

off the *Board*; tender it to the shopkeeper, and he will nail it on his counter as bad coin.

Am I then wrong when I prophesy that quackery has a long future before it? Do I but dream when I proclaim my conviction that it is not to be suppressed by human legislation? How can we hope that an evil which has laughed at the thunders of Mount Sinai, will be suppressed by an Act of a second dilution Parliament? They who believe this, should not ridicule Homœopathy; nor should those who approve of the recent Eclectic proclivities of Downing street, scowl upon that system of medicine. Therefore, let us be tranquil, and leave humbug to take its own course.

May I trespass a little on your forbearance whilst I would draw your attention to an evil of a different order, and of closer affinity to our own body? I allude to the frequent occurrence of actions against our brethren for alleged mal-practice in surgery. This iniquity, fostered too often by the need and greed of a *sister* Profession, and, too generally I fear, stimulated by the low vindictiveness of unworthy members of our *own*, bids fair, unless some stamping out process be timely adopted, to become a public scandal, and to degrade the Profession of medicine to a level but little elevated above that of disguised police detection. Even pickpockets and regular thieves have their codes of honor, and among them the brand of treason is more feared than the sentence of the judge. Lawyers, who abuse each other by the hour, that they may pocket an honest fee, never indulge in actual fraternal warfare. Who ever heard of an action of mal-practice bolstered up by their bitterest rivals, against any of their body? And yet, I venture to assert, that for every single instance of this fault in our body, a hundred, if not a thousand, might be found among them. Why, their blunders, whether resulting from ignorance, from laziness, from negligence, from impatience, or from that self-conceit which elevates men beyond the consciousness of needing further instruction, are matters of public notoriety. Among themselves they serve as perennial sources of merriment and good-natured chaffing; but let one of the craft dare to incite an impoverished or disappointed client to take action at law for the redress of his wrong, and what would follow? Blacken the head of a turkey-cock with a paint brush, and see how the whole flock will peg at him. Just such would be the fate of the traitorous lawyer.

Of course you perceive that I have proceeded on the assumption that our laws afford redress to unfortunate clients who have been maimed or ruined in their estate through the incompetency or negligence of their well-paid advocates. I know very little of law, but I should be much astonished to discover that any such redress is afforded. It is hardly within the ninth dilution of probability that our laws should all be framed