

judgment, and stamp his system as utterly false and deceptive. Yet while doing so, we may learn a lesson from its application, it should teach us, to place more reliance upon the powers of nature.

I only allude to the *Clairvoyant* treatment of disease, as one of the delusions of the day. I will not insult your understanding by discussing such nonsense. If a mind is weak enough to believe that any human being possesses the power to distinguish and prescribe for disease—by the examination of some of the patient's hair, without seeing the individual—why! let him swallow the Charlatan's doses, and then engage a room in the Lunatic Asylum.

And now, Gentlemen, when bringing under your notice what I conceive to be proofs in favour of the power of nature over the cure of disease. I by no means wish it to be understood that I undervalue, or do not appreciate the power of *art*; far from it. I say with Sir John Forbes: "The medical art must hold its pre-eminence as one of the greatest boons that human intellect has ever elaborated for man's estate." And I may add, that when the public mind becomes more enlightened upon the course and progress of disease, then, and not till then, will the skill and learning of the scientific practitioner be appreciated.

Daily experience teaches us that nature almost invariably makes an effort to cure disease, but very often cannot accomplish her work, without the assistance of art. And the judgment and learning of the medical man, tells him when to assist her, and when to leave her unassisted. She means well, but does not like to be hurried, she took nine months, more or less, to every mother's son among us, before she thought him fit to be shewn to the world.

As an illustration of the necessity for the interference of art, I may mention that I was once called to a lady, high in position, who had been swallowing "infinitesimal nothings" for about five months, for bleeding from Hæmorrhoids. She became alarmed at the continued flow of blood, and requested her physicians to arrest it, who told her that "it would not do to stop it, as the bad blood was going away." Consequently the pile was allowed to discharge until she became anæmic, dropsical, and unable to leave her bed. Knowing that she had already lost too much of the vital fluid, I immediately took means to arrest the bleeding; gave her iron, cod-liver oil, and nourishing diet, and she recovered in between three and four weeks. Here nature could not perform her part, and required the assistance of *art*, and had art been resorted to at the proper time, this lady in all probability would