be scorched to tinder, and scattered by the four winds of heaven! Would that we could in-

duce some Honourable Member of the House to give his especial attention to this subject, and purge the nation with such a dose as would for ever cause Quackery and Imposition to sink exhausted, and ultimately expire! Great would be the boon conferred;—great would be the misery averted!

Would that we could introduce a clause in the coming Bill, whereby we could summon every "*Pretender to Medical Skill*" before the nearest Magistrate, and, *on proof of non-qualification*, subject him to a fine! This would make many an ignorant Quack an honest man; and would prove a merciful provision for the well-being of the thoughtless mass. *They, apparently, cannot think for themselves: then let Parliament benignly use, in their behalf, its united wisdom!*

63. Is it necessary for us to tell the Public that Quacks are "*mercantile traders in Physic*;" and the quantity foisted upon you is all that claims their serious attention? *Their* only object is to sell, sell, sell; while *you* are silly enough to tumble headlong into the net, and buy, buy, buy; and you may be sure that so long as *you* will continue to buy, *they* will continue to sell. Warren never looked at a cask of his Blacking with more delight, than the Quack does at a "*Packet of his Pills.*" So that we say again, as in Paragraph 10, you nurture this precious bantling, and foster it with all your might. We pity you! but it is out of our power to stop the rolling tide of "*pills for the people,*" if the People *will* buy them!

As a warning to those who are constantly and unadvisedly dosing themselves with Purgatives, no matter whether made into Pills, or any other form, we adduce the following remark from Dr. A. T. Thomson:—"Independent of irritation which Cathartics "keep up in the intestinal canal, they tend to impair

“ Digestion, by causing the secretion of hasty, and  
 “ consequently imperfect, Bile. They are, indeed, often  
 “ the cause of Dyspepsia, or Indigestion ; and diseased  
 “ affections of the Heart sometimes arise from their  
 “ continued employment. ” Many things might yet be  
 said on this important subject, but we trust sufficient  
 has been advanced to awaken reflection ; and our sin-  
 cere hope and desire is that whatever is sound, ration-  
 al, and beneficial, may be strenuously upheld ; while  
 all that is rotten, foolish, and hurtful, may be weeded  
 out of the community, and abolished.

“ Much still untouch'd remains. In this rank age,  
 “ Much is the Patriot's weeding hand requir'd. ”

## CONCLUDING REMARKS.

64. We have now completed, in a very imperfect manner we admit, the task we proposed ; and though our views may not find advocates in the breasts of all, yet, we trust, they are, throughout, founded on the Principles of Common-Sense. On these we take our stand ; and let come what may, we feel that we shall not have sacrificed our time in vain, if we shall have been enabled to impress, on the minds of all, the incalculable importance of *sound knowledge* to the Practitioner of Medicine ; while, on the other hand, we shall not rejoice the less if we shall have contributed to show how utterly inadequate to his pretensions, and mischievous to society, is the "*mere Dispenser of Medicine,*" when not dictated by any collateral knowledge of Anatomy or Disease.

It has been our aim to write as plainly and intelligibly as possible ; and we trust we have furnished such an exposition of the educational routine of the Medical Man, as will enable all to form a fair judgment of his merits, and draw that broad line of demarcation which naturally separates him from the *Pretender* and the *Charlatan*.

65. We hope, too, the various Hints and Remarks in this little essay will not be *lost upon the people*. We do not wish them dogmatically to believe every word we write ; but we *do* hope that, should they be led to peruse these Pages, they may be awakened to

sound reflection, and cease to act either from impulse or blind persuasion.

*Let no man PRESCRIBE for your ailments, who does not possess a guarantee that he has not only studied, but been examined as to his knowledge of Medicine. Let no man MEDDLE with your BODY, who does not know, and well too, what it is made of.* This is our parting advice, and it is for you to consider whether it be worth acceptance.

We are bold enough to offer another word of counsel, which we do with every sentiment of respect, and with profound seriousness. We would be the last to outrage the sensibilities of any living creature; neither would we recommend, for the adoption of others, what we ourselves would not permit; but *the advancement of Medical Science, and the true interests of every living being,* compel us to say that both will be best served by not refusing, but *by soliciting,* the Surgeon to make an Inspection of the Bodies of the dead.

We all have to moulder into dust; and an Inspection of the body, after death, can make no difference in this process of decay; while it will serve, in an eminent and extensive degree, to afford a more searching and accurate acquaintance with the inroads of Disease, and tend, if any thing can, to curtail them more and more; and thus be the means of prolonging, for yet a little time, our frail existence.

All the knowledge we now possess has been gained by such investigations as these. We humbly and imploringly ask you, then, not to impede but advance the course of a Science with which your own welfare is so intimately blended; and wisely resolve that "*the dead*" shall, with all due and proper respect, be a source of benefit to "*the living,*"



66. There is yet another point and we have done. MR. MUNTZ, the Member for Birmingham, proposes that Medical Men shall not only write their Prescriptions in plain English, but that Apothecaries and Druggists shall have their Bottles and Pots labelled in English too, instead of Latin.

We will very respectfully take the liberty of soliciting Mr. Muntz to read the following extract from a work by Dr. A. T. Thomson, *twice* over, and then pursue his idea, should he think proper:—

“ Peculiar effects of Medicines sometimes depend  
 “ on the ‘*Imagination of the Invalid*;

“ sometimes on  
 “ pre-conceived prejudices respecting the action of the  
 “ Medicines. Many instances of these influences  
 “ might be mentioned ; but three will suffice to de-  
 “ monstrate their power.

