

whilst the latter will be stimulated to new life by the impulsive energies of the former. And all will be stirred up from a sluggish routine which dislikes to have its calm disturbed, or drifts lazily away with the tide of opinion and accepts the dicta of teachers, rather than enter upon that strict investigation and careful line of thought so necessary to all progress.

By such collisions of mind may we not hope that there will arise some check to fashion, which has lessened and still lessens the influence of the profession. No one can deny the prevalence of fashion. Not merely in the past, when dogmatism prevailed in proportion to existing ignorance, but even now in our own times. The evil is ever ready to come to the surface. Those now living will recollect how Broussais swayed the schools and how his facts and theories were accepted or rejected. How every departure from a healthy condition was regarded as the result of a sthenic state, and how, as a matter of course, bleeding and antiphlogistics were the great agencies for dislodging the enemy. Then again, diseases were ascribed to the failure of vital powers and bloodletting was so little used that it was lately treated by one of the most eminent in the profession as a "lost art." "Building up" was a necessary consequence; and then stimulants advocated as the best means to arrest the flagging powers of life to such an extent that (with many practitioners) no condition would seem to contra-indicate their use. And again the pendulum swings, and already are there some who will not allow that stimulants of an alcoholic character are admissible in any case.

At one time mercury was the great specific, and was pushed to such an extent that men felt the remedy to be worse than the disease: and from the ignorance which led to its abuse there came a rebound, and by some (wisely or otherwise) it is repudiated and cast on one side as a vicious poison. A great change has come over the profession as regards cholera. It is not many years since its contagious or communicable character was generally denied. Now it