

functions, which enables it, in many cases, to subvert diseased actions by *substituting its own in their stead.*" Cullen says: "Mercury acts as a stimulus to every sensible and moving fibre of the body. What the peculiar character of the excitement which it produces may be, *it would be in vain to inquire!*" Prof. Cross says, "the older physicians, for example, when they employed mercury, had a particular object in view; they considered it a powerful solvent, and in support of their opinion they appealed to facts, observation and experience. We use the preparation of the same mineral, and that, too, perhaps more frequently than they did, and yet, I ask, what ideas have we of its mode of action? Such only as are vague, contradictory, and often unintelligible!" Does not the employment of agents, under such circumstances, savor strongly of empiricism?

We do not pretend that the employment of mercurial preparations is always and invariably attended with dangerous effects; but we affirm that they often prove *injurious and uncertain* in their operation. It requires no ghost from the grave to prove this, so long as we have the testimony of so many intelligent medical men directly to the point. Mr. Bancroft says: "it appears certain that the good effects of the mercurial treatment have been greatly exaggerated by persons who either were deceived, or were willing to deceive others." Prof. Cross says: "the comparative result of different modes of treatment are certainly opposed to the saturating of the system with mercury." Hunter tells us, "mercury may even produce local diseases, and retard the cure of other diseases!" Prof. Chapman, of Philadelphia, says: "Oh! the lamentable ignorance which dictates the use (as a medicine) of that noxious drug, calomel. It is a disgraceful reproach to the profession of medicine; it is quackery, horrid, unwarrantable and murderous quackery. What merit do physicians flatter themselves they possess by being able to salivate a patient? Cannot the veriest fool in christendom give calomel and salivate? Who is there that can stop the career of calomel when once it has taken the reins in its own hands? He who resigns the fate of his patient to calomel is a vile enemy to the sick; and if he has a tolerable practice, will, in a single season, lay the foundation for a good business for life, for he will ever afterwards have enough to do to stop the mercurial breaches in the constitutions of his dilapidated patients. He has thrown himself in close contact with Death, and will have to fight him at arms' length as long as one of his patients maintains a miserable existence." It is not to be wondered at, that the public are almost universally dissatis-