

a profound ignorance of physiology, long retarded the advance of the healing art.

The introduction of experimental investigation into the study of the sciences which form the ground-work of medicine has thrown a flood of light on the true nature of disease, and dispersed for ever the superstitious view which had previously obtained, replacing it by the higher and nobler view, "that every disordered state is the consequence of definite antecedent conditions, which, under the same circumstances, invariably produce the same results." And it has been by long-continued and carefully repeated experiment that all the brilliant discoveries which have made medicine the noble and elaborate science, which it is to-day, have been accomplished. And still the work goes bravely forward. Earnest enquirers are ever questioning the secrets of nature, and striving to penetrate the mysteries of life. So numerous of late years have been the workers in the fields of Physiology, Pathology and Therapeutics, and so extensive and important have been their successes, that the science of Medicine has been in great part revolutionized. No amount of labor and time has been spared in studying the minute organs and parts of the human body—their condition in health—the influence of various external agents in producing such changes as result in disease—the nature of the changes produced, and the effects of agents in restoring the altered structure and disordered function to their normal and healthy state. The result of all this active and well-directed inquiry is seen in the extensive curriculum of study which is submitted to the student of Medicine of the present day, a knowledge of all the subjects contained in which being considered necessary to enable him to practice his profession usefully and successfully. Notwithstanding, however, the great advances which medicine has made, and the more perfected condition of medical knowledge, it is not now, and from the constitution of things, probably never will be an exact science. In those sciences which deal with lifeless matter, we can generally