

of Nature, the end being simply brought about by a gradual change in the structures and organs of the body,—such as what we call old age—I say if this were the case, then would there never have arisen the necessity for medicine or physicians. But this is not so, and never will be. If it were, the studies of physiology and anatomy would then be followed simply for the obtention of knowledge and truth, and not with the view, as now, of making such knowledge subservient to an ulterior purpose towards our race. In the earliest records of the human race we find evidences that disease, with all the pain and suffering it entails, was not unknown. Besides, therefore, studying as mere *dilettanti* the mysterious workings of the human body through simple thirst for knowing, it is a matter of the most vital importance to all mankind to have these mysteries understood and explained. The existence, then, of disease has led to the development of a system of therapeutics, or means of cure, medicinal or otherwise,—and to accomplish this we further require our armamentum, or *Materia Medica*, which furnishes us with the necessary means for the accomplishment of that end. You should never forget that the chief end and aim of medicine is to cure and to relieve. Lamartine has well said: “La médecine guérit quelquefois, soulage souvent, console toujours.” Depend upon it, the public will never tolerate us or pay us fees merely to stand by the bedside of those they love as mere scientific observers, or a sort of Greek chorus, for although there be times when the highest wisdom is to hold our hand lest we rudely quench the struggling spark of life, it far more often happens that we can do much either to cure or relieve pain. But to do so we must learn all we can, and must ever be learning. Again, “Prevention is better than cure.” That trite and well-worn adage is undoubtedly to be the coming watchword of the medical profession. You will at once perceive that I refer to sanitary science. It is not new. The code given by Moses contains admirable sanitary directions. But sanitation, *i.e.* the endeavor to preserve health so that we shall not have disease to cure, long fell into disregard. Of late years, however, we all know what energy has been applied