

We know neither the seat nor the cause of disease, nor the action of remedies. Our practice resembles the conduct of a blind man armed with a club, and striking in the dark. If we hit the disease, we kill it; if we hit the patient, we kill him.

*Sydenham.*—I have no doubt, gentleman, that the blood is some how or other, the principal cause of disease, and think, if we draw off that, we shall generally effect a cure.

*Dewees.*—Its the only certain means of reducing inflammation.

*Thatcher.*—We have no infallible rule to direct us. A precipitate decision is fraught with danger, and a mistake is certain death.

*Mackintosh.*—No physician, however skillful, can determine how much blood should be taken in any given case.

*Dewees.*—Bled as long as the blood will run from the arm, then apply a dozen leeches, and encourage the after bleeding, by the application of moist warmth.

*Marshall Hall.*—Set the patient in a chair, with his face to the wall, and bleed him till he faints.

*Dewees.*—I bled him till I reduce the arterial action, and then stop—sometimes "setting a student at the bedside with direction to keep his finger on the pulse, and to open the vein again, the moment he perceives a return of the symptoms that called for the first bleeding.

*Good.*—These symptoms will every now and then return, as long as there is any life in the system; if, therefore, you bleed till no reaction takes place, according to Dr. D. the patient will soon "give the ghost to the treatment, instead of the disease."

*Salman.*—So zealous are the blood suckers of our age, that they daily sacrifice hundreds to its omnipotence, who fall, by its fury, like the children who, of old, passed through the fire, to Moloch, and that without any pity, left to commiserate the explicable suffering of their martyrs, or conscience of their crimes, which may deter them in future from such villainies, the bare relation of which, would make a man's ear tingle, which one cannot think of without grief, nor express without horror.

*Lobstein.*—So far from blood-letting being beneficial, it is productive of the most serious and fatal effects—a cruel practice—a scourge to humanity. How many thousands of our fellow citizens are sent, (by it) to an untimely grave! how many families are deprived of their amiable children! how many husbands of their lovely wives! how many wives of their husbands. Without blood, there is no motion in the system—in the blood is the life. He who takes blood from the patient takes away not only an organ of life, but a part of life itself.

*Good.*—I wish that Dr. Rush would come back from the other world and tell us what he thinks now about bleeding. I believe it is agreed on all hands, that he killed himself with it.

*Robinson.*—More have been slain by the lancet alone since the days of Sydenham, than all that have perished by war, pestilence and famine.

*Paracelsus.*—I see you are not likely to agree about bleeding. What say you to mercury?

*Broussais.*—I go against it. Starving and

cleanliness and proper exercise, are better than any medicine, particularly poison.

*Hooper, Barton.*—Hold there; the most virulent poisons are the best medicines.

*Hahnemann.*—I go for the poisons; but the less the better. Say the ten millionth part of a grain!

*Graham.*—I think three grains of calomel enough for any dose.

*Yandell.*—Three grains! We use two hundred and fifty grains in old Kentuck, and generally lose our patients at last!

*Burton of Louisiana.*—I shall be glad to see anything else take the place of calomel, after witnessing, as I have, for the last sixteen years, its horrid effects in the wrecks of constitutions, the destruction of teeth, gums, jaws and faces, &c. Do search for something less mischievous, if it is only a tomato.

*L. M. Whiting.*—Gentlemen, we might as well confess at once that "we know nothing about disease," and as for the materia medica, "it is a perfect chaos." Indeed, who is there among us, that would not rejoice to see the immense mass of matter that has been accumulating for four thousand years, and been christened Medical Science, swept away at once by the besom of destruction.

"Were we to see a sportsman standing beside a grove, continually loading and discharging his piece without aim among the trees, and at the same time, declaring his intention to be the destruction of a bird whose song he heard somewhere within it, we should, without hesitation, pronounce him not only *non compos*, but also a dangerous individual, fit only for a straight jacket, or a mad house. Yet such, if we mistake not, is very nearly the course pursued by many a routine practitioner, (one who follows the directions of the professors and books) in the treatment of the morbid conditions of the body by medication.—Shoot away! is the motto; perchance we may hit the mark; if not the law is our safeguard, and we have the satisfaction of feeling that we have done the best we could. But the day is coming, and now is, when the names of such men will be scathed by the lightnings of public indignation, and such will be the true desert of those who, while the sun of science is shedding over the land its flood of living light, still prefer the darkness, and persist in quackery.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal*, vol. 10, page 190.

## CONSTITUTION

OF

## THE THOMPSONIAN

## Medical Reform Association.

ADOPTED Dec. 12, 1848.

This association shall be called the THOMPSONIAN MEDICAL REFORM ASSOCIATION.

§ 1. The object of this association is mutual improvement and support in acquiring and diffusing a more accurate knowledge of disease—its natural history and changes in its different stages, and under various circumstances—the safest and most effectual mode of curing or alleviating disease—directing