

But notwithstanding such excellence, attained in particular and isolated departments of art, in the civilization of the Greeks, of which the preceding is one example; and also among the modern Italians, who, by colonization, are the legitimate inheritors of Grecian genius; the distinguishing feature of the present age, compared with those artistic achievements, is the universal application of science to every industrial pursuit. It is no longer to sculpture, to painting, to the mathematics, to metaphysics, to rhetoric, to conquest and civil polity, that the unsatisfied activity of living masses of human beings is now exclusively directed. Every process in the factory, in the print-field, in the bleaching and dye house, in the machine shop, in glass and porcelain manufacture, in ship building, and in mining, has a scientific reason to justify its use. The mathematics and Euclid, hydrostatics and aerostatics, have much to do in the construction and working of machinery; chemistry also, in most of our manufactures. Even in the making of a needle or a thimble, the knowledge of chemical principles is indispensable. The malleability of the metal and its subsequent hardening, are both chemical processes. The superintending workman must have a knowledge of the natural law, necessary to be observed, in preserving the purity of malleable iron; and also that for its subsequent conversion into a carburet. So intimately is success, in a mechanical or manufacturing occupation, dependent on the scientific application of means, that we find the managing head of every manufacturing establishment, more or less, a scientific personage, who is able to explain the natural principles which constitute the basis of his scientific skill.

The same proficiency might reasonably be looked for in the department of medicine; for no satisfactory cause can be adduced, to justify a contrary result. With respect to scholastic acquirements, and the prestige of social position, the medical profession has possessed advantages of no ordinary kind; and why it should constitute an exception to the general rule is, in some sense, difficult to understand. Yet, its more eminent and distinguished members have not been backward, in expressing their dissatisfaction with the actual state of medicine. It would be superfluous to cite quotations, to prove the candid avowals of old and respectable practitioners. Indeed there is scarcely a medical writer of any repute, who has not expressed sentiments of derision, mingled with regret, at the anomalous condition of the healing art. Great difficulty seems to have been experienced, in accounting for the cause; which, however, can be easily perceived, if we only compare the method of