

Dr. Copland some years ago complained of the manner in which the practice of Medicine and Surgery was being divided into specialities, and asserted that such divisions led to a "fussy practice." We are reminded of this in nearly every case given by Mr. B. Sir Benjamin Brodie and Dr. Gull assist at the consultation; Mr. Fergusson approves of this or that plan; Dr. Snow gives the chloroform, or our worthy and esteemed friend Dr. Gibb holds a leg or an arm, some one else fixes the pelvis, and Mr. Broadhurst manipulates, and we suppose pocket the lion's share of the fees.

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ART. LXI.—*A Treatise on the Practice of Medicine.* By EDWIN R. MAXSON, M.D. Formerly Lecturer on the Institutes and Practice of Medicine in the Geneva Medical College. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston. Montreal, Dawson & Son, 8vo. pp. 705, 1861.

It is seldom that we have examined or perused a work with more mingled feelings than the present. We say mingled feelings, because although we feel satisfied that the author has done his best in his own peculiar manner, we can detect no single instance in which his precepts or his practice have attempted even to improve upon those of his predecessors, and the surprise is to us, not only that the author ventured upon the publication of such a volume, but that he was enabled to get publishers to place the work before the profession.

The observation of many years seems to confirm the opinion, that it is a rule in the United States that every physician who perchance should fortunately succeed in securing a professorship in an American university or college, must *ipso facto*, produce a work on the branch to which he has devoted his studies, and on which he has lectured. We accordingly find that many, who have found the ground previously occupied, have contented themselves with sub-editing the works of European authors, re-issuing them with notes, corrections and emendations to suit them to the American climate as it were, the appearance in the shape of editorship satisfying their ambition. We desire to be far from even being suspected of saying that some of our most valuable works have not issued from the American press under such auspices. What we mean is simply this, that those who have so acted could undoubtedly have produced an original work of their own, creditable alike to themselves and their country. But, although we cannot forbear giving expression to these ideas, we cannot but help thinking, that however much it may flatter a person's pride to become a professor even in a fifth-rate university or college in the United States, the consequence is by no means apparent that he should give publicity to his lectures in the form of a volume, designated as a "*Treatise on the Practice of Medicine,*" nor does it by any means follow, however much we might hope it, that the "*Treatise,*" if published, should contain anything that is "new," however much it may descant upon what is "true." In the volume before us we can find nothing that is "new" as regards its matter, but a great deal as regards its style, and of such peculiarities there is none more remarkable than what is contained in the two first lines of every opening chapter, in which the author finds it necessary to define the meaning of the terms by which he recognizes diseases, thus, "by the