

come out on top. There is one notable instance where the bone-setter put the profession in the right way—the reduction of the dislocated hip by manipulation, which was practised for generations by a family living in one of the New England states. They transmitted the secret from father to son and Dr. H. R. Bigelow of Boston, hearing this, investigated and found that there was something in it and by a series of dissections of the hip joint proved that the resistance to reduction was caused by the tension of the ilio-femoral ligament and when this was relaxed by flexion and the limb rotated, the bone slipped into place. This much we are indebted to the bone-setter who accidentally found out this fact without knowing the reason. They have also taught us that the manipulation of joints after injury is better than the enforcement of rigidity, which was advised by the older surgeons.

There seems to be almost in every body a vein of superstition and credulity against which argument is useless and which education does not seem to eradicate. Perhaps what Oliver Wendell Homes said about these people is the best advice: "Ephraim is wedded to his idols, let him alone." Another has said many years ago: "The final, though distant extinction of quackery is to be hoped for, it forms a fragment of the final triumph of reason and virtue which is the secret consolation of every philanthropist."