

how small an impulse of the heart is sufficient, under ordinary circumstances, to maintain life. And hence, some light may be thrown on the nature of trances. It has already been a subject of reproach, that we are apt to consider the functions of the heart too simply; they should be studied, not only with regard to the peculiar office of the heart, as-regulator of the circulation, but with reference to the relation it bears to the lungs and other parts of the system. I believe, I am not singular in entertaining the opinion, that several diseases of the heart may be traced to moral causes, and the influence of the passions; and, if it be true, as some assert, that these diseases, are now more frequently seen than formerly, may they not originate from *suppressed* emotion, or from the necessity of repressing the feelings, in a state of refined society? The members of our profession, as men of high classical attainments, are aware of the many beautiful passages that might be quoted from the poets, Homer, Sophocles, and especially, Shakspeare, descriptive of the effects produced upon the heart by the influence of the passions.

Shakspeare, the graphic delineator of human nature, in all its gradations, it must be admitted, was a perfect physiologist: his descriptions are as sound in fact, as charming in expression, and had he been a Physician, he would have anticipated Harvey. From the effect of moral causes to produce disease, was deduced the wisdom of our ancestors, in assigning to the Physician the best and highest education which could be effected; he ought in fact, not only to be acquainted with physical science, but moral philosophy. Medical study, cannot, indeed, be separated from polite literature, without degrading the Physician and diminishing his abilities. Yet, how fearful, to be obliged to confess, that, of the learned professions, medicine stands pre-eminently distinguished, as the only one, which offers to a *fictitious reputation*, the advantage of usurping the place of the profoundest acquisitions in science. To elicit the truth of this assertion, I might introduce a few sketches of *promient men*, from *my port-folio*, but the time is not opportune.

Beauport, August, 1852.

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ART. XLIII.—*Contributions to Clinical Surgery*, by ROBERT L. MACDONNELL, M. D., Surgeon to St. Patrick's Hospital. Lecturer on Surgery, St. Lawrence School of Medicine, &c., &c.

*Extensive wound of the forearm—secondary hemorrhage, treated by compression of the Brachial Artery, on Bellingham's principle.*

THE following case which occurred in my Hospital practice some years