

light. Our readers will shortly be convinced, that we could not have a better opportunity of laying before them a complete and faithful view of the present improved state of Juridical Medicine, in all its departments, than by unfolding the pages of Dr. Beck's volume, which he has offered to the public with that diffidence and modesty, the true criterion of superior merit. In the Preface, instead of meeting with the usual apology of author's pretensions to priority of opinion or improvement, or the display of vain humility, we find an acknowledgment of the various sources from which he has collected his principal materials, leaving the reader to appreciate his own personal merit. In the Introduction, which is a comprehensive retrospect of the progress of medical jurisprudence in Germany, France, England, and the United-States, we also observe with much pleasure, a spirit of liberality which is above those national prejudices, not unfrequently to be met with in the more ordinary class of authors. Thus after acknowledging that American literature has been in a great degree derived from Great-Britain, Dr. Beck attributes the little interest which this science has excited on this Continent, to the want of its deserved attention in that country.

We are also indebted to Dr. Beck for the revival of the memory of the late Dr. Stringham of New-York, who was the first that ever delivered a course of lectures on this science, before an American audience, at nearly the same period that they were commenced in England; and since that time, Medical Jurisprudence has been cultivated with such ardour and success in both countries, as to make it impossible to determine which of the two has more ably contributed to its present improved state.

The first chapter is on *Feigned Diseases*. The Author very judiciously observes that, the police of every well-regulated country should direct its energies against such impositions; for a very severe injury may not only be inflicted on in-