

examined the human body and all its parts ; the nature of the flesh, veins, arteries, nerves ; the structure of the brain, heart, lungs, stomach, bowels ; with the springs of the several kinds of animal functions. They explored the several kinds of animal and mineral, as well as vegetable substances. And hence the whole order of physic which had obtained to that time, came gradually to be inverted. Men of learning began to set experience aside, to build physic on hypotheses, to form theories of diseases, and their cure, and to substitute these in the place of experiments.* As these theories increased, simple remedies were more and more disregarded and disused, till in a course of years the greater part of them were forgotten, at least in the politer nations. In the room of these, abundance of new ones were introduced by reasoning, speculative men ; and those more and more difficult to be applied, as being more remote from common observation. Hence rules for the application of these, and medical books, were immensely multiplied, till at length physic became an abstruse science, quite out of the reach of ordinary men. Physicians now began to be had in admiration, as persons who were something more than human ; and profit attended their employ, as well as honor : so that they had now two weighty reasons for keeping the bulk of mankind at a distance, that they might not pry into the mysteries of the profession. To this end, they increased those difficulties by design, which began in a manner by accident. They filled their writings with abundance of technical terms, utterly unintelligible to plain men. They affected to deliver their rules, and to reason upon them, in an abstruse and philosophical manner. They represented the critical knowledge of anatomy, natural philosophy, (and what not? some of them insisting on that of astronomy and astrology too), as necessarily previous to the understanding the art of healing. They who understood only how to restore the sick to health, they branded with the name of empirics. They introduced into practice abundance of compound medicines, consisting of so many ingredients that it was scarcely possible for common people to know which it was that wrought the cure ; abundance of exotics, neither the nature nor names of which their own countrymen understood : of chemicals, such as they neither had skill, nor fortune, nor time to prepare ; yea, and of dangerous ones, such as they could not use without hazarding life, but by the advice of a physician. And thus both their honour and gain were secured : a vast majority of mankind being utterly cut off from helping either themselves or their neighbours, or once daring to attempt it." We are of opinion that in view of the foregoing testimony, and of our own experience, the double serpent is a well-chosen symbol of the medical profession ; in so saying, we have no desire to impugn the integrity of many of its members, but we are satisfied that it is more than time their claims to confidence were thoroughly examined ; meanwhile we very distinctly deprecate those nine members of the profession who occupy seats in the Ontarian Legislature taking any further trouble in relation to our physical welfare.

* The kind of experiment to which the author refers, is manifest from a previous portion of his work, wherein he speaks of a person having cured sores in that person's mouth, and in the mouths of others, by applying a drop of gum to them, which, in the first instance, fell from a tree, on a book which he was reading.