

procedure, in medicine, with the method pursued, in the industrial departments already noticed. Here, the widest contrast is perceptible, in one particular; namely, the rule of guidance. The glass manufacturer knows the invariable chemical properties of the materials, on which he is to operate. He knows the proportions in which the silicates of potash and soda, exposed to a red heat, combine to form glass in a state of fusion;—and also that if the alkali predominates, the glass is exceedingly soluble in water; whereas, if the acid is in excess, the glass is then insoluble. In like manner, the soap-boiler comprehends, beforehand, the scientific principles of his profession. Without this preconceived, or previously acquired knowledge, of the affinity of caustic alkalies for fatty matters, and their exact combining proportions, he would not be able to practise his calling with success.

Now, the practice of medicine does not pretend to take this scientific course. The medical practitioner does not assume a knowledge of the affinity which exists between quinine, arsenic, or calomel, and the constituents of the blood or of any secretion of the human body. But, notwithstanding this absence of the necessary scientific data, he proceeds to administer these substances, depending on chance for the results. Need we wonder then, that the designation of science is denied to medicine; and that medical men themselves admit the justice of the verdict.

It is evident, that if the glass manufacturer or the soap boiler should attempt, thus, to act independently of the natural laws of chemical affinity, his labors would be futile, and bankruptcy would soon determine his fate; for, there is, in glass making and soap boiling, no professional monopoly, to compel the public to pay for bad glass and bad soap, as they have to do, equally, for good or bad medical treatment.

A professional monopoly, resting on no scientific foundation, may well be considered a stumbling block and impediment to the progressive improvement of the profession itself. Relying too much on an exclusive privilege of little comparative value, men of education and genius have neglected to exert their talents, in the way that a free competition would have rendered imperative. It besides affords no real protection either to the respectability or emoluments of that class of practitioners, whose claims to public confidence and credentials of competency, are founded on the thoroughness of their scholastic curriculum, as well as on an extensive hospital and clinical practice. For, if we regard, on the one hand, the numbers who claim

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