

which characterise all the works of the Omnipotent Creator. Who can contemplate, with the aid of a microscope, the circulation of the blood in the lowest form of animal life, or the minute structure of the simplest flower, without being charmed with the sight. Improvements in diagnosis, or in the art of distinguishing diseases, have followed, as they always will, in the wake of an advancing physiology. The sciences of *acoustics, optics, pneumatics, hydrostatics* and chemistry, are all made available for physical diagnosis. No department of our profession requires more close observation, more untiring industry than this. Many diseases so closely resemble each other in their train of symptoms, that the highest exercise of skill is required to draw the line of demarcation between them, and if that be not correctly done, the treatment will obviously be erroneous, and human life may consequently be placed in imminent danger. That those who trust their lives to your professional knowledge, may escape such fearful hazard, earnestly do I recommend you to familiarize yourselves with the signs indicative of the various derangements and diseases, and with the points of distinction between those that are most similar, so that you may be enabled readily to distinguish them. The present condition and yearly additions made to the various means of physical diagnosis, deserve your special attention. The French and German writers are, in general, the best to study for learning every thing important in diagnosis. Their hospital records of the symptoms and post mortem appearances have been so exactly kept of late years, as to have enabled the profession in these countries to draw up those rigidly exact descriptions which put it in the power of the careful practitioner to detect and successfully treat a numerous catalogue of maladies which had previously constituted the opprobria of our art. The seat and nature of the disease once correctly distinguished, the treatment follows as a matter of course; until this is done, painful anxiety hangs over the mind of the physician, uncertainty and imminent hazard over the fate of the patient. To all who are observant of the progress of our science, especially in the departments to which I have referred, it is evident that a great revolution is impending in the practice of medicine, and in the public appreciation of medical men. The great physicians of the future will be the great physiologists and diagnosers. Physiological and diagnostic knowledge is now more generally than formerly disseminated among the community, and will tend not only to repress empiricism, but to raise the standard of acquirements among medical men themselves. This is encouraging to those who keep themselves posted up in the different departments of the profession. The knowledge yearly acquired gives power to sustain them during those events that are in