

most likely decide in favor of themselves.—However, since the organization of medical societies in states and towns, those belonging to them, by general consent, are considered the regulars; and those who are not members of such bodies, irregulars. Fine talents, unimpeachable character, and superior educational advantages weigh nothing with fraternities.

Are not most, if not all, the different state and county medical societies constituted upon this principle—"that all who differ from us are against us?" Some indeed deserve contempt, who might be in better standing; and scores are in the full tide of empirical success who, had they their proper place in the social scale, would be street scavengers. But excellent physicians and surgeons are branded as infamous by those who have not a shadow of a claim to consideration beyond the fact that they are fellows of some medical society. Yet there is no place recognized as honorable by Anglo-Saxon discrimination, which they could not sustain.

Look at the picture by a light from another direction. Large numbers of medical students are annually graduated at reputable schools, who were esteemed for their virtues, commended for their attainments, and sent into the world's arena, clothed with the benedictions of their instructors, to reflect credit upon the faculties who examined them, and the colleges which conferred their diplomas. By an unaccountable mental process of reasoning, they adopt new theories; consult what are denominated by their heretofore well wishers, heretical authorities; and in the sequel, perhaps, employ remedies which are unknown or forbidden by the medical oligarchy that would rule the minds of thinkers, as despots do the subjects of their governments. A very large and respectable number of active medical practitioners belong to this category, and are therefore unscrupulously denounced as irregulars, empirics, and outcasts from the medical fold.

Let this doctrine prevail, without any ameliorating conditions, and what progress would ever be made in any direction? Harvey was cursed by the medical contemporaries of his time for being an innovator.

They did not relish the idea of having the blood sent out from the left ventricle of the heart and returned to the right auricle. No, they were scientifically determined that the vital fluid should flow out through the day to the extremities, and go back again at night when the body was in a recumbent posture! Galileo suffered severely for announcing the great fact, that the earth revolved about the sun, instead of the sun round the earth; and Jenner came near being sacrificed to the malice of the first medical men in England, who wrote him down as an ass!

These examples are but a drop to an ocean of proofs that might be cited, to show how mistaken we may be in estimating the powers and the qualifications of those who differ from ourselves, not maliciously, but honestly—and it might further be shown, that exclusiveness, contracted views, and belittling exactions in the way of an attempt to