

any observations of mine upon the reader, to be received as articles of faith. I would beg to mention them merely as impressions. If we follow a physician through the wards of an hospital, or attend him in the walks of private professional life, we soon learn to form an estimate of his character, and to estimate, at something approaching to an equivalent, his professional worth. Of individuals, however, it is easy to speak, but, to reduce a class composed of such heterologous material to a general standard, is, to say the least of it, a matter of no small difficulty.

Regard in what aspect we may, the Parisian Physician and Surgeon (for such I take as the type) the conclusion at which we cannot but arrive, is, that they are, generally speaking, men of high scientific attainments, and, in the principles of their noble profession well versed. Few there are who deny this, and were we content to admit all that is told us concerning

"The way to heal diseases rare
As if by plummet rule and square."

the high opinion preconceived of them would be greatly strengthened. Indeed, on first visiting Paris, I was half inclined to think that I had spent too much time in cruising about among the hospitals of Britain and Germany picking up the little crumbs of knowledge. How much more might I have learned, thought I, had I sooner directed my steps hither where they seem to have the happy knack of curing diseases in *half* the time. But the charm with which novelty invests all things, soon wore off, "and then came a change o'er the spirit of my dream."

The *Chefs de Clinique*, especially those of *renommee* seem placed in a false position, as it were. Great things, in the form of novelties, are expected of them, and their utmost endeavour is exerted in catering to this morbid taste. But taking matters by the fore-lock is frequently the least expeditious, and the result is, the theories built-up to-day, require discarding and pulling down to-morrow. The lectures of many of them are occupied, and the medical press teems, with "wonderful discoveries" for curtailing misery and lengthening the human span. No doubt, a stray shot does occasionally hit the mark, but the vast majority fall far wide of it. If we wish to derive much real, and less apparent good, we require to leave the much frequented haunts of students and visit those hospitals where time permits the attendant, quietly to consider the cases under treatment, and it is *there* we see French practice, and hear opinions which have been matured by experience and reflection. The French are proverbially no philologists, and it may be for this reason that we rarely hear the name of a British physician or surgeon mentioned within the walls of a College or Hospital, unless by Britons themselves, who do not like to see their countrymen passed over in silence.