

I know this will be stoutly denied, but not, I think, on well-considered grounds. We do not think it necessary to confine a knowledge of the soul to the ministers of religion. There is no branch of theology, which we do not deem it proper for laymen to study; we even popularize it for our children. In the most obscure districts of the Dominion of Canada, laymen who follow the plough or push the plane, become, in many cases, eminent theologians. Why should they not study the Lower science which relates to the body? They have not been able to heretofore, because its mysteries have been properly hidden under technicalities. These coverings should be torn off.

Physicians oppose the popularizing of this kind of knowledge too often, I fear, upon the sordid ground of self-interest. They think their own services will be less sought for.

We do not dispense with the service of ministers, because the people study theology, neither shall we cease to employ teachers and practitioners of medicine, when each man and woman is wise enough to study the healing art. The principal change we shall witness, will be much larger attainments in knowledge among practitioners,—just as the ministers of religion now know, and are obliged to know, ten times as much as in those darker periods, when the people received all spiritual knowledge from their mouths. The teachers of any art or science are obliged to keep in advance of their pupils. Let medicine become a popular study, and we shall have very few ignorant physicians, and quackery will become one of the impossibilities of the age; when no man will be allowed to treat any disease without he is able to show what that disease is—its causes—and its causes intelligently, even to the most common mind.

DIPHThERJA.—DIPHThERITIS.

Diphtheria is from a Greek word, signifying skin; Diphtheritis means inflammation—peculiar inflammation. Diphtherite means a membrane, &c., &c. This was a name given by Mr. Bretonneau to a class of diseases which are characterized by a tendency to the formation of false membranes, and affect dermoid tissue—as the mucous membranes, and even the skin.

Diphtheritis, then, is an inflammation of the throat, in which a sweating discharge of humors or moisture from animal bodies, or false membranes, are thrown out during the inflammation of the mucous membranes.

Here then we have a peculiar affection of the throat in which a disposition to the formation of false membrane is a prominent feature. The formation of these membranes however, in this disease, is not limited to the throat, but may occur on mucous surfaces elsewhere. In this disease, the local affection