

for an answer, as above quoted, would have been unnecessary.

It has been, and still is, the delight of many literary and legal minds to throw the blight of their withering satire over the noble profession of medicine and its followers; and running in the train of such leading brains as those of a Latin Cicero or a French Voltaire, we find those lesser lights, and the multitude of those of no light at all, who glory in hitting at our profession for its empiricism. They forget, or more probably are ignorant of, the fact, that in order to pursue investigation into the normal and pathological conditions of the body, our profession has its martyrs. The inquisition that raged against conscience in the middle centuries has its companion in the tyranny that has always warred against scientific advance in medicine; and even to-day we have such relics of bygone oppression as the organizations of anti-vivisectionists and anti-vaccinationists. I say, then, that upon other shoulders than those of the medical profession rests the onus of much of its empiricism; and that, now, what we do know of the normal and abnormal in our bodies has been obtained wholly by the self-sacrificing devotion of leaders of medical thought. They have accumulated, bit by bit, in the face of opposition and ridicule, the knowledge that has gradually raised our profession from the darkness of uncertain theories to the present day acknowledged position of a science.

I think it must be admitted that anatomy is the basal study of a course of medicine. The physiologist, the pathologist, the physician, and the surgeon must first be the anatomist; hence it is that in each year of your course anatomy "ye have always with you." Many conceive an aversion to the practical study of anatomy because of a popular impression that it is necessarily an unclean work, and that its grossness tends to harden the natures of those engaged in it. Any such charges will be swept away on a slight investigation. I need point to the only example of a man whose name has lent

lustre to literature, in whose domain he was a prince, and to anatomy, in which study he excelled as one of the greatest teachers of his day. A study that could for nearly a lifetime hold the delicate fingers and sensitive, agile brain of a Doctor Oliver Wendell Holmes, cannot be repulsive nor otherwise than broadening in its influences. The anatomist, physiologist and physician breathe their influence into his philosophy and furnish him with a decorative wardrobe of similes, with which he so abundantly adorns the pages of his writings.

I would not wish to rashly increase the burden of the public school boy or girl of the day, but I cannot help thinking that a closer knowledge on their part of the geography of their own bodies would result in an incalculable benefit to the human race. Geography is usually an attractive subject to youth, and what a field of parallel study is there in this body of ours, with its arteries and veins for rivers and streams; its bony ridges and surfaces for hills and valleys. It has, even, its disputed territory, upon which no arbitration has yet sat, though, in the head and neck. A more extended knowledge of anatomy by the general public would be of great service, not only to themselves but to the physicians attending them; for the sooner the public arrives at a clearer understanding of the relations one towards another of the organs of its body, the more intelligent will be its interpretation of symptoms. Thanks to the advertising methods of Dr. Blank's Kidney-Liver Pill Company, cuts of the body, with large bay windows let in at convenient spots in the lumbar and hepatic regions are given, and through these the general public views the alleged whereabouts of those especial organs. But, since a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, the G. P. cannot have an ache in its back without its concluding that the kidneys are affected. The human body is a fairyland that the general public enters only in flights of fancy. I know a man, educated to a point, who has a delusion that a reptile of some persuasion or other is in his stomach