

"Among the instruments devised for hastening the progress of popular and professional enlightenment, is this Association. It was founded by physicians who were painfully alive to the deficiencies of the schools, especially in comparison with those of Europe. Some who were most ardent in labor for establishing a higher grade of medical education, had resided abroad, and had felt humiliated in comparing their own attainments with those of their foreign contemporaries. Others who had not been subjected to this painful experience, were nevertheless acquainted with our shortcomings, and were equally in earnest in arousing the medical profession and inducing the medical colleges to enlarge their curriculum, prolong their terms of study, and exact from candidates for the medical degree a larger amount of professional knowledge. There was no doubt of the need of improvement, nor any of the sincerity of those who advocated it."

Now, both of these statements are intelligible enough, and would be highly satisfactory, were it not for the glaring inconsistency of what follows. The editor of the *Journal and Bulletin*, near the close of his report of Dr. Stille's address, says.— (page 279 and 315) He then drew a contrast between the education in Europe and this country, and expressed the opinion that the long terms and more extended curriculum of the schools of the old country are not to be desired, and that our system of education is better suited to our national characteristics. He contends that we are going through a state of transition, and that we have not yet arrived at the point at which the highest form of education is necessary. In this connection he quoted some views from Herbert Spencer, in regard to the nature of healthy mental progress."

And their special California correspondent, writing from San Francisco under date of May 6, 1871, speaks of the address in approving terms as "a long and cautiously prepared paper. The diction was polished, the sentences constructed carefully, and the paper perhaps, will prove, as a literary effort, the best ever read before the Association."

The effort, certainly, in the estimation of the correspondence quoted, and the many other admirers of the eminent Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, may present all the excellent features claimed, but its apparent contradictions, and their acceptance and approval by the