

## MEDICAL THOUGHTS, FADS, FANCIES AND FOIBLES

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The American Medical Association, some few years since, made an investigation of conditions concerning the one hundred and sixty medical colleges of the United States. This report states several facts or conclusions which recently, by a more careful study, and by Mr. Flexner, for "Bulletin Number Four" of the Carnegie "Foundation," are fully endorsed and more fully depicted.

When one considers the professional training and ability of those with whom Rush, McDowall, Mott and the immortal names of the seven doctors whose signatures are found attached to the Declaration of Independence, it is a sad reflection that their descendants, in so many instances, have allowed the establishment of medical colleges—of which several are really stock companies or "concerns," and falsely stated as possessing university federation and support; whose standards are very uneven; whose number is greater than is found in all the countries of Europe combined, and of which only fifty per cent., the report states, are sufficiently equipped to teach modern medicine. Of the eighty remaining schools thirty per cent. "are doing poor work," and twenty per cent. are "unworthy of recognition." Since the publication of the Report on Medical Education of the A. M. A. we have before us, as stated, "Bulletin Number Four"—a large volume—and its "price" (seventeen cents) is no excuse for you not to possess one or more copies—that is, if you are interested in reforms and in love with our profession, and deplore the sad condition in which unscrupulous men have disgraced medical colleges and medicine—prostituting the words, "university," "doctor," "professor," "medical college," and conferring "side show" degrees of "D.D.S." and "Pharm. Bach." under a cheap charter and under the same roof—heedless of national disgrace and the injury being done to a confiding public, whose statesmen's first duty is that pertaining to the health of the people.

Such lamentable conditions as are set forth in these reports cannot justify the graduates of many of the condemned colleges—and of others—of illegally styled universities or federations thereof, in claiming honor for themselves at home or reverence abroad—especially so when these reports, as published, are confirming beliefs for many years held by careful and patriotic observers; recognizing the apathy of men in practice to these deplorable conditions;