“ 1. The late Dr. James Gregory had ordered  
 “ an Opiate to a young man, to relieve sleepless  
 “ nights, under which he had suffered during  
 “ convalescence from fever. He informed the  
 “ Patient that he had prescribed an *Anodyne* to  
 Ana<sup>r</sup> “ be taken at bed-time ; but the Invalid, being  
 “ somewhat deaf, understood him to say an  
 “ *Aperient*. Next morning, on the Doctor in-  
 “ quiring whether he had slept after the Anodyne,  
 “ he replied ‘ *Anodyne!*—I thought it was an  
 “ *Aperient* ; and it has, indeed, *operated briskly!*’

“ 2. A female Lunatic was admitted into the  
 “ County Asylum at Hanwell, under Sir William  
 “ Ellis. She imagined that she was labouring  
 “ under a complaint which required the use of  
 “ Mercury ; but Sir William, finding that the idea  
 “ of the existence of that disease was an insane  
 “ delusion, yet, considering that flattering the  
 “ opinion of the Lunatic, to a certain degree,

“would be favourable to the recovery of her  
“Reason, ordered “*Bread Pills*” for her, and  
“called them “*Mercurial Pills*.” After a few  
“days she was salivated, and the Pills were dis-  
“continued; on again ordering them, after the  
“salivation had subsided, she was a *second* time  
“affected in the same manner: and this again  
“happened on the recurrence to the use of the  
“Pills a *third* time.

“3. A lady, who was under the author’s care,  
“assured him that Opium, in any form, always  
“caused headache, restlessness, and vomiting, on  
“the following morning; and on prescribing  
“*Laudanum*, for her, under its usual name,  
“*Tinctura Opii*,” (*she read every prescription*)  
“he found that her account of its effects was cor-  
“rect: but on prescribing the same Medicine  
“under the term “*Tinctura Thebaica*,” which  
“*she did not understand*, it produced its usual  
“salutary effect; and was continued *for some*  
“*time, without inducing the smallest inordinate*  
“*action.*”

“The author has also met with instances where  
“similar prejudices respecting particular Medicines  
“were as readily overcome. *Nostrums*, indeed, owe  
“the beneficial powers which they occasionally display,  
“to this *influence of the imagination.*

“These Anecdotes are mentioned chiefly to de-  
“monstrate the necessity of *not mentioning the name*  
“*or the nature* of the Medicines prescribed to the  
“Invalid; and, if he be Hypochondriacal, of leading  
“his mind to anticipate the most favourable results  
“from them: and, at the same time, to demonstrate  
“*the impropriety of permitting Invalids to read*  
“*Prescriptions.*”

67. Our own opinion is decidedly corroborative of this view of the matter. In the first case, the Patient thought he had taken an *Aperient*, and was purged, entirely through the influence of Imagination, though he had actually taken an *Opiate*, which generally produces constipation of the Bowels. In the second case, the Patient took nothing but "*Bread*," and yet became salivated. And, in the third, when "*Tinctura Opii*" was ordered, the Patient *knowing* what it was, it was productive of *bad effects*; while exactly the same Medicine under another name, the Patient *being in ignorance*, produced *no bad effects whatever*!

What will a Philosopher see, who attends a large meeting now-a-days, after the Chairman has proposed "that they who assent to the motion in question will please to signify the same by holding up their hands?" He will, probably, see every other hand begirt, like a puncheon, with "*Magnetic Rings*." Some, certainly, wear only one; but they who have a greedy desire for "*plenty of good*" do not hesitate to show it by sporting two, three, or four. Those to whom expense is not an object, wear the same, only they indulge in a more costly jacket. Need we say that Imagination is the "*primum thingum*" here;—and that it is the main source of alleviation or cure? But the *women*, (we don't say *girls*,) do not like 'em;—Copper and Zinc form an ugly affair, which their idea "*of Rings*" will never brook. Besides, they don't *look nice*, and may be worn on any finger but the "*right one on the left*." A genuine article is ten times more valuable than either Electricity or Galvanism!

There are many stories of this kind, which would amuse Mr. Muntz and the whole House of Commons infinitely more than Corn laws and Maynooth Grants; and, perhaps, teach them that it would not be wise

to indulge nor prompt the "*imaginings*" of the People by furnishing them with a Prescription in English. We will even go further, and say that it is not wise nor judicious to permit a Patient *to witness the compounding of his Medicine*, because, by so doing, we set his Imagination injuriously to work. These are plain and cogent arguments why a Prescription should not be written in English.

Finally, we have only to say, that it will be for the paramount advantage of every individual to select a Medical Adviser in whom he can place implicit confidence; and take, *unreservedly, and without comment*, any Medicine which he may think the case demands. Let all doubts, fears, and imaginings be dispelled; and let your eyes be fixed, under all emergencies, on the banner of HOPE! Thus shall you aid, most powerfully, the efforts of your Medical Attendant, and contribute to place yourselves in that condition most conducive to the recovery of Health.

The Author of these Pages will be happy to receive, from Medical Practitioners, authenticated communications of the mischiefs of Quackery, or short Reports of mal-praxis which may come under their individual notice, as it is intended to embody them in an essay on this subject.

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