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EDITORIAL.

MR. Lecky, in his "History of England in the Eighteenth Century," makes the following statement: "Hardly any other of the great branches of human knowledge is at present so backward, tentative and empirical as medicine, and there is not much doubt that the law of supply and demand is the main cause of the defect. Almost all the finer intellects which are devoted to this subject are turned away from independent investigations to the lucrative paths of professional practice; their time is engrossed with cases most of which could be treated by men of inferior capacity, and they do little or nothing to enlarge the bounds of our knowledge."

Is such a criticism well founded, and are any conclusions of value to be drawn from them?

From the historian's point of view two facts are prominent; first, that the progress of medical science is very slow com-